

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE TOWN BOARD OF TRUSTEES HELD TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2016 AT 6:32 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, Frierson, Assessor Wicketts and Chairman Neal were present. Trustee McKinney was absent.

AGENDA CHANGES

It was moved by Commissioner Frierson, seconded by Commissioner McDowell to accept the Township meeting agenda as presented:

The vote on roll call was: Trustees DeTienne, aye; McDowell, aye; Frierson 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 October 16, 2016 at 6:30 p.m., be approved and the minutes of a Special Meeting held on November 1, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. and the Closed Session Minutes of a meeting held November 1, 2016 at 6:02 p.m. be tabled until the December 20, 2016 meeting with all members having received printed copies prior to the meeting. The vote on roll call was: Trustees DeTienne, aye; Frierson, aye; McDowell, aye; and Chairman Neal, aye. Motion carried.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION/HARRIS POLICY LABS

Corey Husak, stated he and his colleagues are part of Harris Policy Labs, a graduate program at the University of Chicago. He stated they have been working on a 10-week long project that provides an objective, impartial analysis of scenarios for possible consolidation. He stated guidance and input have been provided by the Metropolitan Planning Council and the Harris advisors. He stated they have considered four different scenarios.

1. Maintain status quo for all services
2. Consolidate adjacently with Benton Township
3. Consolidate with the City of Zion
4. Dissolve the Township entirely

He stated the following changes are necessary to implement for each scenario.

1. Assess the legal barriers
2. Review the governing structures (what happens to the elected office?)
3. Analyze the service provision (general assistance and property assessment)
4. Explore the tax implications
5. Identify possible fiscal impacts

Commissioner McDowell stated a taxpayer or a recipient of general aide might question how each of these scenarios would affect them. Mr. Husak stated they will look at all three scenarios and give the tools to maintain the current level of services. He stated they met with Chairman Neal, Assessor Wickets and Mayor Hill. He stated they will also be meeting with Jan Suthard from Benton Township. Commissioner McDowell stated he appreciates the thoroughness of the group. Mayor Hill stated he was impressed with the professionalism of the group and feels they will all get a good product. Chairman Neal stated Harris Policy Labs will do a presentation at a City Council meeting to share the results of their findings. She stated the parties will sit down and look at the results after the presentation to see what is best. She stated before anything can happen the decision will come from the voters by referendum.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no citizen comments.

BILLS

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

Assessor’s Office	\$ 8,732.89		
Community Support		\$ 158.26	
Youth Services		\$ 0.00	
Senior Services		\$ 893.00	
Operating Expenses		\$ 24,514.46	
Township Fund Total Expenses			\$ 34,298.61
<u>General Assistance Fund</u>			
Public Support		\$ 3,977.94	
Community Support		\$ 2,500.00	
Operating Expenses		\$ 11,238.39	
General Assistance Fund Total Expenses			\$ 17,716.33
<u>FICA</u> Total Expenses			\$ 2,403.97
<u>IMRF</u> Total Expenses			\$ 3,365.69
TOTAL BILLS:			\$ 57,784.60

The vote on roll call was: Trustees DeTienne, aye; McDowell, aye; Frierson, 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 600 appeals. He stated on December 22, 2016, he will have a full day of hearings and the Assessor’s office will be closed. He stated soon after the last appeal, they will get started for the next years’ assessments which will include all the new construction. He stated in 2017, he will be turning his books into the County in June as they will be using a new system.

SUPERVISOR’S REPORT

Chairman Neal provided the following information:

- The Zion Township Monthly Report – September 2016
- The Zion Township has an opening for a Business Manager.
- Harris Policy Labs will visit Zion on Tuesday, November 15, 2016. Final report to be presented on Friday, December 2nd, 2016 at a location to be determined.
- The Zion Township Team has processed 194 LIHEAP applications on behalf of Community Action Partnership, from September 1st through November 9th, bringing \$46,069 in resources for our residents.
- The Elf Network is underway. 50 families have been identified by school social workers from Districts 1, 6 and 126. 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. Additionally, Gregorio Resendiz from Community Action Partnership holds “How to Take Control of Your Finances” classes for all recipients. Love INC provides coats and gloves where necessary.
- 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.
- 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.
- Chairman Neal stated you can help make the Zinnia the Zion flower by signing the online petition at <https://www.change.org/p/city-of-zion-help-make-the-zinnia-the-official-flower-of-zion>.

Chairman Neal read a Board statement regarding her feelings on the presidential election, making Zion a better community and making the Zinnia the Zion Flower.

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 7:00 p.m. Motion carried.

Deputy Town Clerk