



The regular town board meeting, being held at 175 West Jefferson Street, Joliet Township government offices, Tuesday, December 19, 2023, at 5:00 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	Not Present
	Antione J. Edwards	Present
	Cesar Escutia	Present
	Raymond F. Slattery	Present
SUPERVISOR:	Angel Contreras	Present
CLERK:	Alicia Morales	Present

OTHER OFFICIALS:	Commissioner Vince Alessio	Present
	Assessor James Brenczewski	Not Present

ALSO PRESENT:

Finance Director Ivan Diaz	Senior Liaison Jeff Wallace
General Assistance Director Patricia Venziano	Violence Prevention Director Andrea Cambray
Animal Control Director Whitney McGill	Attorney Bryan Wellner
Deputy Clerk Estefany Bonilla	

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Town Board Minutes: Supervisor Contreras asks for a motion. Trustee Escutia motions to approve the minutes of the November 28, 2023, Town Board Meeting, Seconded by Trustee Slattery. A roll call was taken. Motion Carried.¹

Public Bid Hearing for Contract 2023-05 (RD) Minutes: Supervisor Contreras asks for a motion. Trustee Slattery motions to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2023, Public Hearing for Contract 2023-05 (RD), Seconded by Trustee Escutia. A roll call was taken. Motion Carried.²

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

NEW BUSINESS:

ADOPT/Proposed Town Levy – Ordinance No. 393-2023

Supervisor Contreras Asks for a motion to adopt. Trustee Slattery motions. Trustee Escutia seconds. Motion carried.³

ADOPT/Proposed Road District Levy – Ordinance No. 2023-04 (RD)

Supervisor Contreras Asks for a motion to adopt. Trustee Slattery motions. Trustee Escutia seconds. Motion carried.⁴

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

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

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

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

REVIEW/Clarke Annual Report 2023 for Joliet Township

The Clarke annual report was available for the trustees to review. There was no vote necessary.

OLD BUSINESS:

New Reports

Highway Commissioner, Vince Alessio

There are a few things to note, as stated by Vince, how Ingalls Park is now finished as Aqua Illinois completed the water replacement. The project has been successfully completed as all the township roads are repaired and paved while working together with the contractor. Vince is happy with how the project was done and finished as many residents have been dealing with those issues for two years. The contract for renovation will be starting soon. A contract for improvement on Patterson road and Joliet street will be commencing as that area is a high traffic intersection where huge trucks head into public services and will require an immense amount of repair. It will be repaired with concrete instead of relying on asphalt. Vince states there is a process to purchasing property currently as the Road District plans on moving poles over to provide a wider storm drain over that specified location to alleviate that long recurring problem. That project is estimated to be finished around the first of next year. Vince begins to explain how they have set up trail cams on certain recurring dumping areas around the township to surveillance unwanted visitors who are dumping or disposing any number of items and materials. The Road District is working with the sheriff's department on it and has provided positive results. The weather has not been hectic these recent months and Vince is thankful for that as it allowed for many projects to be completed. Vince asked the audience if they had any questions. Trustee Slattery inquired for a further explanation of what a trail cam is. Vince elaborated on what a trail cam is used for as he explained it is used for detecting deer trails and recording them to make sure if there's deer around that specific area hence why the Road District is using it. Once the cam is activated by motion sensors it will begin recording for a set amount of time and capture whoever is dumping items or materials in said dumping grounds. Trustee Slattery thanked Vince for the explanation.

General Assistance Director, Patricia Venziano

Sue and Alejandra went to a meeting with the Joliet Regional Education Community Connectors, and they had NAMI, which is the National Alliance on Mental Illness, to come in there to present. They were providing updates on their programs and they're in the process of setting up a living room in Joliet at the corner of Glenwood and Hammes and will be run by Trinity Services. It will be manned 24/7 to provide a safe place for people to arrive when they're having mental health issues and it's an alternative to psychiatric hospitalization. Tomorrow is the LIHEAP event for this season and the General Assistance department is excited for a good turnout. Patricia and Alejandra recertified for the IRS and are preparing to get the tax season underway next month. As expected, with the holidays approaching it's been a bit quiet in their department but Patricia states that it will be picking up after the first when the holidays are over. Other than that, it's been business as usual.

Animal Control Director (JTAC), Whitney McGill

JTAC has begun a new partnership with Muttz Gym in Minooka where they will be able to bring two shelter dogs in once a week for individualized training, enabling them to gain the skills needed to help find and retain their new homes. This is offered at no cost to JTAC! In addition to training the dogs, this is also helping to train the staff as the vet techs take turns learning from the trainer the best ways to teach these skills to the dogs. They can

take this knowledge back with them to apply to the other dogs in the shelter. JTAC hosted Pet Pictures with The Grinch on November 26 and had thirty-five families come in for them. Many of the dogs and cats were previously adopted from JTAC and they enjoyed seeing the dogs happy with their new families. The cat room had gotten a rough case of upper respiratory infection that was caused by Mycoplasma, an infectious organism that is easily contagious and resistant to many common antibiotics. The staff had to close the cat room for a few weeks while the cats recovered. Whitney is thankful to say the cats have made full recoveries and the cat room is back and open to viewing for the public. Even with the cat adoptions ceasing for a short time JTAC was still able to adopt-out sixty cats and dogs in November which is the most they have adopted out in one month this year. The Animal Control office roof is fixed and requires an inspection to check the outlets. Supervisor Contreras will work to get the outlets inspected and fixed.

Senior Liaison, Jeff Wallace

Jeff begins his report by stating that his upcoming newsletter for the Senior Right Share Program is scheduled to be distributed out. For the medical closet, Jeff explains how they are asking for donations and called Sue from the General Assistance department for supplies after a senior resident, who happened to be Jeff's neighbor, had hip surgery, and required said supplies. Sue assisted and logged the supplies that Jeff needed. On Thursday, A senior resident from the east side also received assistance from Jeff in removing abandoned vehicles. Last Friday Jeff went to Maddie Saunder's wake at the Second Baptist Church. Jeff announced how the wake went well and how everyone there was nice and gave their respects for her passing. Jeff concluded his report and expressed his joy in working with everyone in the township and wished everyone a happy Christmas.

Violence Prevention Director, Andrea Cambray

Unfortunately, the last month has been a particularly violent month for the Joliet Region. Although Director Cambray was proud of her team and the services, they have been able to deliver, they are saddened that they must exist at all. Over the last month, with the leadership of Taelar Scott, the victim advocates Christopher Sherrod and Stephen Evans have assisted in funeral planning, solidified their relationships with local funeral homes, and created several strategies for the Joliet Region regarding victim services. Overall, Peace Over Violence has served seventy-nine clients, with sixty active clients with a hundred percent of clients completing goals with staff. The outreach team for the month of December thus far has canvassed a total 162.5 hours. Initiated ten local mediations, mitigating violent responses, resulting in 570 minutes of the outreach team's time. Outreach has partnered with the Riverwalk Community, to assist in their pantry every Thursday and meet individuals in need of services, and case management and victim advocates will be joining Riverwalk families at their drop-in activities in 2024. Over the last month the team has successfully completed Pathways to Justice Reentry Fair with Will County Workforce, which they will be holding quarterly. Nicole Lurry, the Community Engagement Coordinator, has slated twelve town halls in various locations throughout the Joliet Region over the course of 2024. At these town halls, they will share their plan to make the Joliet Region a safer place known to residents and all stakeholders. Nicole has successfully partnered with the Joliet Black Police Association who will provide donuts and coffee at the town halls. The Son's of Thunder from Second Baptist Church, at 156 S Joliet Street, had their Tuesday night basketball from 6-8pm, with the assistance of Peace Over Violence. In 2024 Peace Over Violence plans to offer and coordinate a basketball tournament aimed at reducing street violence. Additionally, victim advocates and case managers will be hosting community conversations at several hot spots around Joliet, where they will work on surveying the community voice. Nicole has taken the initiative to partner with American Red Cross, for a blood

drive in February dedicated to the recent tragic shooting of Jamere Bew and Sickle Cell Anemia. This tragedy not only hit his family from Joliet hard, but he was also the brother of the Outreach Worker, Tamikio Adams. All people who donate blood will receive forty dollars in Amazon gift cards and hope to dedicate future drives to lives lost due to gun violence. The entire team works endlessly and tirelessly as stated by Andrea.

Clerk, Alicia Morales

Alicia begins her report by explaining how the Road District's current bid, contract 2023-05, for the intersection improvement of Patterson road and Joliet street has been awarded and the minutes have been approved for as of today. The Club Social Latino had a meeting on December 16 and a few more on the 23rd and 30th at the Mount Carmen Hall at 625 North Collins Street. The group continues to have very positive momentum and growth. The clerk's office worked together with Supervisor Contreras in coordinating the Decennial Committee meeting for today. Outside of that it's been business as usual. Alicia asked the audience if they had any questions and that concluded her report.

Supervisor, Angel Contreras

There was a Decennial Committee at 4PM today, which moving forward, the meetings will be held at either 4:30PM or 4:45PM instead. That way all the members of the Decennial Committee can attend. Back in May, the board appointed the members of the public who attended the meeting as well. Commissioner Alessio was present which made the meeting have quorum to proceed with protocol. Angel explains how the transportation program is the next big endeavor as it is in the progress to start after the New Year holiday, around January 8th. Four people will be onboard first to get the program started before bringing all the drivers. The first coordinators with a couple drivers and then progress further from there. The initial funding for the program is from the allocated Arpa dollars from the County. There have been preliminary conversations with organizations that want to do the MOU transportation services who do have funding for said services, however, they've just had not been able to get their own program off the ground, hence why they would like to work with the township to provide a consistent availability of transportation Angel recognized and thanked every department for their hard work. Trustee Escutia asked about the Decennial Committee meeting and Supervisor Contreras explained how that meeting was to introduce the public to the members of the Decennial Committee and what the committee will entail going forward. Trustee Slattery thanks Ivan, the financial director, for helping him. The audience clapped in appreciation for Ivan as well.

CASH RECEIPTS: Trustee Slattery motions to place the cash receipts into their proper accounts for period ending November 30, 2023. Trustee Escutia seconds. Motion carried.⁵

FUND EXPENDITURES:

General Town Fund for November 2023: \$435,762.56

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

General Assistance Fund for November 2023: \$33,604.77

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

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

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

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

Road and Bridge Fund for November 2023: \$511,758.03

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

Animal Control Fund November 2023: \$79,776.10

Trustee Slattery motioned to certify the expenditures and approve them for payment. Trustee Escutia seconds. A roll call was taken. Motion carried.⁹

Capital Fund for November 2023: \$29,200.00

Trustee Slattery motioned to certify the expenditures and approve them for payment. Trustee Escutia seconds. A roll call was taken. Motion carried.¹⁰

Senior Fund for November 2023: \$60,000.00

Trustee Slattery motioned to certify the expenditures and approve them for payment. Trustee Escutia seconds. A roll call was taken. Motion carried.¹¹

CLOSED SESSION: None.

ADJOURNMENT: Supervisor Contreras announces a gathering for a long lunch in the first week after the New Years holiday in January at around 2PM to 4PM and a date will be determined by the end of this week in December. Supervisor Contreras wishes everyone a happy Christmas and a happy new year. Supervisor Contreras asks for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Escutia motions. Trustee Edwards seconds. Motion Carried.¹²

Meeting adjourned at 5:33 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Alicia Morales
Town Clerk

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

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

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

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

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