

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE TOWN BOARD OF TRUSTEES HELD TUESDAY, AUGUST 21, 2012 AT 6:30 P.M. IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, ZION, ILLINOIS

Chairman Ditzig called the meeting to order.

On call of the roll the following answered present: Trustees Shantal Taylor, Jim Taylor, Flammini and Chairman Ditzig. Trustee DeTienne was absent. Larry Wicketts, Township Assessor, was also present.

MINUTES

It was moved by Trustee Jim Taylor, seconded by Trustee Shantal Taylor that the minutes of a regular meeting held July 17, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. be approved as presented, all members having received printed copies prior to the meeting. The vote on roll call was: Trustees Shantal Taylor, aye; Jim Taylor, aye; Flammini, aye; and Chairman Ditzig, aye. Motion carried.

BILLS

It was moved by Trustee Jim Taylor, seconded by Trustee Shantal Taylor that bills be authorized for payment as follows:

a. Town Fund –	
Administrative & Operating Expenses	\$ 46,284.00
b. Assessor’s Office	\$ 20,349.00
c. Community Support	\$ 1,295.00
d. Youth Services	\$ 31,080.00
e. Senior Services	\$ 3,867.00
f. Social Security Fund	\$ 5,425.00
g. IMRF	\$ 0
h. Public Assistance	\$ 4,645.00
i. General Assistance	\$ 19,110.00
j. Emergency Assistance	\$ 4,523.00
k. Community Outsourcing	\$ 3,800.00
 TOTAL BILLS:	 \$140,378.00

The vote on roll call was: Trustees Shantal Taylor, aye; Jim Taylor, aye; Flammini, aye; and Chairman Ditzig, aye. Motion carried.

ASSESSOR’S REPORT

Assessor Wicketts stated that the Assessor’s Office held Open Houses on Saturday, August 18 and Monday, August 20, 2012 which were extremely successful. At the Saturday session, which ran from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., not one desk was open. He stated that nearly 100 people were helped over the two days. He stated that even though the high tax rate is a problem in Zion, the assessments are where they should be. He stated that the residential property values decreased 15% this year and the tax rate rose 15%. He stated that it is anticipated that the 2012 sales will be no better and the City can expect another negative downturn of 15% next year.

SUPERVISOR’S REPORT

Chairman Ditzig made the following announcements:

- The Summer Work Program wrapped up with 25 of the 29 County kids, and 59 Township kids completing the program. Supervisor Ditzig stated that the Township received some negative

feedback regarding the County kids who participated in the program. The method of hiring the County kids will be changed next year.

- The first class of the Zion Benton Leadership Academy is scheduled for September 22, 2012. This program is designed to get people just out of college interested in community service. They will be matched with a mentor.
- The Super Senior Program will be held at the ZB Library on August 22, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. Information will be available regarding obtaining a State ID or driver's license and Rules of the Road.
- The Township staff is working on the Township Newsletter and would welcome any useful information from residents.
- The 50th Anniversary of the Village of Wadsworth celebration was incredible.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Shirley Mintern, 2606 Edina, stated that she and her friend, Nell, who was also present, attended the Assessor's Office Open House and that Larry Wicketts did a fantastic job. She asked the Trustees to explain why the taxes are so high in Zion. She believes that foreclosures and rentals in town play a large part. She stated that the rentals are not being closely watched and that people packing the rentals are placing a drain on the schools at \$8,000 to \$10,000 per child. She stated that when rentals become vacant, they should not only have to revert to single family but also be owner-occupied. Trustee Jim Taylor stated that in 1998, 14 years ago, ComEd unexpectedly closed the nuclear plant which provided 65% of the tax revenue to Zion taxing bodies. The EAV was ramped down over time. In 2002 both school districts passed a tax referendum, adding \$.50. Since that time, taxes have been high in Zion. Assessor Wicketts stated that the taxes on the value of Zion homes are not covering the expenses of school kids. Ms. Mintern stated that the City Council should have planned on ComEd closing knowing in advance that it would only be viable for about 20 years. Trustee Jim Taylor stated that, if you drive around town, you can see the progress that has been made since ComEd closed. Ms. Mintern stated that all she knows is what is reported in the newspaper and she doesn't know who or what to believe in anymore, but something must be done.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, it was moved by Trustee Jim Taylor, seconded by Trustee Shantal Taylor and unanimously approved the meeting be adjourned at 6:50 p.m. Motion carried.

Town Clerk

Approved September 18, 2012