

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE TOWN BOARD OF TRUSTEES HELD TUESDAY, APRIL 18, 2017 AT 6:35 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, McDowell, and Chairman Neal. Trustees McKinney and DeTienne were absent. Assessor Wicketts was present.

Chairman Neal led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

MINUTES

It was moved by Trustee McDowell, seconded by Trustee Frierson that the minutes of a Regular Meeting held on March 21, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. be approved as presented, with all members having received printed copies prior to the meeting. The vote on roll call was: Trustees Frierson, aye; McDowell, aye; and Chairman Neal, aye. Motion carried.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Clyde McLemore, Zion, stated that the current Supervisor announced that she misappropriated taxpayer funds for eight years. He asked how those present could let this be and vote for her. Trustee Frierson asked Supervisor Neal to itemize bills. Trustee McDowell stated that no Township funds have been misappropriated. Mr. McLemore stated that Supervisor Neal admitted in public that she paid her daughter’s cell phone bill for eight years with taxpayer funds.

Morgan Battley, Zion, stated that he provided snow removal proposals and a lot of action and dialogue has started with the Township and the Mayor regarding the safety of kids going to and from school. He stated that a plow driver and a principal informed him that extra effort would be given to alleys around schools.

BILLS

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

Assessor’s Office	\$ 14,073.43	
Community Support	\$ 90.11	
Youth Services	\$ 307.44	
Senior Services	\$ 287.35	
Operating Expenses	\$ 33,821.28	
Township Fund Total Expenses		\$ 48,579.61
<u>General Assistance Fund</u>		
Public Support	\$ 6,506.02	
Community Support	\$ 0	
Operating Expenses	\$ 15,783.41	
General Assistance Fund Total Expenses		\$ 22,289.43
<u>FICA</u> Total Expenses		\$ 3,628.40
<u>IMRF</u> Total Expenses		\$ 5,858.04
TOTAL BILLS:		\$ 80,355.48

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

BUDGET/FISCAL YEAR MAY 1, 2017 THROUGH APRIL 30, 2018

Trustee McDowell stated that the proposed budget reflects a significant increase in the Other Operating Expenses line item. Supervisor Neal stated that there was an issue with the cleaning service so a change caused an increase. She stated that there was an increase in the cost of the alarm system. She stated that some interior maintenance upgrades and some possible computer software upgrades were included. Trustee McDowell stated that the proposed budget shows an overage of \$17,560 and he would like to see a balanced budget. He stated that the proposed budget was more than last year's budget and suggested that \$17,560 be cut. Supervisor Neal stated that she would meet with Trustee McDowell and bring the budget back to the Board for approval at the May meeting.

It was moved by Trustee McDowell, seconded by Trustee Frierson to table approval of the Budget for the Fiscal Year May 1, 2017 through April 30, 2018 until the May Township meeting. The vote on roll call was: Trustees Frierson, aye; McDowell, aye; and Chairman Neal, aye. Motion carried.

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO HARRIS POLICY LABS STUDY

Chairman Neal stated that a public meeting will be scheduled to share information and gain citizen input regarding the University of Chicago Harris Policy Labs Study. She stated that the meeting will be scheduled after May 1, 2017 in order to have newly-elected Benton Township Supervisor Larry Booth and Mayor Hill input. She stated that the meeting would be held at Zion Benton Township High School. Mayor Hill suggested that Zion Township serve as host and invite Benton Township Board members and residents as they don't support a consolidation. He recommended that the meeting be held at Zion City Hall. Chairman Neal stated that the meeting will be scheduled at the May Board meeting.

ASSESSOR'S REPORT

Assessor Wicketts stated that the Assessor's Office will help seniors complete their senior freeze forms on April 21, 2017, at the Zion Senior Center.

Assessor Wicketts stated that, unofficially, the tax rates will increase slightly and values will go up another 9% to 10% this year. He stated that, hopefully, residents will see a decrease in tax rates next year.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Chairman Neal provided the following information:

- Zion Township Monthly Report – March 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 April 19, 2017 at the Zion Park District Sports Arena.

- Lake County Workforce Development staff visited Zion Township on April 8, 2017 to process applications for the Summer Work Program. Township staff met with parents to discuss the details of the program.
- The Small Business Support Collaborative Conversation was held via the Coalition for Healthy Communities. The group agreed that for those interested in starting a small business or expanding, they are to be referred to Sonolito Bronson at Zion City Hall. The ZB Public Library will work with the Lake County Small Business Development Center and Ms. Bronson to provide programming on how to start a business. The Lakeshore Chamber will consider hosting a luncheon to support those who have home businesses and are interested in expanding.
- The Zion-Benton Senior Prom is now a Spring Fling and will be held on May 6, 2017.

Chairman Neal stated that additional allegations have been lodged against her since the last board meeting. She stated that, in regard to Zion Township paying the cell phone bills of her daughter, on every single expense report, she paid the exact amount that was billed from AT&T. She stated that she has been bonded since 2001 and that all bonds are currently on file in the Clerk's office. Chairman Neal stated that the issue that was brought up was not whether she was bonded, but where the bonds were kept. She stated that, at the time, the bonds were not in a file in the clerk's office per State Statute. She stated that that has been corrected.

Clyde McLemore responded to Chairman Neal's statement saying that she misappropriated Township funds.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, it was moved by Trustee McDowell, seconded by Trustee Frierson, and unanimously approved the meeting be adjourned at 7:04 p.m. Motion carried.

Town Clerk