

MINUTES – BOARD OF TOWN TRUSTEES

STATE OF ILLINOIS

LAKE COUNTY

THE BOARD OF TOWN TRUSTEES met at the office of the Town Clerk, 359 Merrill Ct., Libertyville Illinois, on Thursday, August 11, 2016.

Kathleen M. O'Connor-----SUPERVISOR

Anne Hansen-----CLERK

Lawrence Falbe-----TRUSTEE

David Nield-----TRUSTEE

Robin M. O'Connor-----TRUSTEE

Terry A. White-----TRUSTEE

Supervisor O'Connor called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Pledge to the Flag, roll call and all Board members were present except Trustee White. Also present were Marty Neal, Highway Commissioner, Peggy Freese, Assessor, Joy Bux, Accounting and Financial Specialist, and Gloria Dail, Administrative Assistant.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – July 14, 2016

A motion by Trustee Falbe to approve the Board meeting minutes of July 14, 2016, seconded by Trustee Nield, all in favor, aye. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

TOWN FUND

Motion by Trustee Falbe with a second by Trustee Nield to approve the expenditures from the **Town Fund** in the amount of **\$58,597.31**. On roll call vote: Trustee O'Connor, aye, Trustee Falbe, aye, Trustee Nield, aye, Supervisor O'Connor, aye. Motion carried.

ROAD AND BRIDGE FUND

Motion by Trustee O'Connor and a second by Trustee Falbe to approve the expenditures from the **Road and Bridge Fund** in the amount of **\$602,819.97**. On roll call vote: Trustee O'Connor, aye, Trustee Falbe, aye, Trustee Nield, aye, Supervisor O'Connor, aye. Motion carried.

OPEN SPACE FUND

Motion by Trustee Nield and a second by Trustee Falbe to approve the expenditures from the **Open Space Fund** in the amount of **\$48,167.90**. On roll call vote: Trustee O'Connor, aye, Trustee Falbe, aye, Trustee Nield, aye, Supervisor O'Connor, aye. Motion carried.

Citizens' Comments – None

TOWNSHIP REPORTS:

Assessor's Report

Assessor Freese said the Assessment books were turned in to the County. The office has been busy fielding calls. All Libertyville Township assessments unilaterally went up 7%. This was the Chief County Assessment Officer's determination. Trustee Nield asked Assessor Freese what happened with the assessment figures their office has been working on all year? Assessor Freese said the Libertyville Township Assessor's office works very hard to evaluate each individual property fairly, and in compliance with the County equalizer. However, the assessments determined by the Libertyville Township Office and all Township offices in the County were disabled by the County computer system. In Libertyville Township, a flat 7% percent increase was applied to all residential and business properties. Assessor Freese said she believes Libertyville Township could have met the 7% by individually assessing residential and business properties in the Township. However, those individual assessments were disregarded. The deadline for complaints is August 28th.

Clerk's Report

Clerk Hansen said she will be attending the Local Elections and training workshop on September 7, 2016.

Highway Commissioner's Report

Marty Neal, Highway Commissioner said the 2016 resurfacing, gutter and curb repair, patching, and paving projects for the Township are finished and everything went very well.

Trustees' Report – None

Supervisor's Report

There were general announcements regarding the Food Pantry.

Supervisor O'Connor reviewed via PowerPoint the Rt. 137 Bull Creek Trail Ceremony.

**LIBERTYVILLE TOWNSHIP SOCCER COMPLEX (LTSC) UPDATE –
DAN HERCHENBACH, GROUNDS SUPERINTENDENT**

Dan Herchenbach gave out packets with a map for the Board updating them on the artificial turf and building relocation at the Libertyville Township Soccer Complex. LTSC is waiting to receive some permits from the County before the final work can be completed. Trustees asked that adjacent property owners be notified accordingly.

ELECTED OFFICIALS SALARY AND COMPENSATION DISCUSSION

Supervisor O'Connor said the Board is required to set the salaries and compensation for elected officials 150 dates before the start of the next term.

For the next term:

- September 20, 2016 packets are available for candidates
- December 12, 2016 is the first day to file
- December 19, 2016 is the last day to file.

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Supervisor presented the results of the Elected Officials Compensation survey. In addition, the Board was provided salary options, job descriptions for each elected officials' position and recommendations regarding other areas of compensation.

Since the Highway Commissioner's job is a 24/7 position, it was suggested to add language formally recognizing the limited personal use for a township vehicle.

Trustee Nield's suggestion of raising the trustee's position from \$4,200 to \$5,000 would be a 19% increase. Trustee Nield said many village Boards in the surrounding areas make around \$4,800. Supervisor O'Connor stated many of those members serve on committees which require more time. Trustee Nield said in order to attract quality Trustees who must spend money in order to run in a campaign with over 33,000 voters in our Township, there should be an increase in pay. Trustee Nield said 19% does not seem unreasonable to him. Supervisor O'Connor said determining elected officials should not be based how much money an individual may spend in a campaign. Compensation should be based on the scope of the position's responsibilities and time spent. Supervisor O'Connor said there are many elected positions where individuals do not receive any compensation. Trustee Falbe said he is not in favor of an increase; he serves on many boards in which he does not receive any pay.

Supervisor O'Connor recommended continued IMRF and insurance for the Supervisor, Assessor, and Highway Commissioner; whose jobs historically require full time hours. Trustee Nield said insurance costs are very high and need to be discussed. Supervisor O'Connor said the Township policy has been grandfathered in which has allowed costs to be contained. Insurance costs will be discussed in November.

Trustee O'Connor said the work they do is very honorable and since their salaries have been frozen and they do not receive benefits, they should get a standard of living increase. Trustee Falbe does said the pay is more of an honorarium than a reflection of the value of his time. It sends the wrong message to increase salaries for elected officials when the public is already skeptical of the value of Township government. We need to control costs where we can. Trustee Falbe said the Board should be able to come to a general consensus regarding the full time elected officials, but he believes the Trustee position salary should be frozen. Clerk Hansen said she would recommend a freeze for the Clerk position with no insurance benefits since it is not a full time position. The Board agreed.

Highway Commissioner said his responsibilities are 24/7. There is also a lot of involvement with the Federal projects involving the County.

Assessor Freese said the Assessor's work load has not decreased. Though building has decreased the amount of assessments and hearings have increased. The commercial assessments have gotten more complicated.

Supervisor O'Connor said if the Board were to agree to an increase, it should be a modest one. Trustee Falbe asked how a 2% across the board increase would affect the budget. Supervisor O'Connor said the Levy would still remain flat. Trustee O'Connor said she

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would recommend a 2% cost of living increase. Supervisor O'Connor said the scope of the Supervisor's duties has not changed.

Trustee Nield said the Township insurance compensation has cost over \$40,000 a year. These are the costs that need to be addressed. Supervisor O'Connor said the total compensation is available on our website. Trustee Nield said households earning \$80,000-90,000 a year do not feel the effects of a cost of living increase. However, households at \$40,000 do.

Supervisor O'Connor said, taking into consideration the information the board was given tonight and the discussion, the final vote for elected officials' salaries will be tabled for the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Supervisor O'Connor said Social Service Grant application are now available. Applications are due back by 4p.m. Tuesday, August 16. The amounts awarded will be discussed at the September 8th meeting and a final vote of awards will occur at the September 22nd board meeting.

Pepper Environmental has confirmed that asbestos was removed from the house on River Road. The Waukegan Fire Department will be moving forward with the permit to the EPA to burn the structure.

The Board was given copies of the ridership for the expanded dial-a-ride service. The numbers are only for the expansion.

Regarding the vote to approve the board's intent to seek dedication to the Illinois Nature Preserve's system for the first 108 acres of the Casey Road restoration project; The Township is still working out some of the details with the Illinois Nature Preserve. The Board approved the step when it approved the Casey Road Conceptual Plan in November 2014. The dedication of the buffer is a requirement of the \$150,000 Donnelley Foundation grant.

NEW BUSINESS – NONE

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn by Trustee Falbe and a second by Trustee Nield. All in favor, aye, Motion carried. **Time: 8:11 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,



Anne Hansen, Township Clerk