

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE TOWN BOARD OF TRUSTEES HELD  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2015 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, McDowell, Taylor, McKinney and Chairman Neal. Assessor Wicketts was present.

**MINUTES**

It was moved by Trustee McDowell, seconded by Trustee Taylor that the minutes of a Regular Meeting held on November 17, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. be approved, with all members having received printed copies prior to the meeting. The vote on roll call was: Trustees DeTienne, aye; McDowell, aye; Taylor aye; McKinney, aye; and Chairman Neal, aye. Motion carried.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Amy Onan stated that she graduated from the Zion Benton Leadership Academy in 2014. She is now participating in a two year practicum which is self-driven. She complimented the Academy stating that she exceeded her goals, studied a variety of topics including community growth and involvement, met great individuals, and was presented with many unique opportunities. Ms. Onan stated that she was elected to the Zion Benton Public Library Board. She stated that, as a requirement of the practicum, she was attending the meeting to observe a community meeting. She stated that she is growing as a community leader and encouraged others to attend the Zion Benton Leadership Academy.

W. C. Bremner, Zion, shared some Christmas humor with the Board.

**BILLS**

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

Assessor’s Office	\$ 11,442.83	
Community Support	\$ 10.00	
Youth Services	\$ 131.38	
Senior Services	\$ 844.02	
Operating Expenses	\$ 28,497.37	
Township Fund Total Expenses		\$ 40,925.60
 <u>General Assistance Fund</u>		
Public Support	\$ 3,329.20	
Community Support	\$ 0	
Operating Expenses	\$ 12,447.37	
General Assistance Fund Total Expenses		\$ 15,776.57
 <u>FICA</u> Total Expenses		\$ 2,419.25
 <u>IMRF</u> Total Expenses		\$ 4,142.05
 <b>TOTAL BILLS:</b>		<b>\$ 63,263.47</b>

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

### **PUBLIC HEARING - TAX LEVY**

Chairman Neal declared the public hearing open for the 2015 Zion Township tax levy at 6:38 p.m. The estimated property taxes for Zion Township to be levied for 2015 are \$921,263. Chairman Neal called for questions and/or comments from the public. There were none. Chairman Neal declared the hearing closed at 6:39 P.M.

### **2015 TAX LEVY ORDINANCE**

Chairman Neal stated that the Township income has been cut by 50% since 2010 and Township staff has been reduced by 50%. She stated that programs and services have been reduced to "bare bones". She stated that the Township is surviving on its reserves which are due to run out in two years. She stated that Town Fund revenues are \$619,306 and expenses are \$664,663. She stated that General Assistance revenues are \$229,682 and expenses are \$315,255. Chairman Neal stated that last year the FICA Fund showed a decrease of \$35,000 but 2015 shows a \$34,992 increase. Trustee McDowell stated that the tax rate in Zion is currently 21.2% and he asked the Trustees to consider a 0% levy increase. He stated that the Township has proven that it can do the Township work with fewer resources. Chairman Neal stated that if there is no increase in the levy, the Township will not be able to pay FICA benefits. Trustee McDowell stated that the taxing bodies can actually reduce the tax rate but they need to approve budgets that reduce the rate. He stated that a 3.86% levy increase will keep the tax rate steady and any percentage less than 3.86% will reduce the rate.

It was moved by Trustee McDowell, seconded by Trustee Taylor that Ordinance 2015-04 be passed, levying taxes in the amount of \$887, 263 for all town purposes for Zion Township, Lake County, Illinois, for the tax year 2015, collectible in 2016, which represents a 0% increase in the tax levy, reducing the Corporate Town Tax Fund by \$34,273. The vote on roll call was: Trustees DeTienne, nay McDowell, aye; Taylor aye; McKinney, aye; and Chairman Neal, nay. Motion carried. Ordinance passed.

### **SUPERVISOR'S REPORT**

Chairman Neal provided the following information:

- November 2015 monthly report.
- Supervisor Neal and Assistant Supervisor Gludemans attended training in Dallas, Texas in December to become practitioners on The Empowerment Dynamic, based on David Emerald's book, "The Power of TED", a program that has proven success with township clients.
- The Elf Network Dinner, hosted by Christ Community Church, is scheduled for December 17, 2015.
- Zion Township will be offering walk in appointments for LIHEAP on January 5, 2016 from 12:45 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. 77 LIHEAP applications were processed in December, bringing in nearly \$30,000 in support to Zion families.
- Top Box will be at the Shiloh Center on December 16, 2015 from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- Supervisor Neal joined the Youth Leadership Team, students from each of the student councils in

Zion Elementary School District 6, as well as New Tech High, at Feed My Starving Children on December 9, 2015 for a community service project.

- Zion Township will be closed on December 16, 2015 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., December 24, 25, 31, 2015, and January 1, 2016.

Chairman Neal stated that she would appreciate the opportunity to attend training that would cause her to be absent for the January and February 2016 Township Board meetings. The Board excused Chairman Neal from the meetings and Trustee Taylor agreed to chair the meetings in her absence.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, it was moved by Trustee DeTienne, seconded by Trustee McDowell, and unanimously approved the meeting be adjourned at 7:02 p.m. Motion carried.

---

Town Clerk