



APPROVED Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Joliet Township
Joliet Township Regular Board Meeting
175 W. Jefferson St., Joliet, IL 60432
Tuesday, January 09th, 2024 / 5:00 P.M.

The regular town board meeting, being held at 175 West Jefferson Street, Joliet Township government offices, Tuesday, January 09, 2024, at 5:02 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:

TRUSTEES:	Tanya Arias	Present
	Antione J. Edwards	Present
	Cesar Escutia	Present
	Raymond F. Slattery	Not Present
SUPERVISOR:	Angel Contreras	Present
CLERK:	Alicia Morales	Present
OTHER OFFICIALS:	Commissioner Vince Alessio	Present
	Assessor James Brenzewski	Not Present

ALSO PRESENT:

Finance Director Ivan Diaz	Violence Prevention Director Andrea Cambray
Senior Liaison Jeff Wallace	Executive Assistant Ana Campa Castillo
Deputy Clerk Estefany Bonilla	Attorney Bryan Wellner

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Town Board Minutes: Supervisor Contreras asks for a motion. Trustee Escutia motions to approve the minutes of the December 19, 2023, Town Board Meeting, Seconded by Trustee Edwards. A roll call was taken. Motion Carried.¹

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Family Guidance Centers, Inc

Carla Policandriotes and Julie Sterr address the audience regarding information for a not-for-profit organization named Family Guidance Centers. The organization has been operating for over 60 years throughout the state of Illinois and they provide drug and alcohol treatment as well as mental health treatment. These services are for everyone who is assessed and eligible for the level of care that they may present. Ms. Policandriotes shared that they provide treatment whether they had insurance or not. Julie explains that Family Guidance would provide the initial assessments, the actual evaluation and access to care within days. A few of their locations are on Glenwood Ave. and at the bottom of the public defender’s office where they offer this free of charge. Many criminal defendants that are involved because of their addictions, once those issues are addressed, don’t need to be involved in the criminal justice system. Family Guidance is known to help in these ways for the entire community in a timely manner. Ms. Policandriotes stated how more locations are set in Will County, in smaller police departments and in townships that recommends Family Guidance for people who may need assistance instead of prosecuting

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

them for their illnesses. She noted how Family Guidance was able to obtain a facility in Mantino that used to be called the Brandon House and how that was remodeled some years ago which houses about ninety to hundred people at any given time for inpatient and outpatient services. A simple call to the nearest Family Guidance Centers will start a phone screening to plan for much more in-depth evaluations and handoff to take them to care whether that is a residential treatment for adults for men and women. They also offer zoom calls which DCFS works closely with them with their clientele to ensure the drug testing and the treatments are going well so they can reunite families. For more information, their website is fgcinc.org. Trustee Edwards inquired about age restrictions, hours of operations and an explanation of what fentanyl test strips are for the audience as some may not know what they are. Ms. Policandriotes explained the hours of operations are 24/7 for immediate care while the regular hours are 9AM to 5PM, inpatient treatment is licensed for adults, men, and women. Julie elaborates on what fentanyl test strips are as they are used to check drugs to make sure they don't have fentanyl in them as fentanyl is stronger than heroin.

History On Wheels

Mr. Luther Johnson is the founder of History On Wheels. He is a Civil War and World War I reenactor. History On Wheels has obtained the Casseday House. It will be converted into an African American history, military, and historical museum in Will County. All who served, combat and non-combat, will be featured in the museum from all the way back to the revolutionary wars up to the modern wars. The museum is to educate about how people of color have fought, sacrificed, and struggled for freedom, equality, and justice for all while serving during wartime and in peace. He explained the first funding will be coming out of his pocket and has begun the project by starting the remodeling with an architect who is well known. Mr. Luther Johnson continues by saying how it was a lot of back and forth in the beginning but was able to work everything out alongside the City of Joliet. There will be a resource center in the museum to help veterans, the military, and people of all walks of life. Their website is historyonwheels.org. He invited everyone to come join a Fundraiser Gala that will be hosted on March 23rd being a red carpet and black-tie affair.

NEW BUSINESS:

APPROVE/ Ordinance No. 394-2024 Redemption Fees for JTAC

Supervisor Contreras Asks for a motion to adopt. Trustee Edwards motions. Trustee Arias seconds. Motion carried. ²

OLD BUSINESS:

New Reports

Highway Commissioner, Vince Alessio

The Highway Commissioner begins his report by highlighting the efforts made to keep the streets clean and shares great news about the arrival of a new truck, long awaited, to further assist in the cause. Vince explained how they've been maintaining the vehicles to make sure they're in the best operating conditions to ensure a safe workflow. A brief overview was given regarding the progress made on the Road District's building, which is currently under construction. Vince brought up the Ingalls Park project and how they've gone above and beyond with what they initially projected with the replacement of half the roads. At this time, the Road District has two part-time employees, referred to as 'snowbirds', who are available to be called into work outside of their usual hours when necessary. This makes the team instead of seven employees to be nine in total.

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

Senior Liaison, Jeff Wallace

Peace Mr. Wallace continues to engage with all senior groups and addresses their concerns as needed. This month he informed them about the Ride-Share program, the medical closet, and the tax-free program.

Violence Prevention Director, Andrea Cambray

Peace Over Violence successfully completed their Quarter 2. Overall, the program has served ninety-three clients, some of which are families. Victim Advocates have served twenty-five families or direct victims with services. Over the first quarter, the team has made over eight hundred linkages or referrals to local services for clients and conducted eleven incident mediations. Outreach staff have responded to thirty-five incidents of which seven have been through police notifications. The outreach team has completed 756 hours towards canvassing and dedicated five hundred and seventy minutes collectively to mediations. Over the weekend, January 6th, 2024, the director was proud to announce Peace Over Violence conducted their first ever town hall. They had twenty-five participants. Including local judges, attorneys, community members, NAACP members, ABA staff, and more. After the first town hall, some feedback reported was that the community would like to see more Townhall's in the future, which they plan on organizing monthly. On January 25th, Peace Over Violence will be giving their first presentation called "What is Mental Health?", where they will bring useful mental health information to the BIPOC community. They plan to utilize local community spaces for this presentation. Once Nicole Lurry, the Community Engagement Coordinator, solidifies space, they will send the information out to the township. Just a reminder Peace Over Violence will be conducting their first blood drive in February at the Mitchell Center.

Clerk, Alicia Morales

Clerk Morales noted her office has been working on the bid hearings with the Highway Commissioner's office, the agendas for the Decennial Committee meetings and outside of that it has been day-to-day business as usual.

Supervisor, Angel Contreras

Supervisor Contreras states how the transportation department hire started yesterday. They've gone to scheduled meetings with Lockport Township and New Lenox Township. The team has also set their scheduled sales meetings with the software companies. So far, they've reached four and are moving quickly. For the behavioral health team, the priority is to create space for them within this month. While this is in progress the behavioral health team were able to secure numerous Memorandums of Understanding and are eager to start seeing clients on a long-term basis in a more permanent space. Other than that, it has been business as usual.

CASH RECEIPTS: Trustee Escutia motions to place the cash receipts into their proper accounts for the period ending December 31, 2023. Trustee Arias seconds. Motion carried.

FUND EXPENDITURES:

General Town Fund for December 2023: \$460,890.23

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

Trustee Edwards seconds. A roll call was taken. Motion carried.³

Road and Bridge Fund for December 2023: \$367,511.36

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

Trustee Arias seconds. A roll call was taken. Motion carried.⁴

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

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

Animal Control Fund for December 2023: \$68,884.58

Trustee Escutia motioned to certify the expenditures and approve them for payment. Trustee Arias seconds. A roll call was taken. Motion carried.⁵

General Assistance Fund for December 2023: \$27,642.50

Trustee Escutia motioned to certify the expenditures and approve them for payment. Trustee Edwards seconds. A roll call was taken. Motion carried.⁶

Senior Fund for December 2023: \$7,500.00

Trustee Escutia motioned to certify the expenditures and approve them for payment. Trustee Arias seconds. A roll call was taken. Motion carried.⁷

Capital Fund for December 2023: \$66,853.93

Trustee Escutia motioned to certify the expenditures and approve them for payment. Trustee Edwards seconds. A roll call was taken. Motion carried.⁸

CLOSED SESSION: None.

ADJOURNMENT: Supervisor Contreras announces the official unveiling of the Mitchell Center and the New Year Township luncheon. He will notify every one of the details regarding the luncheon soon. Supervisor Contreras asks for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Escutia motions. Trustee Arias seconds. Motion Carried.⁹

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Alicia Morales
Town Clerk

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

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

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

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

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