



APPROVED Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Joliet Township  
201 West Jefferson Street  
Billie Limacher Bicentennial Park, Joliet, IL 60432  
Tuesday, October 10, 2023 / 5:00 P.M

The regular town board meeting, being held at 201 West Jefferson Street, Billie Limacher Bicentennial Park, Tuesday, October 10, 2023, at 5:17 PM. was called to order by Supervisor Angel Contreras. The following official business was transacted:

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

<b>TRUSTEES:</b>	Tanya Arias	Present
	Cesar Escutia	Present
	Raymond F. Slattery	Present
	Antione J. Edwards	Appointed @8:30PM
<b>SUPERVISOR:</b>	Angel Contreras	Present
<b>CLERK:</b>	Alicia Morales	Present
<b>OTHER OFFICIALS:</b>	Commissioner Vince Alessio	Present
	Assessor James Brenczewski	Not Present

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Finance Director Ivan Diaz	Attorney Brian Wellner
Senior Liaison Jeff Wallace (Not Present)	Executive Assistant Ana Campa Castillo
Animal Control Director Whitney McGill	General Assistance Director Patricia Venziano
Violence Prevention Director Andrea Cambray	

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Town Board Minutes: Supervisor Contreras asks for a motion. Trustee Slattery motions to approve the minutes of the September 12, 2023, Town Board Meeting, Seconded by Trustee Escutia. A roll call was taken. Motion Carried.<sup>1</sup>

Public Bid Hearing for Contract 2023-03 (RD) Minutes: Supervisor Contreras asks for a motion. Trustee Slattery motions to approve the minutes of the September 25, 2023, Public Hearing for Contract 2023-03 (RD), Seconded by Trustee Arias. A roll call was taken. Motion Carried.<sup>2</sup>

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** During the public speaking many people shared their thoughts regarding the SMASS Grant. These are the following people who are in favor of the grant Caleb Goossen, Felipe Franchini, Celta Smart, Joyce Bill Ruhoak, Patricia McReynolds, Elizabeth Nevarez, Manuela Botello, Floyd Catchpole, Mary Martin, Felix Ortiz. These are the following people who were not in favor of the grant Brian Beck, Steve Dedon, Tony Sraj, Reverand Larry Ellis, Lee Johnson, Dennis Cesario, Greg Lawrenson, Mark Singletary, Diana Dobczyk, Steve Kemnetz, Kevin Marts, Katie Deane-Schlottman, Gregg Dobczyk, Julie Berkowicz, Tina McGarth, Jen Monson, Cindy Niederer, Qiana McKenzie, Raj Pillai, Doug Kasper, Alex Guerrero, Pastor Nona Parker, Jock Giacomi, Liz Giacomi, Carolyn Coon, Larry Shaver, John Davin, Tramaine Dean, Seth Norcross, Trinita Stevenson, Jan Narhoski, Jim Canaham, Elvia Mendoza, Glenda McCullum, Dan Scott, Cindy Shroba, Michelle Peterson, Carol Bernardino, Olga Veronica Perez, Mady Perez, Margie Cepon, Megan Cooper, John Sheridan, Mary Beth Gannon, Alex Richardson, and Trista Brown.

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

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

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **APPROVE/Joliet Township High School CEO Program**

The CEO Program is a youth program to help young individuals who attend the school to be part of an investor program. Supervisor Contreras asks for a motion to approve. Trustee Escutia requested the dollar amount for this grant. Supervisor Contreras confirmed it to be \$5,000 as it runs year-round while many other agencies have contributed to this program as Joliet Township Government works with youth organizations. Clerk Morales asks if there's motion to approve. Trustee Escutia motions. Trustee Slattery seconds. Motion Carried. <sup>3</sup>

### **APPROVE/New 2023 Employee Handbook**

Supervisor Contreras asks for a motion to approve. Trustee Escutia motions. Trustee Slattery seconds. Trustee Arias requested a breakdown of the new 2023 employee handbook revisions that were made. Supervisor Contreras agreed and Attorney Bryan Wellner explained that he did not want to put words in anyone else's mouth as he mentions that a third-party HR agency was involved in making the changes. He did review the new revised handbook although he did not read them extensively. If there was a track change, he would assist in walking them through the changes if needed. He went on to explain that he could not break it down off hand as he was not part of the amendment phase. Motion Carried.<sup>4</sup>

### **APPROVE/Joliet Active Shooter and Mental Wellness Conference Contribution**

The Joliet Fire department will be holding this conference in the Rialto. Joliet Township participated in the expansion of the community cares program and the free mental health program that the city does with their organization. All of Joliet Township unincorporated residents are included. Thriveworks approached the Joliet Township to expand the partnership on mental health awareness contributions for municipalities. This helped alleviate a lot of the 911 response calls so people can receive behavioral health services. The line item for the conference is \$20,000. Supervisor Contreras asks for a motion to approve. Trustee Escutia motions. The motioned died as no Trustee seconds it. An open discussion was held as Trustee Arias spoke about not being informed regarding the \$20,000 needed for this and how the city logo was being used to promote it and stated how she would have preferred to be informed ahead of time regarding issues such as this to make proper decisions before adding the City's logo. Trustee Slattery agrees with what was mentioned by Trustee Arias. Trustee Escutia mentions how he was aware of this request for the conference with the \$20,000 and saw the benefits it would help the community. Trustee Arias requests a guarantee that going forward they will be following proper procedures as Supervisor Contreras agreed and motions for a second. Trustee Arias seconds. Motion Carried.<sup>5</sup>

### **APPROVE/Proclamation Declaring Disability Employment Awareness Month**

Clerk Morales reads the proclamation out loud. Supervisor Contreras asks for a motion to approve. Trustee Arias motions. Trustee Escutia seconds. Motion Carried.<sup>6</sup>

### **APPROVE/Senior Tax Levy Grants**

Joliet Township supports many senior agencies and senior clubs as organizations that have been supported for many years. Each agency will be individually announced and voted on for turning in their applications and all proper receipts.

## **APPROVE/ GRANTS:**

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

<sup>4</sup> Roll call vote: Ayes (3). Trustees Escutia, Slattery, and Supervisor Contreras. Trustee Arias Nays (1).

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

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

**Widow & Widower's Group at Second Baptist Church/Senior Outreach Ministry**

Is a senior club and has requested \$6,000 for the year. They are in good standing with all their receipts for the year. Supervisor Contreras asks for a motion to approve. Trustee Slattery motions. Trustee Escutia seconds. Motion Carried.<sup>7</sup>

**The Paulites**

Is a senior club and has requested \$3,500 for the year. They are in good standing with all their receipts for the year. Supervisor Contreras asks for a motion to approve. Trustee Slattery motions. Trustee Arias seconds. Motion Carried.<sup>8</sup>

**St. Joseph Seniors**

Is a senior club and was offered \$4,000 for the year by the Senior Laison. They are in good standing with all their receipts for the year. Supervisor Contreras asks for a motion to approve. Trustee Slattery motions. Trustee Escutia seconds. Motion Carried.<sup>9</sup>

**National Hook-Up of Black Woman, Inc.**

Is a senior club and was offered \$3,000 for the year by the Senior Laison. They are in good standing with all their receipts for the year. Supervisor Contreras asks for a motion to approve. Trustee Slattery motions. Trustee Escutia seconds. Motion Carried.<sup>10</sup>

**Joliet Area Retired Teachers Association**

Is a senior club and has requested \$3,500 for the year. They are in good standing with all their receipts for the year. Supervisor Contreras asks for a motion to approve. Trustee Slattery motions. Trustee Escutia seconds. Motion Carried.<sup>11</sup>

**Club Social- St. Johns Baptist Parish**

Is a senior club and has requested \$3,500 for the year. They are in good standing with all their receipts for the year. Supervisor Contreras asks for a motion to approve. Trustee Slattery motions. Trustee Escutia seconds. Motion Carried.<sup>12</sup>

**Club Social Latino- SCC**

Is a senior club and has requested \$3,500 for the year. They are in good standing with all their receipts for the year. Supervisor Contreras asks for a motion to approve. Trustee Slattery motions. Trustee Escutia seconds. Motion Carried.<sup>13</sup>

**Catholic Charities – Diocese of Joliet, Foster Grandparent Program**

Is an agency that helps by providing services to seniors. This agency is requesting \$15,000. They are in good standing with all their receipts for the year. Supervisor Contreras asks for a motion to approve. Trustee Slattery motions. Trustee Escutia seconds. Motion Carried.<sup>14</sup>

**Catholic Charities – Diocese of Joliet Senior Companion**

Is an agency that helps by providing services to seniors. This agency is requesting \$11,000. They are in good standing with all their receipts for the year. Supervisor Contreras asks for a motion to approve. Trustee Slattery motions. Trustee Escutia seconds. Motion Carried.<sup>15</sup>

**Prairie State Legal Services**

Is an agency that helps by providing legal services to seniors. This agency is requesting \$25,000. They are in good standing with all their receipts for the year. Supervisor Contreras asks for a motion to approve. Trustee Slattery motions. Trustee Escutia seconds. Motion Carried.<sup>16</sup>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

<sup>14</sup> Roll call vote: Ayes (4). Trustees Arias, Escutia, Slattery, and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

<sup>15</sup> Roll call vote: Ayes (4). Trustees Arias, Escutia, Slattery, and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

<sup>16</sup> Roll call vote: Ayes (4). Trustees Arias, Escutia, Slattery, and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

### **ADOPT/Resolution Warrant of Appoint - Trustee**

Antione Edwards will be appointed to the vacant trustee position. Supervisor Contreras asks for a motion to adopt. Trustee Escutia motions. Trustee Slattery seconds. Motion Carried.<sup>17</sup> Honorable Judge Cornelius then administered the oath of office to Antione Edwards. All present trustees welcomed him on board.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

#### **New Reports**

##### **General Assistance Director, Patricia Venziano**

Patricia Venziano, Director of the General Assistance Department at Joliet Township, starts off her report by saying how it is rare to have such a large audience. Patricia thought she might take advantage of that fact and instead of giving a traditional report she would like to take a few minutes to speak about what her department does. She states the role of the General Assistance Department is to provide assistance to residents in need be they in unincorporated Joliet or city proper of Joliet Township. Patricia began a brief overview of the programs administered by her department. She explained how General Assistance is a state mandated program for all townships in which we provide a nominal amount of financial assistance to households with little to no income. Patricia continued explaining how this traditionally would represent single adult households applying for Social Security Disability or adults pending a workman's comp claim. She further added how Emergency Assistance is provided to households to help with past due rent and utility disconnects and primarily services families with children, adults, and seniors with very low income. Patricia then said both of these programs are available to residents of Joliet Township both unincorporated and city proper. In addition, as she states, to what the General Assistance department are mandated, they have expanded their scope of services not only to Joliet Township residents but all residents of Joliet regardless of which township they reside in. They have a medical loan closet which lends durable medical equipment to township residents in need for 90 days at a time. This is particularly helpful for residents recovering from medical procedures that need equipment only for short term use. Patricia explains they are a VITA tax site and in the last 2 years they have aided in the preparation of over 800 tax returns for low to moderate income families and senior citizens regardless of their income. They provide temporary handicap placards to save seniors and disabled from having to go to the DMV as it is a simple in and out at our office that takes about 5 minutes. Patricia said that anyone can bring in the doctors form it does not have to be the individual the placard is being issued for. She continued to say how her department is in the process of becoming SHIP certified so that in 2024 they will be able to aid Senior Citizens in their Medicare enrollment. As a final note Patricia mentioned how they also provide free walk-In notary services.

##### **Highway Commissioner, Vince Alessio**

Vince Alessio, The Highway Commissioner, stated his brief report by saying how they gave an award for the renovation of the interior of the Road District. They're working with the contractors and renovations should begin soon, which they are looking forward to. Vince also mentioned how they are working with the contractor who won the bid for Ingalls Park. Vince mentioned Aqua who provides water to the Ingalls Park neighborhood by ripping up the streets where they provide patches. Vince stated that the patches from last winter were incomplete, and they are nailing the plow as they try to work closely with the city to coordinate that Ingalls Park was done all at once due to their limitations as a Township government, they were able to bypass this board and work with the city directly to have the bid out. During that extended process the contractor let him know this week how they were worried about not being able to complete it prior to the weather turning. Vince is doing all he can to get the project done as he knows the residents have been dealing with a torn-up neighborhood for two years. Vince continues by saying how their contractors are plowing a torn-up neighborhood with special requests that were made by him to work on the most affected streets as much as he can to deal with the actual water main patches that are the current main problems. Vince thanked everyone who came to tonight's open speech. He states how he listened to everyone and wanted to make a note that everybody wants to be informed and be part of the process and be part of a community that solves a looming crisis for everyone here in Joliet. Vince continued by saying

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<sup>17</sup> Roll call vote: Ayes (4). Trustees Arias, Escutia, Slattery, and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

how he believes that's how it started here today at tonight's meeting and how a lot of decisions need to be made. Following this idea Vince said the best way to come to the best solution is by working together and not stating negative comments to somebody who may or may not agree with. Vince, as he finishes his report, thanked the Township staff and Road District staff for all their hard work.

#### **Violence Prevention Director, Andrea Cambray**

Andrea Cambray, the Violence Prevention Director, states how Peace Over Violence has officially begun programming as of Monday October 2, 2023. They have a total of 3 participants, 1 in each service (Outreach, Case Management, and Victim Advocacy), with a total family size of 8 currently. Outreach has a total of 30 canvassing hours (ending October 7th). Additionally, they have a total of 6 pre-participants. As of now, Peter Claver is staffed from 9-6pm Monday Through Friday, and Saturday from 12pm-8pm. The Outreach Team has strategically staggered their schedule to cover both some office time and evening hours. Rotating shifts and on call schedules. The Victim Advocates have also done this, and additionally will receive notifications from the St. Joe's hospital pending the creation of the hospital's phone line being designated for this purpose. The linkage between the Victim Advocate and St. Joes will be vital. This will help target the correct population while utilizing researched best practices. The leadership team is now fully staffed, including Jaron Nabors, the Outreach Supervisor, Nicole Lurry, the Community Engagement Coordinator, and Taelar Scott, the Participant Service Coordinator. With the onboarding of Nicole, states Andrea, has helped to centralize the outreach efforts with the General Assistance Department and with Alejandra Zamudio who has spearheaded in creating systems to better reach and navigate the community's needs. Nicole is assisting the team in coordinating an event called Pathways to Equity Resource Fair: for individuals impacted by the justice system, on November 30th, 2023. Andrea further explains how they will partner with the Workforce Services Division of Will County. In the next 2 months, the team will attempt to find solutions to barriers in transportation that may lead to inequitable access to this resource fair. Additionally, Peace Over Violence continues to effortlessly engage local resources to leverage the ability to assist participants. Over the last month, the team has met with Lewis University Gro Institute, VNA Healthcare, attended Will County Take Back the Night, met with Will County Children's Advocate Center, AGAPE, Speak Up, Groves Boxing, Bag Lady Outreach, Catholic Charities, and many more agencies to explore resource sharing.

#### **Clerk, Alicia Morales**

Alicia Morales, the Township's Clerk, starts her report by stating how it's been day-to-day business as usual. A new Deputy Clerk, Estefany Bonilla and a new Deputy Assessor were hired. Alicia thanks the highway Commissioner Vince for all the hard work he has done with the Road District. Alicia adds that a bid hearing notice to the public was sent out to put in a bid for the Road District buildout construction that they are going to be working on. There was one bidder and he moved forward and submitted a contract which concludes the Clerk's report. Alicia asked if the audience had any questions which no one had and thanked the public.

**CASH RECEIPTS:** Trustee Slattery motions to place the cash receipts into their proper accounts for period ending September 30, 2023. Trustee Escutia seconds. Motion carried.<sup>18</sup>

#### **FUND EXPENDITURES:**

##### **General Town Fund for September 2023: \$373,782.92**

Trustee Slattery motioned to certify the expenditures and approve them for payment.

Trustee Arias seconds. A roll call was taken. Motion carried.<sup>19</sup>

##### **General Assistance Fund for September 2023: \$32,560.03**

Trustee Slattery motioned to certify the expenditures and approve them for payment.

Trustee Escutia seconds. A roll call was taken. Motion carried.<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> Roll call vote: Ayes (5). Trustees Arias, Edwards, Escutia, Slattery, and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

<sup>19</sup> Roll call vote: Ayes (5). Trustees Arias, Edwards, Escutia, Slattery, and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

<sup>20</sup> Roll call vote: Ayes (5). Trustees Arias, Edwards, Escutia, Slattery, and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

**Road and Bridge Fund for September 2023: \$379,478.50**

Trustee Slattery motioned to certify the expenditures and approve them for payment. Trustee Escutia seconds. A roll call was taken. Motion carried.<sup>21</sup>

**Animal Control Fund September 2023: \$92,433.23**

Trustee Slattery motioned to certify the expenditures and approve them for payment. Trustee Escutia seconds. A roll call was taken. Motion carried.<sup>22</sup>

**Capital Fund for September 2023: \$29,331.00**

Trustee Slattery motioned to certify the expenditures and approve them for payment. Trustee Escutia seconds. A roll call was taken. Motion carried.<sup>23</sup>

**Senior Fund for September 2023: \$00.00**

No expenditures in this fund. A motion is not needed.

**CLOSED SESSION:** None.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Supervisor Contreras gives thanks to the public who came to tonight's meeting and to voice their opinions on the SMASS grant. Supervisor Contreras explains the reason why a bigger venue was chosen and thanked everyone for participating. He continued to add how the Board of Trustees will take everything into consideration. Supervisor Contreras asks for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Slattery motions. Trustee Edwards seconds. Motion Carried.<sup>24</sup>

Meeting adjourned at 9:06 PM

Respectfully submitted,



Alicia Morales  
Town Clerk

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<sup>21</sup> Roll call vote: Ayes (5). Trustees Arias, Edwards, Escutia, Slattery, and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

<sup>22</sup> Roll call vote: Ayes (5). Trustees Arias, Edwards, Escutia, Slattery, and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

<sup>23</sup> Roll call vote: Ayes (5). Trustees Arias, Edwards, Escutia, Slattery, and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

<sup>24</sup> Roll call vote: Ayes (5). Trustees Arias, Edwards, Escutia, Slattery, and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).