



The regular town board meeting, being held at 175 West Jefferson Street, Joliet Township government offices, Tuesday, March 14, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. was called to order by Supervisor Angel Contreras. The following official business was transacted:

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

TRUSTEES:	Cesar Escutia	Present
	Karl Ferrell	Present
	Suzanna Ibarra	Present
	Raymond F. Slattery	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	Attorney Brian Wellner
General Assistance Director Patricia Venziano	Senior Liaison Jeff Wallace
Animal Control Director Whitney McGill	Executive Assistant Ana Campa Castillo

Approval of the Minutes:

Town Board Minutes: Trustee Ferrell moved to approve the minutes of the February 14, 2023, Town Board Meeting, Seconded by Trustee Ibarra. A roll call was taken.¹ Motion Carried.

Public Comment:

Latoya Medina inquired about a follow-up response from the Supervisor's office to a grant request submitted. Supervisor noted that a response was made earlier that day; however, the Township is awaiting a response from a third party before it can be presented to the board.

New Business:

Supervisor Contreras discussed Ordinance No 385-2023 Joliet Jr. College's 12x12x12 Dual Credit Partnership Grant Program. Trustee Ferrell requested clarification. Clerk Morales noted that any Joliet Township High School student who participates in the 12x12x12 program will be eligible to have the Joliet Township pay for up to four (4) college credits upon registering at JJC. Trustee Ibarra moved to approve, Seconded by Trustee Slattery. A roll call was taken.² Motion Carried.

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

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

Supervisor Contreras asked Finance Director Ivan Diaz if he would like to share anything regarding Ordinance No 386-2023 General Town/Transfer of Appropriations. Ivan Diaz explained the reasons these transfers are needed and that this process is necessary to reconcile the accounts. Trustee Ibarra moved to approve, seconded by Trustee Slattery. A roll call was taken.³ Motion Carried.

Ordinance No. 387-2023 Animal Control/Transfer of Appropriations – a motion to approve was made by Trustee Escutia, seconded by Trustee Ibarra. A roll call was taken.⁴ Motion Carried.

Ordinance No. 2023-01 (RD) Road District Transfer of Appropriations – a motion to approve was made by Trustee Ferrell, seconded by Trustee Slattery. A roll call was taken.⁵ Motion Carried

Supervisor Contreras noted that the Animal Control Bid for Contract 2023-01 Interior Remodel Various Projects took place last Friday and it is in the verification process. Trustee Slattery wants to ensure that union labor is utilized. Supervisor Contreras requested to table this item until the verification process is complete, and we will revisit it at next month's Town Board Meeting.

Supervisor Contreras noted the Annual Town Hall Meeting Petition packet, instructions on eligible specific items to request to be placed on the agenda was also posted on the Joliet Township Government's website and face book. There is only one item on the agenda. Supervisor Contreras requested a motion to approve the Town Hall Meeting Agenda. Trustee Ibarra moved to approve, seconded by Trustee Ferrell. A roll call was taken.⁶ Motion Carried.

Reports:

Highway Commissioner, Vince Alessio

Pre-Construction meeting took place with PT Ferro. They will begin on April 1st. Two new plow trucks ordered May 2021 have been delivered. He had a quote from May 2021 of \$121,000, he had \$70 worth of trade-in value so he will be below the line item for equipment in the budget, by a significant margin.

Phase two engineering and environmental approval done on the Sugar Creek and drainage projects. It's at 85% as far as the environmental approval and they just need one more step. He noted anything with drainage can take a long time with environmental.

Vince is waiting for the freeze/thaw cycle to end so he can get a complete list of projects so if anyone notices any roads that need to be repaved, please let him know since he is putting a list together to use MFT dollars since he has not used them too much. These funds have been accruing faster since "Rebuild Illinois" and he has a "nice" amount that he can use to help overlay the roads. He is in the preliminary process of doing some remodeling changes. Currently the road staff have only one bathroom and sometimes they are there for only one bathroom and to give Anna Donovan her own office. He has two positions open, Road Crew employee with CDL at \$25/hr. and non CDL will be at \$20/hr. He has only received one application. He has an office position open at \$17/hr. Ray Slattery has someone call him regarding the weight limit on Zurich Road and enforcement. Vince is doing everything they can that is within his statutory ability. The Road District cannot enforce laws; we have to work with the county. The county has three officers; and people need to call the sheriff so they can enforce the weight limits. Ray noted Gallagher Asphalt has a plant out there. Can trucks use Zurich Road or do they have to use Layaway Road if they are getting asphalt? Vince noted that for local deliveries they have to use the truck route but once you are off the truck route, they are exempted from local delivery or pickup and the weight limits are not able to capture that. Attorney Bryan noted that if there is only one way, we can't prohibit them from completing the route. Suzanna asked if anyone at the Road District speak Spanish? Vince confirmed that no one at the Road District speaks Spanish and they have not had any situation where they have not been able to communicate with residents. He was able to help a Spanish speaking resident with the assistance of the

³ Roll call vote: Ayes (5). Trustees Escutia, Ferrell, Ibarra, Slattery and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

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

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

⁶ Roll call vote: Ayes (5). Trustees Escutia, Ferrell, Ibarra, Slattery and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

Township Government bilingual staff. Trustee Escutia requested a PDF of the township roads. Vince said he can give him access to the GIS system. Supervisor Contreras stated the county is looking at all the trucking issues with all of the townships, not just Joliet Township. The County is meeting within the next week or two.

General Assistance, Patricia Venziano

Sue and Alejandra continue to represent the township at various outreach events. Alejandra has been posting flyers around town promoting Tax preparation and our upcoming LIHEAP event.

Tax season is moving along with 230 returns having been completed. There are still 145 tax packets outstanding that we are waiting to have returned. I anticipate the tax rush to begin around the first of April.

We have been invited by Community concerns to participate in their Family Fun Fair Event on April 29th. This event always has a good turn out from the community and Alejandra will represent the township.

Jesse is a staff member that you don't hear much about. Jesse has been keeping busy working with our GA clients. Jesse meets with the clients and gauges what type of counseling and services they need from him. Jesse has been instrumental in helping some of our clients find jobs thru Workforce services. Jesse has a great success story in a client that has struggled with mental health issues that resulted in him becoming homeless. Jesse has worked very closely with him to obtain the mental health counseling he needs thru Will Grundy Medical, and he is now taking his medication on a regular basis. The change in this client has been somewhat of a transformation. He is now able to interact and communicate with our staff and is currently working thru Elite. The services that Jesse provides to our township residents in need is invaluable as it is rare that they find someone that listens and then helps them take the necessary steps they need to move forward with their lives.

Animal Control Director, Whitney McGill

February has been a busy month with intakes and with our volunteer orientation. The orientation had 11 new volunteers who are ready to step in and help spend time with our animals. Their next orientation will be scheduled for end of April or early May so that they can get anyone who is wanting to volunteer during summer break trained up and ready to go. The Joliet Public Library Black Road Branch had the staff out for a cat meet and greet event on March 3rd. They brought several friendly cats for the guests to meet. There were about 100 people who attended, a mix of adults and children. The cats enjoyed all the pets and attention just as much as the kids enjoyed the cat's company! Whitney has been working on setting up training for our veterinary technicians to help with gauging dog's temperaments prior to adopting them out. Working with the Animal Care and Control Association (ACCA), Animal Control will be hosting a course for Shelter Technician Certification from May 24-26!

Senior Liaison, Jeff Wallace

Senior Liaison Jeff Wallace reported that he's been promoting the handicap placard and the tax service. Joshua, the Manager from Digital Media from the Joliet Library, visited Widow and Widowers and gave a presentation on what they do and that has resulted in residents visiting them more regularly. A written report was submitted.

Finance Director, Ivan Diaz

Finance Director Diaz reported that the bank accounts have been transitioning to Midland. Next month's reports will be broken down by month as requested. He is working on getting the deposit machine up and running and is working on the yearend adjustments.

Clerk's Report: Veronica Aguilera gave the Clerks Report

The clerk has been preparing for the Annual Town Hall meeting. The Deputy Clerk has attended the Club Social Latino's February Saturday meetings. The Clerk visited the Will Grundy Contractors Association last week and met with Kristie Cichon, Office & Events Coordinator, regarding the contractors participating in our bids since we only had one bidder. They confirmed they saw our public notice and sent the bid out to the union contractors; however, the union contractors are very busy right now. They will continue to engage them in our bids.

On June 10th, 2022, Governor JB Pritzker signed the Decennial Committee on Local Government Efficiency Act (50 ILCS 70). This new law requires Illinois Townships, Road Districts and Multi-Assessment Districts, and all taxing bodies (except counties and municipalities) to convene a committee to study and report on local government efficiency. Required taxing districts are mandated to hold their first meeting no later than June 10th, 2023. Clerk Morales met with Highway Commissioner on Feb 28th for coffee regarding Act (50 ILCS 70). They will be working on an initiative to have some of the road district staff and the clerk clean some of the entry ways into the city. Clerk Morales will be reaching out to Senator Ventura to assist with this as well.

Trustee Suzanna Ibarra honored Alicia for Women's History month since she is the first elected Latina Joliet Township Clerk.

Clerk Morales reported that the Deputy Clerk resigned on February 24th and yesterday, March 13th, was her last day. Clerk Morales will begin to recruit and will consider bringing in some interns in the meantime until a solid candidate is selected. Trustee Ferrell asked about the salary to which Clerk Morales stated it depends on educational degree and experience, it could range from \$40K to \$50K.

Supervisor, Angel Contreras

TORIMA visited on March 3rd regarding the state grant awarded to the Township for Violence Intervention. They wanted to learn more about details on what we are planning. The state is presenting Joliet Township as an official entity that is partnering with them on Violence Intervention.

Assessor Jim Brenczewski

No Report.

Cash Receipts:

Trustee Slattery motioned to place the cash receipts into the proper accounts, seconded by Trustee Ibarra. A roll call vote was taken.⁷ Motion carried.

Fund Expenditures:

Trustee Slattery motioned to approve the following expenditures:

General Town Fund for March 14, 2023: \$74,346.28

Trustee Slattery motioned to motioned to approve the cash receipts and approve them for payment.

Trustee Escutia seconded. A roll call was taken. ⁸ Motion carried.

Trustee Slattery noted that there are no cash disbursements in the General Town Capital Fund.

General Assistance Fund for: \$15,668.42

Trustee Slattery motioned to motioned to approve the cash disbursements.

Trustee Escutia seconded. A roll call was taken. ⁹ Motion carried.

Road and Bridge Fund for March 14, 2023: \$62,361.31

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

Trustee Ferrell seconded. A roll call was taken. ¹⁰ Motion carried.

Animal Control Fund for March 14, 2023: \$38,345.65

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

Trustee Escutia seconded. A roll call was taken. ¹¹ Motion carried.

⁷ Roll call vote: Ayes (5). Trustees Escutia, Ferrell, Ibarra, Slattery and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

⁸ Roll call vote: Ayes (5). Trustees Escutia, Ferrell, Ibarra, Slattery and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

⁹ Roll call vote: Ayes (5). Trustees Escutia, Ferrell, Ibarra, Slattery and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

¹⁰ Roll call vote: Ayes (5). Trustees Escutia, Ferrell, Ibarra, Slattery and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

¹¹ Roll call vote: Ayes (5). Trustees Escutia, Ferrell, Ibarra, Slattery and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

Trustee Slattery noted that there are no cash disbursements in the Joliet Township Senior Fund.

Closed Session: Supervisor Contreras and attorney Bryan Wellner noted there would be a closed session to discuss the purchase or lease of real property for use of a public body under 5ILCS 120-2(c)5 at 6:21 Motion made by Trustee Ibarra, seconded by Trustee Ferrell. A roll call was taken. ¹² Motion carried.

Adjournment

Supervisor Contreras moves to adjourn the regular town board meeting on Tuesday, March 14, 2023, at 6:43P.M. it was seconded by Trustee Ferrell. A roll call was taken. ¹³ Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Alicia Morales
Town Clerk

¹² Roll call vote: Ayes (5). Trustees Escutia, Ferrell, Ibarra, Slattery and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

¹³ Roll call vote: Ayes (5). Trustees Escutia, Ferrell, Ibarra, Slattery and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).