



The regular town board meeting, being held at 175 West Jefferson Street, Joliet Township government offices, Tuesday, January 14, 2025, at 5:00 P.M. was called to order by Supervisor Alicia Morales. The following official business was transacted:

The Clerk 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:	Alicia Morales	Present
CLERK:	Estefany Bonilla	Present
OTHER OFFICIALS:	Commissioner Vince Alessio	Not Present
	Assessor James Brenzewski	Present

ALSO PRESENT:

Finance Director Ivan Diaz	Behavioral Health Team
General Assistance Director Patricia Venziano	Senior Liaison Jeff Wallace
Animal Control Assistant Director Rebecca Gomez	Director of Human Resources Erica Holmes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Town Board Minutes: Trustee Slattery motions to approve the minutes of December 10, 2024, Town Board Meeting, Seconded by Trustee Escutia. A roll call was taken. Motion Carried.¹

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

REVIEW/Clarke Annual 2024 Report for Joliet Township

The Clarke Annual 2024 Report for Joliet Township was presented to the trustees to review. A motion is not needed.

APPROVE/Proclamation for February as African American History Month

Supervisor Morales asks for a motion to approve the Proclamation for February as African American History Month. Trustee Arias motions. Seconded by Trustee Escutia. Motion carried.²

APPROVE/For Posting, Amended Budget & Appropriation Township No. 405-2025

Supervisor Morales asks for a motion to approve For Posting, Amended Budget & Appropriation Township Ordinance No. 405-2025. Trustee Escutia motions. Seconded by Trustee Slattery. Motion carried.³

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

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

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

APPROVE/For Posting, Amended Budget & Appropriation Road District Ordinance No. 2025-03 (RD)

Supervisor Morales asks for a motion to approve For Posting, Amended Budget & Appropriation Road District Ordinance No. 2025-03 (RD). Trustee Slattery motions. Seconded by Trustee Edwards. Motion carried.⁴

REPORTS:

Finance Director, Ivan Diaz

Budget amendments were needed for General Town and the Road District budgets. Some minor changes were also made to General Assistance and Animal Control line items, which were under the 10% threshold for transfers. As for the Road District, extra road and drainage went over budget projections. The total appropriations for the year did not change, but funds were moved between line items to cover the overages.

General Assistance Director, Patricia Veneziano

The GA Director noted a decrease in SHIP calls following open enrollment, with the department shifting focus to assisting new retirees and handling Medicare claims. The General Assistance is prepared for tax season, with certified staff and packets ready for distribution, and will begin transmitting returns when the IRS starts accepting them on the 27th of January 2025. A press release regarding the VITA program was sent to the Herald News. Additionally, several community organizations will be present at the office on January 15, 2025, to offer resources for LIHEAP applicants.

Animal Control Assistant Director, Rebecca Gomez

An adoption event called "Home for the Holidays" was held in December 2024 to address an increase in the number of dogs available for adoption, and as a result, 13 dogs were adopted. A staff meeting was conducted by HR on December 4, 2024, which covered topics such as maintaining confidentiality, respecting co-workers, and fostering a positive work environment.

Assessor, James Brenczewski

In the start of January, it is typically a slow season for the Assessor's office. During this time, they review property record cards, ensuring they are in proper order and that houses are listed in the correct neighborhoods. The county has the books, and the Assessor's office does not get them back until the first week of February, which sets the workload for that month in the Assessor's office.

Behavioral Health Team

Karissa Fleming, LCSW and Haydee Martinez-Rosales, LPC in the CVI Behavioral Health Team, continue to make great progress with clients for the month of December 2024. Seventy-six have been seen for therapy, three hundred and forty-six individuals received psychoeducation, and seven individuals met all goals at the time of discharge. The Behavioral Health Team successfully integrated into both Township High Schools with Pathways students attending services as well. Other partnerships include Rockdale and MorningStar Mission.

Transportation Department

Supervisor Morales read the report for the Transportation Department as December 2024 was a busy and productive month. The Transportation Department focused on preparing for the upcoming winter, prioritizing the safety of the drivers on the roads while completing 644 trips in the safest possible way. The growth of the Transportation program led to the addition of a new vehicle, bringing the fleet to seven vehicles. Three wheelchair-equipped vehicles and four 12-passenger vehicles.

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

Senior Liaison, Jeff Wallace

Mr. Wallace, the Senior Liaison, has been distributing the senior calendars, the Township newsletters and helping the seniors with answering questions about the senior groups and their activities as highlighted in the Township's newsletters. The city of Joliet is eliminating the senior discount on water bills, a decision that has caused confusion and concern among seniors. The Senior Liaison facilitated the donation of diabetic medicine and supplies to the Senior Citizen Association as they do accept certain diabetic supplies. Mr. Wallace also attended a meeting of the Second Baptist Senior Ministry, answering questions about property tax exemptions.

Director of Human Resources, Erica Holmes

The HR Director and the higher administration team implemented over forty new policies and procedures across the Township and completed a full overhaul of the employee handbook. An employee survey was successfully completed. New safety precautions were introduced, including active shooter training conducted by the Joliet Police Department at all sites.

Clerk, Estefany Bonilla

Clerk Bonilla's report included a public hearing for the vacation of a portion of Joliet Street that was held on December 30, 2024. Clerk Bonilla stated that everything went well with the process, and the necessary paperwork has been completed with the Highway Commissioner's collaboration and the Road District's legal team and are now currently waiting for payments from both petitioners. There has been an increase in the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests since December of 2024 as Clerk Bonilla responds to all of them accordingly. The Ballot Placement Lottery that is necessary for the Consolidated Election occurring on April 1st, 2025, is posted on the Clerk's webpage under the Joliet Township website and on its main homepage for the public to view the time and date it will be held.

Supervisor, Alicia Morales

Supervisor Morales reported that the mold study was completed right before the Christmas holiday. The report received stated how there is airborne black mold, and it is at an unacceptable level. The demolition of affected areas will begin on Wednesday, January 15, 2025. Demolition of drywall, ceiling tiles, carpet, floor tiles, etc. will be done and then all items will be cleaned and disinfected. Supervisor Morales reported that with the expansion of the various programs and with the adoption of a new Employee handbook, the Supervisor's office has launched Homebase, a timekeeping system for all departments reporting to the Supervisor's office. Clock-in devices were placed at the Mitchell Center and on the second floor of the township building and another one will place at the Forest Park building once the facility is operational. The Highway Commissioner's office and the Assessors are not on Homebase. It does not appear they have a formal time tracking system.

CASH RECEIPTS: Trustee Slattery motions to place the cash receipts into their proper accounts for the period ending December 31, 2024. Trustee Escutia seconds. Motion carried.⁵

FUND EXPENDITURES:

General Town Fund for December 2024: \$345,422.96

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

Capital Fund for December 2024: \$00.00

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

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

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

General Assistance Fund for December 2024: \$18,318.13

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

Road and Bridge Fund for December 2024: \$168,213.35

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 for December 2024: \$63,626.51

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

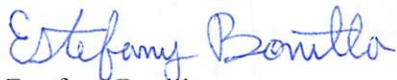
Senior Fund for December 2024: \$10.00

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

ADJOURNMENT: Supervisor Morales asks for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Edwards motions. Trustee Arias seconds. Motion carried.¹¹

The meeting adjourned at 5:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Estefany Bonilla
Town Clerk

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

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

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

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

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