



The regular town board meeting, being held at 175 West Jefferson Street, Joliet Township government offices, Tuesday, July 11, 2023, at 5:02 PM. was called to order by Supervisor Angel Contreras. The following official business was transacted:

The Clerk led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. The Clerk called the roll as follows:

TRUSTEES:	Tanya Arias	Present
	Cesar Escutia	Present
	Raymond F. Slattery	Present
SUPERVISOR:	Angel Contreras	Present
CLERK:	Alicia Morales	Present
OTHER OFFICIALS:	Commissioner Vince Alessio	Present
	Assessor James Brenzewski	Present

ALSO PRESENT:

Finance Director Ivan Diaz	Attorney Brian Wellner
General Assistance Director Patricia Venziano	Senior Liaison Jeff Wallace
Animal Control Director Whitney McGill	Executive Assistant Ana Campa Castillo

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Town Board Minutes: Supervisor Contreras asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the June 13th, 2023, Town Board Meeting. Trustee Arias motions and is seconded by Trustee Escutia, roll call was taken. Motion Carried¹.

Public Hearing Meeting Minutes – RD Bid 2021-03: Supervisor Contreras asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the June 13th Public Hearing for RD Bid 2021-03. Trustee Slattery motions and is seconded by Trustee Escutia, roll call was taken. Motion carried.²

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Karl Ferrel was unfortunately removed by a court order from the Joliet Township Board, due to a prior criminal record. He addressed the board about the Peace Act and how there are 1189 laws that prohibit people with criminal records, who have served their time, from holding offices such as the Township Trustee position. Alonzo Waheed makes a public comment. He acknowledged Karl Ferrel's great work and appreciates his effort. He states that the removal of Karl Ferrel has also brought attention to new issues regarding previous criminal records and holding public offices.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **ADOPT/Resolution Declaring Vacancy, Trustee**

Supervisor Contreras asked for a motion to adopt the resolution to declare a vacancy. Trustee Slattery motions and is seconded by Trustee Escutia. Roll call. Trustee Escutia emotionally states that this will most greatly affect the citizens who voted for Karl Ferrel. Supervisor Contreras thanks Karl Ferrel for his service. Motion carried.³

¹ Roll call vote: Ayes (4). Trustees Arias, Escutia, Slattery, and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

² Roll call vote: Ayes (4). Trustees Arias, Escutia, Slattery, and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

³ Roll call vote: Ayes (4). Trustees Arias, Escutia, Slattery, and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

- **APPROVE/ Consultant Agreement/Senior Liaison Jeff Wallace**
Supervisor Contreras asked for a motion to approve. Trustee Escutia motions and is seconded by Trustee Slattery. Roll call. Motion carried.⁴
- **APPROVE/ GRANT: Including You**
Supervisor Contreras asked for a motion to approve. Trustee Arias motions and is seconded by Trustee Escutia. Roll call. Motion carried⁵.

GRANTS FOR REVIEW:

- **Step into the Light**
- **One Collective, NFP**
- **LEDA**

OLD BUSINESS:

Highway Commissioner, Vince Aleesio

Vince thanks Karl Ferrel for his hard work. He learned a lot from Karl and is in agreement with the previous public commenters. He stated that there was a bid opening yesterday and there is another bid opening coming up on July 24, 2023. The road district has finished some of the plans for the remodeling they would like to do at their facility. There will be bids for these also.

Supervisor approved a speaker for the grant that is being reviewed called “Step into the Light” to share highlights about this grant.

Tax Assessor, Jim Brenczewski

Jim introduces himself to the people who may not know him. On August 7th things will start getting busy in the assessor’s office. This year is a quadrennial year. He noted that all parcels will receive a card from the county with their new assessments.

General Assistance, Patricia Venziano

Patricia stated that Sue Bustin attended an outreach with Will Grundy Medical at Riverwalk. Alejandra has been busy with the interns taking them to various partner agencies and passing out flyers about Community Solar and our other programs that we offer. With the influx of payments being made to ComEd and the requirement of some of our residents to make a partial payment on their bills before we can bring them current, GA has seen a need for a utility payment center on the East side. She and Supervisor Angel Contreras discussed this and agreed it would be a good and valuable service for our residents for the township to become an authorized ComEd payment center. Patricia has been in touch with ComEd and First Tech utility pay to begin the process of becoming a payment center. Patricia submitted our application and is awaiting approval. Other than that, it is business as usual.

Animal Control Director, Whitney McGill

AC has gone through a course (2 sessions) of team building training with Troy at MulticultureREAL. He enabled staff, including her, to come out of their comfort zones and work on opening up communication and understanding of each other. He helped to work out some employee tensions between staff members in a safe and non-judgmental space. She stated that the construction at their facility is coming along, and the cabinets and sinks are all being installed this week after the painting is complete in the smaller rooms. Joliet Township is sponsoring the Field of Paws event during the Dog Day at Duly on August 1st. This is our second annual sponsorship event with the Slammers, and we are working on the marketing and all the details to make it another successful event for our community.

⁴ Roll call vote: Ayes (4). Trustees Arias, Escutia, Slattery, and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

⁵ Roll call vote: Ayes (4). Trustees Arias, Escutia, Slattery, and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

Finance Director, Ivan Diaz

Director Ivan Diaz noted that the Townships second biggest purchase was the Peter Claver Center. More expenses will be seen. The second quarter has ended, and we have a lot of new employees as of now.

Senior Liaison, Jeff Wallace

Jeff would like to acknowledge all the hard work of Karl Ferrel. He believes he is great, and his past does not change his opinion of Karl. Jeff is very excited for the Peter Claver center. Jeff explains he has told many people about senior discounts on their water bill. It is a very simple process that does not require renewal. Jeff also was able to sign-up people for the energy program at the last Moose seniors’ meeting. A couple of months ago there was a problem with a car and truck. Jeff called the county sheriff several times to get them removed. It has finally been removed. Jeff also spoke with a member who wanted a lockbox so that paramedics could access her house without breaking down her door. This member is getting the lockbox and Jeff connected her with the fire department so they can put it in their notes. Jeff is also trying to assist with trying to get a member an exercise bike. He connected the person with Will County Community for Concerns. Jeff thanked all the members who attended the Veterans Luncheon in May.

Clerk’s Report: Alicia Morales

Clerk Alicia Morales stated she has been busy with bid hearings, contracts and everything that goes on with the bids. The last bid hearing was a great opportunity for the interns to sit in on and ask questions. The next bid hearing will be held July 24, 2023. She also thanked Karl Ferrell for his service.

Supervisor, Angel Contreras

The director for the Violence Prevention Program has been selected. The candidate was selected by a community panel. The new director will introduce herself at the next meeting. The program requires an additional 17 positions. They will be stationed at the Peter Claver center when it is completed. Because of the Thriveworks MOU, All unincorporated citizens now have access to free behavioral health services. The township has over a dozen interns working with community partners.

A JTHS senior student and part of the Step into the Light program spoke about the program. This program helps black students prepare for college. She was invited to this program by a friend of hers. She received financial advice and was able to speak to college graduates that looked like her because it is difficult to trust those who don’t look like students. The positive role models have helped encourage students to attend college, financial advice, and how to experience campus life.

CASH RECEIPTS:

Trustee Slattery states that he respects Karl Ferrel, he noted that Karl has “guts” and that it was an honor to serve him. Trustee Slattery asks for a motion to place the cash receipts into the proper accounts. Trustee Escutia motions. Trustee Arias seconds. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried⁶.

FUND EXPENDITURES:

General Town Fund for July 11, 2023: \$256,155.56

Trustee Slattery motioned to certify the cash disbursements and approve them for payment. Trustee Arias seconds. A roll call was taken. Motion carried⁷.

General Town Capital Fund for July 11, 2023: \$456,312.96

Trustee Slattery motioned to certify the cash disbursements and approve them for payment. Trustee Escutia seconds. Motion carried⁸.

General Assistance Fund for July 11, 2023: \$33,959.09

Trustee Slattery motioned to certify the cash disbursements and approve them for payment. Trustee Escutia seconds. Motion carried⁹.

Road and Bridge Fund for July 11, 2023: \$201,407.47

⁶ Roll call vote: Ayes (4). Trustees Arias, Escutia, Slattery, and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

⁷ Roll call vote: Ayes (4). Trustees Arias, Escutia, Slattery, and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

⁸ Roll call vote: Ayes (4). Trustees Arias, Escutia, Slattery, and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

⁹ Roll call vote: Ayes (4). Trustees Arias, Escutia, Slattery, and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

Trustee Slattery motioned to certify the cash disbursements and approve them for payment. Trustee Arias seconds. Roll call. Motion carried¹⁰.

Animal Control Fund July 11, 2023: \$79,835.29

Trustee Slattery motioned to certify the cash disbursements and approve them for payment. Trustee Escutia seconds. Roll call. Motion carried¹¹.

Senior Fund for July 11, 2023: \$312.96

Trustee Slattery motioned to certify the cash disbursements and approve them for payment. Trustee Arias seconds. Roll call. Motion carried¹².

ADJOURNMENT:

Supervisor Contreras asks for a motion to adjourn the regular town board meeting of July 11, 2023. Trustee Escutia motions and is seconded by Trustee Arias. Roll call. Motion carried¹³. The meeting was adjourned at 5:46 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Alicia Morales
Town Clerk

¹⁰ Roll call vote: Ayes (4). Trustees Arias, Escutia, Slattery, and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

¹¹ Roll call vote: Ayes (4). Trustees Arias, Escutia, Slattery, and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

¹² Roll call vote: Ayes (4). Trustees Arias, Escutia, Slattery, and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

¹³ Roll call vote: Ayes (4). Trustees Arias, Escutia, Slattery, and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).