

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE TOWN BOARD OF TRUSTEES HELD TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2013 AT 6:30 P.M. IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, ZION, ILLINOIS

Chairman Neal called the meeting to order.

On call of the roll the following answered present: Trustees DeTienne, Taylor, Flammini, Hill, and Chairman Neal.

MINUTES

It was moved by Trustee Taylor, seconded by Trustee Hill that the minutes of a regular meeting held September 17, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. be approved, all members having received printed copies prior to the meeting. The vote on roll call was: Trustees DeTienne, aye; Taylor, aye; Flammini, aye; Hill; and Chairman Neal, aye. Motion carried.

BILLS

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

Township Fund

Assessor’s Office	\$ 24,006.24	
Community Support	\$ 363.36	
Youth Services	\$ 917.40	
Senior Services	\$ 1,357.99	
Operating Expenses	\$ 22,289.43	
Township Fund Total Expenses		\$ 48,934.42

General Assistance Fund

Public Support	\$ 10,857.72	
Community Support	\$ 0	
Operating Expenses	\$ 5,659.54	
General Assistance Fund Total Expenses		\$ 16,517.26

FICA Total Expenses \$ 1,566.41

IMRF Total Expenses \$ 7,248.27

TOTAL BILLS: \$ 74,266.36

The vote on roll call was: Trustees DeTienne, aye; Taylor, aye; Flammini, aye; Hill; and Chairman Neal, aye. Motion carried.

ANNUAL TREASURER’S REPORT 2012/2013

It was moved by Trustee Hill, seconded by Trustee Flammini to receive and place on file the Zion Township Annual Treasurer’s Report for fiscal year ending April 30, 2013. The vote on roll call was: Trustees DeTienne, aye; Taylor, aye; Flammini, aye; Hill; and Chairman Neal, aye. Motion carried.

TAX LEVY

Chairman Neal provided the 2014 budget with projections for 2015. She stated that the figures in the Town Fund are inflated and a shortage of approximately \$500,000 is expected. She stated that the General Assistance Fund reflects \$39,000 in the black, however, the Township is still spending more than it's taking in. Larry Wicketts stated that the true numbers should be available in mid-December. He stated that on November 21st a hearing will be conducted regarding the peaker plant review and a decision is expected that day. Mr. Wicketts stated that home values were down about 15% this year. Chairman Neal stated that a tax levy workshop may be scheduled for the second week in December.

RESOLUTION/PAYMENT AND APPROVAL OF BILLS

Chairman Neal presented a draft resolution regarding the payment and approval of bills. This resolution would allow staff to pay bills without prior board approval in order to meet payment due dates and avoid late charges. She stated that bills would then be brought before the Trustees for approval at the next Board meeting. Further consideration of this resolution was tabled until the November Board meeting.

RULES GOVERNING RECORDING OF PUBLIC MEETINGS

Clerk Burkemper stated that the proposed ordinance adopting rules governing the recording of public meetings by the public should be considered to ensure the Township's compliance with the Open Meetings Act (OMA). She stated that the OMA allows the recording of meetings required to be open by the Act via tape, film or other means. The OMA grants the Board of Trustees the authority to prescribe reasonable rules to govern the right to make recordings. The proposed ordinance enumerates the restrictions regarding recordings. Trustee Hill requested that the Township Attorney review the ordinance. Further consideration of this proposed ordinance was tabled until the November Board meeting to allow for legal review and to give Trustees an opportunity to review the ordinance.

PROCEDURES FOR ELECTRONIC ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS

Clerk Burkemper stated that the proposed ordinance creating and adopting procedures for electronic attendance at meetings by Trustees should be considered to ensure the Township's compliance with the Open Meetings Act (OMA). She stated that the proposed ordinance is identical to the ordinance adopted by the City Council in 2007. She stated that the OMA requires that, if Trustees desire to permit attendance electronically, rules must be adopted. Further consideration of this proposed ordinance was tabled until the November Board meeting to allow Trustees an opportunity to review the ordinance.

REGULATING PUBLIC COMMENTS & PARTICIPATION AT MEETINGS

Clerk Burkemper stated that the proposed ordinance regulating public comments and participation at Township meetings should be considered to ensure the Township's compliance with the Open Meetings Act (OMA). She stated that the proposed ordinance addressed public comments regarding both agenda items and non-agenda items as well as comments from the public for the purpose of providing or exchanging information. She stated that the Chairman must call on members of the public who wish to speak and they are limited to 3 minutes. The proposed ordinance addressed decorum, requiring that it must be civil in nature. Trustee Hill stated that he feels the public should be allowed to participate, to some extent, while the Board is discussing an issue, to correct or add information to an agenda item, in addition to being able to

speak under the heading of “Citizen Comments” at the beginning of the meeting. Trustee Flammini stated that he feels agenda items should be introduced and discussed, but voted on at a subsequent meeting which would allow the Trustees to receive more public opinion. It was noted that drafts of proposed ordinances should be posted in public view. Chairman Neal stated that allowing members of the public to participate in meeting discussions regarding agenda items would make them ex-officio members of the Board and some members of the public might speak on every agenda item. Trustee Hill stated that the Chairman has the authority to dis-allow anyone to speak. Trustee Taylor stated that he is opposed to allowing citizens to participate in agenda item discussions. He stated that a Township Board meeting is a meeting held in public, not a public meeting. Sherry Beall, a citizen in attendance, stated that she recommends having Citizens Comments at the beginning and at the end of the meeting agenda. Chairman Neal stated that Citizens Comments has been moved to the beginning of the agenda to allow the public to comment on agenda items. Charles Fitzgerald, a citizen in attendance, stated that he recommends two Citizen Comments on the agenda, the first to address any Township government issues and the second to address only items listed on the agenda. It was the consensus of the Trustees that Trustee Hill and Clerk Burkemper will work together to prepare language to address this issue prior to the Board’s final consideration of the ordinance.

DISASTER RELIEF NOTIFICATION POLICY

Chairman Neal stated that there is a stipend provided for in the Town Fund to assist residents in emergency situations. She stated that an unwritten policy has been in place which allowed her to email no less than two Trustees to request permission to expend funds in order to offer emergency assistance. She stated that this procedure violates the Open Meetings Act. Chairman Neal requested permission to amend the unwritten policy to allow her to contact only one Trustee for permission and then bring the request to the Board of Trustees for formal approval at the next Board meeting. Trustee Hill stated that a written policy regarding offering emergency assistance should be created identifying the chain of command including alternate contacts. He stated that the policy should include Building Department, Police Department, Fire Department and Township personnel. It was the consensus of the Trustees that Trustee Hill and Clerk Burkemper will work together to create a written disaster relief notification policy and bring it back to Board for final approval.

ZION BENTON CHARACTER INITIATIVE

Chairman Neal requesting the Trustees’ support of a character initiative. She stated that the taxing body committee is moving forward to research the concept of working together to infuse a Zion-Benton Character Initiative. The taxing body representatives agreed that the best vehicle for implementing this initiative is the Coalition for Healthy Communities and it is hoped that they will take the lead in initiating the project. By offering it’s support, the Board of Trustees would agree to do what it can to support the effort, including creating its own matrix for being an Organization of Character and being involved in the decision to identify community core values. Chairman Neal stated that this initiative emulates the character building programs underway in the elementary and high schools. She stated that the Coalition is seeking direction from the taxing bodies to ensure that this is an effort that the taxing bodies want the Coalition to undertake.

It was moved by Trustee Hill, seconded by Trustee Flammini to support the Zion Benton Character Initiative. The vote on roll call was: Trustees DeTienne, aye; Taylor, aye; Flammini, aye; Hill; and Chairman Neal, aye. Motion carried.

ASSESSOR'S REPORT

Assessor Wicketts stated that the tax appeals are in progress. He stated that he has received 778 complaints, of which 78% are regarding non-owner occupied properties. He stated that the largest appeals for a reduction in assessed valuation have been filed by the nuclear plant, the peaker plant and Market Square. Trustee Hill stated he questions the integrity of people (Market Square) who accept a large sum of City TIF funds and then request a reduction in taxes and he finds this to be incredible.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Chairman Neal presented the Zion Township Monthly Report for September 2013 and the Third Quarter Quarterly Report. She stated that, in the interest of time, she would post her Township updates/report on the Township website.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, it was moved by Trustee Taylor, seconded by Trustee Flammini and unanimously approved the meeting be adjourned at 7:05 p.m. Motion carried.

Town Clerk