



The Regular Meeting via Telephone Conference held at 175 West Jefferson Street, Joliet Township government offices, on Tuesday, April 28, 2020, at 5:00 p.m. Supervisor Vera and Clerk May were present at the Town Hall meeting room. All others participated via telephone conference call. The meeting 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 – arrived late
- Rosie Verdin Present
- Brian Hertzmann Present

- SUPERVISOR: Daniel L. Vera Present

- CLERK: Beth Ann May Present

- OTHER OFFICIALS: Commissioner Michael Turnbull Present
- Assessor James Brenzewski Present

- ALSO PRESENT: Accountant Witt
- Attorney James Harvey

The telephone number was listed for members of the public to call in. Clerk May asked if anyone from the public would like to be acknowledged but there was no response.

Supervisor Vera commented this meeting is being held in this fashion due to the COVID 19 and we are following the Executive Orders 2020-07 & 10, signed by Governor JB Pritzker. All recommended precautions for social distancing are being followed.

Approval of the Minutes:

Regular Town/April 14, 2020: Trustee Slattery moved to approve the minutes of the April 14, 2020 Regular Town Board Meeting and to waive the reading of these minutes inasmuch as copies had previously been delivered. Seconded by Trustee Verdin. A roll call vote was taken.¹ Ayes (4), Nays (0)

¹ Roll Call Ayes (4) Trustees Slattery, Verdin, Hertzmann and Supervisor Vera

Public Comment:

Clerk May reported members of the public were allowed to submit their comments via email. Clerk May read the one and only email received, which was from Kirk Allen, Edgar County Watchdog Group. Mr. Allen questioned the authority of the Board and Officials to hold a meeting in this manner with certain provisions and he called for the resignation of the Supervisor and Board.

Clerk May then called 3 more times asking if any members of the public were on the call and wished to speak and there was no response. It was also acknowledged that there were no members of the public present in the Town Hall meeting room.

New Business:

None

Reports:

Supervisor Vera reported the General Assistance Report was received and in your packet and the Road District report was also received. He asked if anyone wished to make a report and there was no response.

Trustee Gavin entered the meeting at this time (5:08 p.m.) He apologized for being late.

Receipts: Trustee Slattery moved to deposit all funds into their proper accounts as presented for the period ending April 28, 2020. Seconded by Trustee Gavin. A roll call vote was taken.² Ayes (5), Nays (0)

Expenditures: The Supervisor presented the following invoices for Town Board approval for the period ending April 28, 2020:

<u>FUND</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>
General Town	\$42,838.98
Motion: Trustee Slattery	
Second: Trustee Verdin	
Roll Call: Ayes 5, Nays 0 ³	

Accountant Witt noted an incorrect date on the top of the recap sheet for the General Town Fund, it should reflect April 15 – 28 not April 14 – 28. The bills were accepted with the noted correction.

General Assistance	\$12,185.49
Motion: Trustee Verdin	
Second: Trustee Gavin	
Roll Call: Ayes 5, Nays 0 ⁴	

² Roll Call Ayes (5) Trustees Slattery, Gavin, Verdin, Hertzmann and Supervisor Vera

³ Roll Call Ayes (5) Trustees Slattery, Gavin, Verdin, Hertzmann and Supervisor Vera

⁴ Roll Call Ayes (5) Trustees Slattery, Gavin, Verdin, Hertzmann and Supervisor Vera

Road and Bridge \$33,997.71

Motion: Trustee Verdin

Second: Trustee Gavin

Roll Call: Ayes 5, Nays 0⁵

Commissioner Turnbull stated he was in agreement with the bills presented for payment.

Trustee Slattery inquired about the bill for Ambroziak and Associates and the recently received “emergency declaration” regarding the employee contracts. He asked for an opinion from Township Attorney James Harvey and if this “emergency declaration” was necessary.

Attorney Harvey commented that he didn’t believe there was any basis for the “emergency declaration” and if it affects anything. In terms of the contracts, whether we like it or not, those are the contracts the Road Commissioner chose to enter into, in terms of payment of fees and reimbursement (with respect to payments to Ambroziak for work performed for the Road District Employees). The “emergency declaration” and the contracts are an entirely separate matter. The only basis to pay the bills are because of the contracts the Commissioner chose to enter into.

Trustee Slattery asked are the contracts in the legal sense, in that there was an offer and acceptance? He could not see where there are both sides of the contract.

Attorney Harvey replied, the contracts are problematic and have issues, even considering the rates which are not usual and customary in this area for that type of work. But, the Road Commissioner chose to enter into those. In terms of how they were negotiated and offer and acceptance, we only have the bare bones documents to judge. We weren’t part of this, we didn’t ask for them, this is all a product of your Road Commissioner. How voluntary they were, what considerations, we can only speak to the four corners of those documents.

Trustee Slattery then made a statement to the Road Commissioner, speaking in reference to the emergency order, the section reflecting *the functions of the Road District are necessary for the health safety and welfare of all persons traveling on Road District maintained roads*. Trustee Slattery continued, we have street lights (bills) that haven’t been paid since last fall and to him that would be an emergency because of the health and safety of the people of the Township, as compared to a legal fee. Trustee Slattery, stated, this is how I feel about it and it’s my statement and you don’t have to respond.

Commissioner Turnbull said, for clarification on that matter, I have been advised by my attorney that the lighting district was entered upon by the Township and then was placed under the Road Districts charge which this is illegal and with that being said, that

⁵ Roll Call Ayes (5) Trustees Slattery, Gavin, Verdin, Hertzmann and Supervisor Vera

gives him the right not to pay that bill based on that. He continued, you folks didn't seem to be concerned when I needed to purchase of a vehicle that we didn't get until after the winter season. Thank god that it was a light season and we didn't have any issues. Trustee Slattery then said, you do realize that you are receiving the tax money to pay those bills though. Commissioner Turnbull replied, I fully understand where the money is coming from. Trustee Slattery said, ok, we (the Town side) don't have that money any more. You pay other street lights and we were told that that's where the money should have gone originally. He couldn't recall where that directive came from but thought it was from the County Collectors Office because they put it into the wrong fund, originally. So, we tried to correct the problem. Trustee Slattery then asked, as long as you are receiving the cash, why should we pay the bills because you are affecting the safety of the people. He added, this is my comment I wanted to make. Commissioner Turnbull replied, you are entitled to your opinion and I disagree with that. He continued, it's about time everybody here realizes that the Road District is a separate entity from the Township. You folks, do not have any control on how we spend our money as long as it's within our budget and it's within the legal premises that I have to follow. Like you question every bill and you guys don't have that right. You have the right to audit the bills to make sure that there's money in the line to pay for that. What I do with the money is up to me. Trustee Slattery said he didn't disagree with that but what he was disagreeing with is some of the logic that goes on behind that and he added, he has the right to question because he has been elected by the people of Joliet Township. Commissioner Turnbull said, unfortunately I was not. I was appointed to the position and I'm in the learning curve here and that's why I hired an attorney to help me with the things I needed to be up to speed on. He added, I'm going under the advice of my legal counsel that's why I'm paying that money just to make sure we are on the straight and narrow per the law, the letter of the law. That's why he's doing what he's doing. He added, I told you folks from the very onset, I made that statement several months ago. So, he added, there isn't more to say, (because) I am not an attorney. That's something for your learned counsel to discuss with you folks about and then you can talk to my attorney about it and get clarification about the situation. Trustee Slattery thanked him for the comments. Commissioner Turnbull said, I'm sorry that's not what you wanted to hear. Trustee Slattery replied, well, it's what I expected to hear.

Animal Control \$24,001.85

Motion: Trustee Gavin

Second: Trustee Verdin

Roll Call: Ayes 5, Nays 0⁶

No bills were submitted for consideration for the Senior Fund or the Capital Fund. Certifications for all funds were passed unanimously.

Closed Session:

None

⁶ Roll Call Ayes (5) Trustees Slattery, Gavin, Verdin, Hertzmann and Supervisor Vera

Trustee Gavin expressed his sadness and extended sincere condolences to Supervisor Vera on the passing of his father.

Adjournment:

Trustee Hertzmann moved to adjourn the town board meeting to May 12, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. Seconded by Trustee Verdin. A roll call vote was taken. ⁷ Ayes (5), Nays (0)
The meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Beth Ann May
Clerk

⁷ Roll Call Ayes (5) Trustees Slattery, Gavin, Verdin, Hertzmann and Supervisor Vera