



The regular town board meeting, being held at 175 West Jefferson Street, Joliet Township government offices, Tuesday, May 14, 2024, at 5:07 P.M. 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	Present
SUPERVISOR:	Angel Contreras	Present
CLERK:	Alicia Morales	Present
OTHER OFFICIALS:	Commissioner Vince Alessio	Present
	Assessor James Brenczewski	Not Present

ALSO PRESENT:

General Assistance Director Patricia Venziano	Transportation Director Jacqueline Smith
Senior Liaison Jeff Wallace	Violence Prevention Director Keshia Ellis
Animal Control Director Whitney McGill	Executive Assistant Ana Campa Castillo
Finance Director Ivan Diaz	Attorney Bryan Wellner
Deputy Clerk Estefany Bonilla	

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Town Board Minutes: Supervisor Contreras asks for a motion. Trustee Arias motions to approve the minutes of the April 9, 2024, Town Board Meeting, seconded by Trustee Slattery. A roll call was taken. Motion carried.¹

Special Board Meeting Minutes: Supervisor Contreras asks for a motion. Trustee Escutia motions to approve the minutes of the May 7, 2024, Special Board Meeting, seconded by Trustee Edwards. A roll call was taken. Motion Carried.²

PUBLIC COMMENT:

K-9 For Veterans

Michael Tellerino, CEO and founder of the K-9 For Veterans program, shares how they are non-for-profit as they provide certain dogs to veterans who are suffering from PTSD (Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder), MST (Military Sexual Trauma) and TBI (Traumatic Brain Injuries). K-9 For Veterans provides all the training for the veterans to train right with their dogs from the start in a resemblance to boot camp 101. All K-9 For Veterans dogs are from shelters, which are then paired up with participating veterans. Free food and free medical care are provided for the life of the dogs by the K-9 For Veterans program. The dogs become service dogs once the training is completed with the paired veterans as that journey assists in creating a much-needed change in their lives for the best. Mr. Tellerino states that an additional trainer is needed for the program as they are growing. Luis Diaz introduces himself as a participating veteran who has been in the program for two years. Mr. Diaz assures the public how the K-9 For Veterans program follows through as he had applied to other similar programs and were not as responsive. The program has helped Mr. Diaz in his daily life with his service dog.

¹ Roll call vote: Ayes (5). Trustees Arias, Edwards, Escutia, Slattery and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

² Roll call vote: Ayes (5). Trustees Arias, Edwards, Escutia, Slattery and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

Harvey Brooks Foundation

Tempie Bates is from the Harvey Brooks Foundation and announced her appreciation to the Township for the support through the grant from last year. Ms. Bates states that they have submitted another grant request for this year as well. Ms. Bates states that the organization would like to continue providing more fresh vegetables and fruits in the Joliet area with the help of additional planters as well as expanding to create micro food pantries. This will help the organization with expanding to other local community gardens in the Joliet area to grow and possibly have a store farmers market for residents. The Harvey Brooks Foundation is very cognizant of the food and security in the Joliet area.

NEW BUSINESS:

APPROVE/For Posting, Tentative General Town FY 2024/25 Budget Ordinance No. 400-2024

Supervisor Contreras shared with the Trustees how the posting was already posted earlier in the month, and it did not require to be approved for posting as explained by Attorney Bryan Wellner. No motion needed.

APPROVE/For Posting, Tentative Road District FY 2024/25 Budget Ordinance No. 2024-03 (RD)

Supervisor Contreras shared with the Trustees how the posting was already posted earlier in the month, and it did not require to be approved for posting as explained by Attorney Bryan Wellner. No motion needed.

APPROVE/Thriveworks Enterprise Master Service Agreement

Supervisor Contreras states how this new service agreement will be tabled as the Township's legal team had sent Thriveworks some suggested changes to it, however, they did not accept all the suggested changes and will proceed to work with the Township's legal team to resolve that issue. The Township will continue to work with the prior Thriveworks agreement until both legal departments come to an agreement. No motion needed.

APPROVE/Protocol for Community Grants

Supervisor Contreras mentions, going forward, how every organization that receives funding towards their programs for the community will have to adhere to this protocol. As this will be set into action, any issues that arise can be amended to the protocol and will have the board members sign off on it when all is agreed upon. Supervisor Contreras asks for a motion to approve the Protocol for Community Grants. Trustee Edwards motions. Seconded by Trustee Escutia. A roll call was taken. Motion carried.³

OLD BUSINESS:

New Reports

Finance Director, Ivan Diaz

A few changes were made to the original tentative as Finance Director Diaz made sure to call and notify the Trustees of said changes. On the appropriations there was a change on the General Town Fund which went up about Sixty thousand. Most of that amount was set for the anticipation of increased utilities over spread on more buildings and was raised to forty thousand. The maintenance of building equipment and grounds was raised by thirty-seven thousand. An increase in salaries for the anticipated new positions was also set. Some line items were lowered, and other line items were condensed to assist in not adding an excessive amount to the funds for those line items which came out to fifty-nine thousand six hundred. The new appropriation for the General Town is three million six hundred fifty-six thousand and six hundred dollars. The General Assistance and Senior Funds stay the same. Animal Control had an appropriation increase of fifty-five thousand, for a salary position that was not accounted for in the original, which brings the new total to one point one million two hundred ninety-three thousand. For the grant funds there is more information on accurate numbers on the extension amount. Two of them are being extended as the numbers go to December and one going to March in the fiscal year which came down from one point two million to around a million dollars. As these new numbers were updated, the total appropriations came down from what the tentative was last month to nine million six hundred thirty-three thousand three hundred seventy-two dollars.

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

Highway Commissioner, Vince Alessio

Commissioner Alessio states the Road District's budget for a few line items. One of the biggest line items being the renovation of the Road District building as they're rolling over the expense into this year's budget. The equipment line item was brought down for this year's total as three trucks were traded in, and the Road District has already received one truck. Commissioner Alessio notes that they're almost at one point three million dollars for the bridge repair on Patterson Road. The one point three million doesn't include the bridge as the Road District is working on their MFT dollars, their Rebuild Illinois dollars, as they will be receiving over nine hundred thousand dollars of funding for the bridge. Almost two point two million will be set into the road this year. As for the day-to-day operations, the Road District has been serving resident calls as well as the multiple government entity calls. There's been an excessive amount of rain occurring around these past months and Highway Commissioner Alessio has noted how most resident calls are regarding drainage. The Road District is also working on maintaining the grass work around the areas in Joliet as their building's renovation is halfway done.

General Assistance Director, Patricia Venziano

Tax season is over and in total there were six hundred thirteen returns for this season. In the month of April, the General Assistance staff at the front desk encountered and aided over four hundred residents. This was truly a team effort as Director Venziano has never seen a tax season that is as busy as this one. Community Concerns called for three additional LIHEAP outreach days. One is set for Wednesday, May 15 in the Township's meeting room from 9AM until 2PM with Alejandra promoting the event. Sue and Alejandra represented the Township at the Annual Family Fun event at the County Center for Community Concerns and over seven hundred people were in attendance. Sue also attended the Latino Community event at Joliet Central. This family event included food vendors, local Latinx artists and performers, local artisan goods, games and activities. Sue had a wonderful time representing the Township. Other than that, it has been business as usual.

Senior Liaison, Jeff Wallace

Mr. Wallace has been passing out the flyers for the senior Rideshare program from the Transportation department and used the information as discussion points with the senior groups. As Mr. Wallace attended multiple senior meetings, he answered questions regarding the Rideshare program while in attendance. Mr. Wallace has also passed out the senior services calendars for April, May and June. Mr. Wallace was also informed during one of the senior meetings that there is a senior discount on the water bill.

Director of Transportation, Jacqueline Smith

The Transportation Department for the month of April has completed fifty-six trips. They are partnered with six organizations and receive new requests for transportation daily. The Transportation Department completed their first trip transporting a senior to a doctor's appointment. They are fully staffed with one full-time driver and four part-time drivers. Since the last board meeting, the Transportation Department established partnerships with the Office of Will County State's Attorney and BluePrint Agency.

Violence Prevention Director, Keshia Ellis

Peace Over Violence has conducted their training with the Joliet Police department as they facilitated an active shooter training that was extremely informative. Peace Over Violence has also onboarded two additional team members. There is a continuation on professional development trainings with Guardian Angel on domestic violence and sexual assault. Considering recent events of violence and aggression in the community, Peace Over Violence has served nine victims in their families and engaged three out of the nine victims to start the process of rehousing. Utilizing the partnership with Grundy Medical, they will assist the nine victims in their medical needs and services. Peace Over Violence has also helped five families and victims applying for VOCA, which is a victims compensation program that provides financial support and recovery by the State of Illinois. The Peace Over Violence team has sponsored a successful community engagement with their barbecue popup event on Saturday, May 4th at St. Mark which is a local church on Joliet Street. The Outreach team served fifty plus community members during this event. On Thursday, May 23rd, there will be a community chat hosted by Violence Prevention at the Ozzie and Peggy Mitchell Center.

Animal Control Director, Whitney McGill

The Animal Control Department is working with the HR Director, Erica, they have been getting their clerical administrator positions trained in how to handle difficult phone calls in a professional and effective manner. The annual employee reviews have been completed and have gotten great feedback on some points that Animal Control can improve on. This included more training opportunities and ideas to help volunteers feel more appreciated, as well as a volunteer luncheon to boost morale. The Animal Control department had a great time at the Abri Credit Union Adoption Event and brought two dogs and a cat. The cat and one of the dogs have been adopted. They are looking forward to their next event on Sunday, May 18, which is a fundraiser golf outing. Their next May event is Friday, May 30th, which is a cat adoption event at the Joliet Public Library Black Rd Branch. The Animal Control Director McGill has been quite busy with setting up an account with a company called Vetcove that essentially functions like Amazon but for veterinary prescription medications instead. Animal Control's vet, who they have ordered from for over a decade, has informed them that they will not be able to continue medication orders for Animal Control anymore. This is a lengthy process and Director McGill hopes to have it completed before she goes on maternity leave somewhere in June.

Clerk, Alicia Morales

Clerk Morales noted how the Clerk's office has been working closely with the Highway Commissioner Alessio and the engineers on getting the bid hearings out and preparing the awards contracts as they were sent out. P.T. Ferro was awarded the Sugar Creek bridge contract and the contract for the Oakwood Cemetery was awarded to the lowest responsible bidder, who was Ramiro Guzman Landscaping. The Clerk's office is receiving the signed paperwork from the companies to be properly archived. Clerk Morales had a one-on-one meeting with Deputy Clerk Bonilla for her annual performance evaluation and outside of that it's been business as usual.

Supervisor, Angel Contreras

The Supervisor is proud to state that the Transportation department is receiving positive feedback. He states how the Transportation department keeps working hard and how every day the department keeps progressing. Supervisor Contreras notes the work on reports and budgets, the many revisions for the state grants and amendments as they are entering their next fiscal year. All the administrative time has revolved in ensuring that all documentation is in compliance. A few deadlines are coming up for more support services for Violence Prevention. This also includes surveying the space over at the Forest Park Community Center with the Behavioral Health team and the Transportation department. Other than that, it has been business as usual.

CASH RECEIPTS: Trustee Slattery motions to place the cash receipts into their proper accounts. Trustee Escutia seconds. A roll call was taken. Motion carried.⁴

FUND EXPENDITURES:

General Town Fund for April 2024: \$449,754.84

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

Trustee Arias seconds. A roll call was taken. Motion carried.⁵

Capital Fund for April 2024: \$113,932.06

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

Trustee Escutia seconds. A roll call was taken. Motion carried.⁶

Road and Bridge Fund for April 2024: \$221,083.11

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

Trustee Edwards seconds. A roll call was taken. Motion carried.⁷

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

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

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

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

General Assistance Fund for April 2024: \$19,418.15

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

Animal Control Fund for April 2024: \$86,455.43

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

Senior Fund for April 2024: \$0.00

No expenditures in this fund. A motion is not needed.

CLOSED SESSION: Supervisor Contreras asks for a motion to go into closed session at 5:59PM. Trustee Arias motions to go into closed session for discussion of the (i) appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1)). Trustee Escutia seconds. A roll call was taken. Motion carried.¹⁰

RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION: The board arrived back from the closed session at 6:03PM.

ADJOURNMENT: Supervisor Contreras asks for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Arias motions. Trustee Slattery seconds. A roll call was taken. Motion Carried.¹¹

The meeting adjourned at 6:03PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Alicia Morales
Town Clerk

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

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

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

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