

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE TOWN BOARD OF TRUSTEES HELD TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2016 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 Frierson, McKinney, McDowell, Assessor Wicketts and Chairman Neal were present. Trustee DeTienne was absent.

AGENDA CHANGES

It was moved by Commissioner McKinney, seconded by Commissioner Frierson to accept the Township meeting agenda with the following change:

- Delete Item 12- “Consider Elected Officials Expense Reimbursement Policy”

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

MINUTES

It was moved by Trustee McDowell, seconded by Trustee Frierson that the minutes of a Regular Meeting held on September 20, 2016 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 Frierson, aye; McKinney, aye; McDowell, aye; and Chairman Neal, aye. Motion carried.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Kim Whiteside, member of the Zion Leadership Academy gave a presentation regarding her journey through the Leadership Academy. She stated last year she completed her first year and after her speech today, she will have finished her second year. She stated her journey with Governance began with City Council meetings in Zion. She stated the next Governance meeting was the Zion Township and finally the Winthrop Harbor Elementary District 1 meeting. She stated her reflection on Governance is that knowledge is power. She stated she has learned that she has a voice in the community. She stated government agencies cannot do it alone; they need the help and support of the residents.

BILLS

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

Assessor’s Office	\$ 6,265.50		
Community Support		\$ 0.00	
Youth Services		\$ 0.00	
Senior Services		\$ 182.50	
Operating Expenses		\$ 25,780.94	
Township Fund Total Expenses			\$ 32,228.94
<u>General Assistance Fund</u>			
Public Support		\$ 1,099.93	
Community Support		\$ 00.00	
Operating Expenses		\$ 6,093.96	
General Assistance Fund Total Expenses			\$ 7,193.89

<u>FICA</u> Total Expenses	\$ 2,403.96
<u>IMRF</u> Total Expenses	\$ 0.00
TOTAL BILLS:	\$ 41,826.79

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

FOIA OFFICER APPOINTMENT

Chairman Neal stated Gail Gloudemans was the FOIA Officer for the Township. She stated once Gail left the Township, they no longer had a FOIA Officer. She stated that has left Clerk Burkemper the only person to handle the FOIA requests. Chairman Neal stated she would like the Trustees to consider the appointment of SheCora Keys.

It was moved by Trustee Frierson, seconded by Trustee McDowell to appoint SheCora Keys as the Township FOIA Officer. The vote on roll call was: Trustees Frierson, aye; McKinney, aye; McDowell, aye; and Chairman Neal, aye. Motion carried.

ASSESSOR’S REPORT

Assessor Wicketts stated he is wrapping up the appeals for 2016. He stated there have been 565 appeals this year, which is down from last year. He stated the appeals have gone well without much loss in value. He stated next year residents should see home values go up between 6% and 8%. He stated this does not mean the property taxes will go down. Trustee Frierson asked Assessor Wicketts if he had any suggestions for citizens on how to find tax relief. Assessor Wicketts suggested residents attend as many taxing body board meetings as they can. He stated 75% of the taxes go to the schools. He stated by attending the meeting residents can be make sure the schools stick to their budgets. Trustee McDowell stated if all taxing bodies reduce their levies it can help lower the taxes. Assessor Wicketts stated even if all taxing bodies would hold their levy the same as the prior year, you would see a good reduction.

SUPERVISOR’S REPORT

Chairman Neal asked the Trustees if they find the Monthly Report helpful. The Trustees all agreed they find the report insightful and helpful. Chairman Neal stated she is considering putting the report on the website for everyone to view.

Chairman Neal stated Harris Labs is in the process of assessing the fiscal impact of consolidating Zion Township under four different scenarios:

1. Everything stay the same
2. Dissolve the Township
3. Combine the City and Township
4. Combine with Benton Township

She stated nothing has ever taken place like this in Illinois before and it is the first study of its kind. She stated items were requested from the City of Zion, Benton Township and Zion Township. She stated Zion Township has

turned in all items except the IMRF report which they are still waiting on. She stated Benton Township and the City are working on their requested items. She stated Harris Policy Labs is looking to come to the November meeting.

Chairman Neal continued with the following announcements:

- The Zion Township Team has processed 122 LIHEAP applications on behalf of Community Action Partnership, from September 1st through October 12th bringing \$30,755 in assistance to seniors, disabled and those with children under the age of 5. Supervisor Neal and Case Manager Adriana Ortiz visited Zion Senior Cottages, Bethesda Village and Carmel House to assist seniors with processing their applications.
- Supervisor Neal and Business Manager SheCora Keys visited Barton Senior Residence and registered 27 seniors to vote.
- The Zion Township Supervisor's Office will be closed the morning of Thursday, October 27th as the ZT Team will be attending a Charmm'd Foundation training.
- Top Box will be at the Shiloh Center on Wednesday, November 9th from 12:30-2:00pm.
- The Zion-Benton Leadership Academy Class of 2016 graduation will take place on Sunday, November 6th at 3pm at Shepherd's Crook Golf Course.
- The Illinois Secretary of State Super Senior Program was held today, October 18th at the Zion-Benton Public Library, providing a Rules of the Road Class as well as other services normally offered at the Department of Motor Vehicles. Zion Township is grateful for the partnerships to provide this service.
- The Elf Network is underway. School social workers from Districts 1, 6 and 126 fax applications for families from Zion to Zion Township. Case Manager Adriana Ortiz meets with each applicant to assist them with barriers in their life, The Santa's Helpers organization provides gifts and food baskets at a dinner held by Christ Community Church who also help do the packing in Chicago.
- The Corporate Community Spelling Bee supporting the Coalition for Healthy Communities will be on Thursday, November 3rd at North Point Church beginning at 7pm.
- Supervisor Cheri Neal will be providing training for The Alliance for Human Services of Lake County on Friday, November 4th entitled, *The Empowerment Dynamic*. This training will be for social service agency front line workers from across Lake County.
- ZB Community of Character is looking for nominations for people who are caught living out the character traits of respect, perseverance, responsibility, safety, integrity and kindness. Send nominations to zbcharacterclub@gmail.com.
- Mano a Mano offers immigration legal services (citizenship, DACA, green card renewals, TPS) and health case management (assistance with Medicaid, All Kids, SNAP, Child support, and temporary drivers licenses) The services are available in English and Spanish.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, it was moved by Trustee Frierson, seconded by Trustee McDowell and unanimously approved the meeting be adjourned at 6:59 p.m. Motion carried.

Deputy Town Clerk