

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE TOWN BOARD OF TRUSTEES HELD TUESDAY, FERUARY 21, 2017 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 McDowell, McKinney, Frierson, DeTienne, and Chairman Neal. Assessor Wicketts was present.

MINUTES

It was moved by Trustee McDowell, seconded by Trustee McKinney that the minutes of a Regular Meeting held on January 17, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. be approved as amended, with the amendment indicating that Assessor Wicketts was present not absent, with all members having received printed copies prior to the meeting. The vote on roll call was: Trustees McDowell, aye; McKinney, aye; Frierson aye; DeTienne, aye; and Chairman Neal, aye. Motion carried.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Clyde McLemore, Zion, stated that he was speaking for himself, not the Black Lives Matter movement. He stated that, in his opinion, the best option for Zion Township would be to consolidate with Benton Township. Assessor Wicketts stated that, at this time, Benton Township is not interested in this option.

BILLS

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

Assessor’s Office	\$ 9,235.97	
Community Support	\$ 75.95	
Youth Services	\$ 0	
Senior Services	\$ 287.40	
Operating Expenses	\$ 18,405.48	
Township Fund Total Expenses		\$ 28,004.80
 <u>General Assistance Fund</u>		
Public Support	\$ 3,168.59	
Community Support	\$ 0	
Operating Expenses	\$ 9,880.04	
General Assistance Fund Total Expenses		\$ 13,048.63
 <u>FICA</u> Total Expenses		 \$ 2,158.40
 <u>IMRF</u> Total Expenses		 \$ 3,402.73
 TOTAL BILLS:		 \$ 46,614.56

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

RECEIVE & PLACE ON FILE/2016 ZION TOWNSHIP ANNUAL REPORT

It was moved by Trustee McDowell, seconded by Trustee DeTienne to receive and place on file the 2016 Zion Township Annual Report. The vote on roll call was: Trustees McDowell, aye; McKinney, aye; Frierson, aye; DeTienne, aye; and Chairman Neal, aye. Motion carried.

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO HARRIS POLICY LABS STUDY

Chairman Neal stated that the final report from the University of Chicago Harris Policy Labs consolidation study has been received. Chairman Neal recommended that Zion Township host an open forum for the community to receive input and share opinions. She stated that the forum would be scheduled taking into consideration that the community needs ample time to read the report. She stated that the full report, entitled “Zion Township Efficiency Study”, would be posted on the Zion Township website. Trustee McDowell asked if Benton Township residents would be invited to attend the forum. He stated that he would like to hear what Benton Township residents have to say about a proposed consolidation. He stated that perhaps the tax levies could be trimmed to eliminate a tax increase for Benton Township property owners. Sonolito Bronson, Benton Township Trustee, stated that she has shared conversations with some Benton Township residents regarding the scenarios presented, and several are adamant about their concerns about consolidation. She stated they are concerned about a tax increase, the coterminous status of the two townships, and the differences in their responsibilities and budgets. She stated that Benton Township operates in “the black” and has no debt. Trustee Bronson stated that Benton Township Supervisor Jan Suthard is willing to discuss the options further. Mayor Hill stated that he understood Trustee McDowell to say that he would like to have Benton Township residents invited to the forum not just the Benton Township Trustees alone and that the Trustees should be extended a special invitation. Chairman Neal asked for a suggested date for the public forum. Mayor Hill stated that, with the election coming, new trustees should have the opportunity to attend so he recommended a date after the April 4, 2017 election. Trustee McDowell stated that the Township Board would not make a decision until after the election and agreed that the forum should be held after the election. It was the consensus of the Board that the public forum be held on Wednesday, April 26, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. Chairman Neal asked the Board to consider conducting the form in the south cafeteria at Zion Benton Township High School.

Chairman Neal stated that she met with City Finance Director David Knabel regarding the City assisting with Township accounting functions rather than contracting with an outside firm. She stated that Director Knabel met with the Township insurance broker to try to reduce insurance costs.

ASSESSOR’S REPORT

Assessor Wicketts stated that during the first part of March, senior assessment freezes notifications will be mailed. He stated that seniors have until June to complete the paperwork. He stated that on April 21, 2017, at the Zion Senior Center, he will be working with the Chief County Assessor to help seniors complete their freeze forms. Assessor Wicketts stated that tax bills will be mailed the first of May and, at the end of May, assessment notices will be mailed. He stated that he expects a 9% increase in assessments in 2017. He stated that the Assessor’s Office will be open every Saturday in June to meet with residents if they need with filing an appeal.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Chairman Neal provided the following information:

- Zion Township Monthly Report – January 2017
- Zion Township Annual Report - 2016
- Zion Township hired Brittany Doxie to fill the position of business manager with a start date of January 20, 2017.
- Junior Zion-Benton Leadership Academy began on February 18, 2017. Ten youth ages 14-18 years old were chosen. They have committed to attending four Saturday leadership trainings.
- LIHEAP application processing -- Walk in sessions are available at Zion Township each Wednesday from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.
- Zion Township will be hosting an Open House on Saturday, March 18, 2017 from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon and Monday, March 20, 2017 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. to provide residents the opportunity to learn about the programs and services offered.
- Zion-Benton Township High School has announced that they will be closing Pearce Campus in August of 2018. Zion Township met with some of the non-profit agency tenants to discuss possible relocation sites.
- The Job Center of Lake County is taking applications for summer positions for youth ages 14 to 18 (or 22 for those with an IEP). 35 youth will be chosen to work at Zion Township. The Township staff met with representatives from the schools and My Father's Business to share information about the Summer Work Program and to get the information out to students.
- Supervisor Cheri Neal will be accompanying the Zion Youth Leadership Team to We Day on March 1, 2017. This event honors kids who make a difference in their communities.
- Supervisor Neal and Case Manager Adriana Ortiz will be attending the GATI training in Rockford on March 2, 2017.
- The 15th Annual Senior Resource Day, in conjunction with Benton Township, the Zion Park District and The Grove at the Lake will be held on Wednesday, April 19, 2017 from 8:30 a.m. until 12:00 noon at the Zion Park District Sports Arena.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, it was moved by Trustee DeTienne, seconded by Trustee McKinney, and unanimously approved the meeting be adjourned at 7:00 p.m. Motion carried.

Town Clerk