



The regular town board meeting, being held at 175 West Jefferson Street, Joliet Township government offices, Tuesday, September 22, 2020, at 5:00 p.m. was called to order by Supervisor Daniel L. Vera. The following official business was transacted:

The Clerk led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

The Clerk called the roll as follows:

TRUSTEES:	Raymond F. Slattery	Present
	Archie Gavin	Present
	Rosie Verdin	Present
	Brian Hertzmann	Present
SUPERVISOR:	Daniel L. Vera	Present
CLERK:	Julie A. Kinsella	Present
OTHER OFFICIALS:	Commissioner Michael Turnbull	Present
	Assessor James Brenzewski	Present

ALSO PRESENT: Attorney James Harvey, Accountant Colleen Witt, Township employee Jesse Stiff, and Road District employee Anna Donovan. The following citizens signed the attendance log: Michelle Stiff, Pat Costion, Lisa Lawson, and John Lawson. Several other people were also in attendance, but chose not to sign the attendance sheet.

Approval of the Minutes:

Regular Town/September 8, 2020: Trustee Verdin moved to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2020 Regular Town Board Meeting and to waive the reading of these minutes inasmuch as copies had previously been delivered. Seconded by Trustee Gavin. A voice vote was taken.¹

Closed Session/September 8, 2020: After Supervisor, Trustees, and Attorney Harvey read closed session minutes that had been passed out at the meeting, Trustee Hertzmann motioned that the closed session meeting minutes approved as written. Motion seconded by Trustee Gavin. Roll call vote was taken.²

¹ Voice Vote: Ayes (5) Trustees Slattery, Gavin, Verdin, Hertzmann, and Supervisor Vera. Nays (0).
² Roll Call Vote: Ayes (5) Trustees Slattery, Gavin, Verdin, Hertzmann, and Supervisor Vera. Nays (0).

Public Comment:

None

Public Hearing:

Budget & Appropriation Ordinance- Road District Ordinance No. 2020-03 (RD)

Trustee Hertzmann motioned to recess the regular meeting to enter into the Public Hearing. Motion was seconded by Trustee Slattery. Roll Called.³ Public Hearing was called to order at 5:07 p.m.

The Public Hearing was held and the proposed Budget & Appropriation- Road District Ordinance No. 2020-03 (RD) with the amendments recommended by Trustee Slattery in order to ensure the Budget & Appropriation- Road District Ordinance No. 2020-03 (RD) would comply with the policy to have a three months minimum balance on hand was approved by a unanimous roll call vote in the Public Hearing. Trustee Hertzmann Then made a motion to close the Public Hearing and reconvene the previously scheduled September 22, 2020 meeting. Seconded by Trustee Verdin. A voice vote was taken.⁴ The Public Hearing adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

After the adjournment of the Public Hearing, Trustee Hertzmann made a motion to reconvene the regularly scheduled meeting of September 22, 2020. Trustee Gavin seconded the motion. Roll call vote was taken.⁵

New Business:

Receipt of Annual Audit 2019-2020 Fiscal Year- Trustee Slattery made a motion, seconded by Trustee Verdin for the acceptance of the outside audit as received from Gassensmith & Michalesko for fiscal year 2019-2020. Roll Call Vote was taken.⁶

Next a motion was made by Trustee Slattery and seconded by Trustee Gavin to place the Annual Audit on file so that it could be filed with the County Clerk and the State. Roll call vote was taken. ⁷

³ Roll Call Vote: Ayes (5) Trustees Slattery, Gavin, Verdin, Hertzmann, and Supervisor Vera. Nays (0)

⁴ Voice Vote: Ayes (5), Nays (0)

⁵ Roll Call Vote: Ayes (5) Trustees Slattery, Gavin, Verdin, Hertzmann, and Supervisor Vera. Nays (0)

⁶ Roll Call Vote: Ayes (5) Trustees Slattery, Gavin, Verdin, Hertzmann, and Supervisor Vera. Nays (0)

⁷ Roll Call Vote: Ayes (5) Trustees Slattery, Gavin, Verdin, Hertzmann, and Supervisor Vera. Nays (0)

Budget & Appropriation Ordinance- Road District Ordinance No. 2020-03(RD): Trustee Slattery made a motion, seconded by Trustee Verdin for that Budget & Appropriation Ordinance No. 2020-03 (RD) be approved with the changes made in the Public Hearing. Roll call vote was taken. ⁸

Approve/Grant for Will County MAPP Collaborative: Supervisor Vera noted that this was a request under the Community Grant for a food distribution; the last one held at Laraway School helped 143 families. The request is for \$1200.00 from the Community Grant line item in the budget to help facilitate and sponsor along with the Will County MAPP Collaborative for a Joliet Township food distribution. Trustee Gavin noted that his wife is the Director of the Forest Park Community Center and her food bank has helped untold people, especially since Covid has hit. Gavin said that it is devastating when people have lost jobs, homes, and then can't feed their children. So many community centers have small food banks, but may not have the storage and refrigeration capabilities. His wife has been called in the middle of the night by people needing food help, so he encouraged the board to help. Supervisor noted that the once the check was received to purchase the food, the distribution date would be determined and that we could then participate in distributing the food. Trustee Verdin made a motion, seconded by Trustee Gavin to award a grant in the amount of \$1,200.00 from the Community Grant line item in the budget to help facilitate and sponsor along with the Will County MAPP Collaborative for another Joliet Township food distribution. Roll call vote was taken.⁹

Reports:

Supervisor Vera:

Supervisor Vera reported on the successful restoration of the Lettie Burlingame memorial which had been supported by both the Will County Bar Association and the Will County Women's Bar Association. Miss Burlingame was the first woman admitted to the Will County Bar Association and pictures of the restoration and Miss Burlingame are on display at the courthouse. The memorial for former Governor Joel Matteson at Oakwood Cemetery was also completed by Lindblad Construction, securing the foundation and stability of the monument and stairs. Also day-to-day operations.

Clerk Kinsella: Publication notice of the availability of the Audit Report for the April 1, 2019 through March 31, 2020 was published in the Joliet Herald-News on September 22, 2020. Clerk also talked to TOI (Township Officials of Illinois) for election information, and will be meeting with the Highway Commissioner tomorrow (September 23, 2020) for a rescheduled meeting from September 17, 2020 which had to be postponed due to Commissioner having an urgent matter come up.

⁸ Roll Call Vote: Ayes (5) Trustees Slattery, Gavin, Verdin, Hertzmann, and Supervisor Vera. Nays (0)

⁹ Roll Call Vote: Ayes (5) Trustees Slattery, Gavin, Verdin, Hertzmann, and Supervisor Vera. Nays (0)

Accountant Witt: Accountant Witt reported that she had completed the Financial Statements through August 31st and copies were included in the board packet. She also prepared the Annual Treasurers Report and gave that to the Clerk to file with the County Clerk. Other than that, just day-to-day.

Assessor Brenczewski: Assessor Brenczewski reported that this is a busy time of year and they are working to make sure they keep up with the assessment complaints that are typical for this time of year. He reports about 20 complaints so far, but people are just starting to come in with them.

Attorney Harvey: Attorney Harvey said that he has met with staff and Supervisor Vera as needed to deal with any issues.

Highway Commissioner: Supervisor Vera noted that Highway Commissioner Turnbull had passed out a written report to Supervisor Vera, Trustees Gavin, Verdin, and Hertzmann, and Clerk Kinsella earlier. When asked if he had anything to say, Turnbull said, "No." Hertzmann said, according to your (Turnbull's) report that the guys are still working and earning their paycheck not, as someone may have alluded, just sitting around. Turnbull affirmed that it was correct, everyone was working. Citizen "Jay" who had spoken at the Public Hearing, interjected, and stated that he wasn't inferring that the guys weren't working, only that they weren't doing the roads. Turnbull explained to "Jay" that roads he had talked about were done with MFT money and that was under Will County. "Jay" had a few other comments about reconciliation and the need to getting back to working together. "Jay" said that going to court isn't good for anybody and said, "You tore his budget apart."

Hertzmann reminded "Jay" of the need to have a three months reserve that was explained in the Public Hearing of September 22, 2020. "Jay" responded, if it's a reserve, then you should just use it." "Jay" asked, "When was the last time you paid any of his bills?" Supervisor Vera stated that our legal counsel had met with Assistant State's Attorney Phil Mock who had given us the instruction that we cannot pay any bills until a budget has been adopted. Supervisor Vera also said that all bills (from the Road District) that have been waiting to be paid will be paid tonight. Attorney Harvey affirmed Vera's statements as true.

Commissioner Turnbull then addressed the Clerk, requesting that the following be included in the minutes: "This budget is not my budget. This is the budget that I'm being forced to accept, to keep things fluid, to keep everything going. I want that on record." Trustee Slattery then responded to "Jay"'s comment that Turnbull's budget had been cut in half. Slattery said we cut 2 line items which was about 18% of the budget. Slattery also said about a month ago Anna took notes about the changes, and if she said it wasn't her responsibility, fine, but our Road Commissioner wasn't here (at the August 25, 2020

meeting) or he would have had the information. “Jay” asked, “I don’t really know how this works, but isn’t it his (indicating Vera) job to talk to Mike, not yours (Slattery)?” Slattery said it is our responsibility as board members. Vera said that as we heard earlier tonight that a month ago, Anna did stand at that wall and took down the changes that Slattery recommended. Anna Donovan then interrupted and she said that she had made it clear at that meeting that she was not there as a representative of the Road District. She said that if it is something is this big, then someone should have reached out directly to Mike. Supervisor Vera responded that you did take notes, and we didn’t know you didn’t tell him, and you had made a Highway Department report in that meeting under Public Comments. Slattery said I haven’t seen Mike in quite a while. Anna expressed her frustration with her job for the past year, and what she views as a lack of communication between the board and the Road District. She also stated that the board shouldn’t put the “responsibility of the Highway Commissioner on the secretary”. She apologized if she had come across as “aggressive”. She also stated that, “In the future, I will not represent the Highway Commissioner in any capacity and you can be left in the dark.” She said that she took notes, but it is between me and Mike if I gave them to him. She also accused Supervisor Vera of not even coming out since October. Vera questioned Anna, stating, “And why would that be, Anna?” Vera replied, “A lawsuit was filed. On advice of counsel, I have done everything I am supposed to do.” Anna said that there was nothing in that lawsuit that said that you couldn’t come to the Road District or that board members couldn’t talk to the Highway Commissioner. She said she was voicing her frustration with the situation of not working together.

Citizen Pat Costion said that it was really, really clear to the public that people are not working together and I hope that the meeting in two weeks is a lot better, as this is uncomfortable. Supervisor Vera thanked her for coming and said that we appreciate everyone’s comments.

Trustee Gavin also mentioned a public safety item regarding Covid. He handed a report to Supervisor Vera that showed his negative test for Covid. He explained the protocol he followed after finding out he had been exposed to Covid with his job and what calls he had made to members of the board. He said he brought this up as a public safety issue because on July 19, 2020, Mike Turnbull sent them an email that stated that there was a potential Covid issue at the Road District, but I’ve never gotten a response of if there was a test performed and if that test was negative, and you were not at the July 19, 2020 meeting because of this issue. Gavin asked Mike if there was a negative test report given. Turnbull replied that that was his understanding. Gavin asked for a copy of the test. Anna Donovan objected, stating that it was not allowed due to HIPAA regulations to release that information. Supervisor Vera stated it is good that we have two negatives, we hadn’t heard back (from Mike) so we hope it was handled correctly; I assuming you handled it per the protocols and notified tracers and things like that. Supervisor Vera expressed his pleasure that both people were fine.

Receipts: Trustee Slattery made a motion to deposit all funds into their proper accounts as presented for the period ending September 22, 2020. Seconded by Trustee Gavin. A voice vote was taken.¹⁰

Expenditures: The Supervisor presented the following invoices for Town Board approval for the period ending September 22, 2020:

<u>FUND</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>
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General Town	\$69,157.69
Motion: Trustee Slattery	
Second: Trustee Verdin	
Roll Call: Ayes 5, Nays 0 ¹¹	

Capital Fund- No bills presented for this fund.

General Assistance	\$7,919.07
Motion: Trustee Gavin	
Second: Trustee Slattery	
Roll Call: Ayes 5, Nays 0 ¹²	

Road and Bridge	\$76,028.24
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Supervisor Vera asked Accountant Witt about the clarification to Road and Bridge bills originally presented totaling \$80,532.24. Witt replied that the last bill on the sheet is for Gassensmith & Michalesko for the 2019-2020 Fiscal Year Audit in the amount of \$4,504.00. Witt stated that after the bill sheet had already been prepared, she received an email from the Highway Commissioner that stated that he is not in agreement with this payment so we would have to deduct \$4,504.00 from the \$80,532.24 listed, leaving a total of \$76,028.24 for approval of Road and Bridge expenditures at this time. Trustee Slattery asked Mike (Turnbull) if there was a reason why he doesn't want to pay that bill (for the Audit). Turnbull replied, "I have to talk to my attorney." Slattery stated that they have performed a service and Mike replied that he understood. Supervisor Vera asked if there were any more questions. Accountant Witt then asked, "So is that still up in the air? And Mike replied, "I haven't talked to my attorney, yet." Accountant Witt then asked if the Highway Commissioner gave his approval to her if she could write the check (for the Audit). Trustee Slattery replied that it would have to be approved at the next meeting.

¹⁰ Voice Vote: Ayes (5) Trustees Slattery, Gavin, Verdin, Hertzmann and Supervisor Vera. Nays (0)

¹¹ Roll Call Vote: Ayes (5) Trustees Slattery, Gavin, Verdin, Hertzmann and Supervisor Vera. Nays (0)

¹² Roll Call Vote: Ayes (5) Trustees Slattery, Gavin, Verdin, Hertzmann and Supervisor Vera. Nays (0)

Road & Bridge, continued:

Trustee Verdin also had a question about the Austin Tyler bill (\$26,250.00) for Turnbull asking about why it hadn't gone to bid it with it being over \$20,000.00, or was it an emergency? Turnbull replied it was an emergency. Turnbull explained the location and the emergency repair needed due to sewer collapse and conditions which washed out the road on MacIntosh Lane. Accountant Witt then asked if the Highway Commissioner was in agreement with the bills presented for payment tonight, for the record, and Turnbull said, "I am."

Motion: Trustee Verdin
Second: Trustee Slattery
Roll Call: Ayes 5, Nays 0¹³

Animal Control	\$22,690.60
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Motion: Trustee Verdin
Second: Trustee Gavin
Roll Call: Ayes 5, Nays 0¹⁴

Senior Fund	\$377.00
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Motion: Trustee Slattery
Second: Trustee Verdin
Roll Call: Ayes 5, Nays 0¹⁵

Closed Session: None

Adjournment:

Trustee Hertzmann moved to adjourn the town board meeting to Tuesday, October 13, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. Seconded by Trustee Verdin. A voice vote was taken.¹⁶ The meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie A. Kinsella
Clerk

¹³ Roll Call Vote: Ayes (5) Trustees Slattery, Gavin, Verdin, Hertzmann and Supervisor Vera. Nays (0)

¹⁴ Roll Call Vote: Ayes (5) Trustees Slattery, Gavin, Verdin, Hertzmann and Supervisor Vera. Nays (0)

¹⁵ Roll Call Vote: Ayes (5) Trustees Slattery, Gavin, Verdin, Hertzmann and Supervisor Vera. Nays (0)

¹⁶ Roll Call Vote: Ayes (5) Trustees Slattery, Gavin, Verdin, Hertzmann and Supervisor Vera. Nays (0)