

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE TOWN BOARD OF TRUSTEES HELD TUESDAY, MAY 16, 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 DeTienne, Fischer, McDowell, McKinney and Chairman Neal. Assessor Wicketts was present.

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

AGENDA CHANGES

It was moved by Trustee McDowell, seconded by Commissioner Fischer to accept the Zion Township meeting agenda with the following change:

Delete Item 4 – “Swearing in of Zion Township Supervisor Cheri Neal” per Chairman Neal

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

MINUTES

It was moved by Trustee McDowell, seconded by Trustee McKinney that the minutes of a Public Hearing held on April 18, 2017 at 6:15 p.m. and a Regular Meeting held on April 18, 2017 at 6:35 p.m. be approved as presented, with all members having received printed copies prior to the meeting. The vote on roll call was: Trustees DeTienne, aye; Fischer, aye; McDowell, aye; McKinney, aye; and Chairman Neal, aye. Motion carried.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

W. C. Bremner, Zion, stated that Representative Brad Schneider visited the Township office. He stated that the Representative would be at the Township on the second Wednesday of every month between 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. He asked if this information would be published in the newspaper. Chairman Neal stated that the information would be published in the newspaper.

Clyde McLemore, Zion, stated that fifteen years ago he asked the Township for assistance with a \$160 electric bill. He said he met with the Township Supervisor and later received a denial letter due to the results of a background check. He stated that he was never asked about his background. He stated that it was then that he started to investigate Zion Township. He stated that the Township pulls out laws and drug felons can't get help. He stated that he is not at war with only Chairman Neal, but with the Board members as well. He asked the Board how they could not see the misappropriation of money. Mr. McLemore stated that the Assessor spent \$790 on sports memorabilia, and when he was hurting, he couldn't get help as a Township citizen. He stated that he sees why the Township doesn't have funds. He asked the Board to ask for an itemized list of bills.

Kathy Champine, Zion, thanked Chairman Neal for her hard work, but she would like to see a better differential between her public and private affairs. She stated that she sees no misappropriation of funds.

Clarissa Walker stated that there is a misappropriation of funds. She stated that she had a situation with her utility bills recently. She stated that the Board should be able to pay their phone bill with their salaries. She stated that the Board has entitlement issues. She stated that people are trying to pay their taxes while the Township staff is buying pictures for the walls. She asked the Board to do a better job going over bills and knowing what they are paying for.

BILLS

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

| | | |
|--|--------------|---------------------|
| Assessor's Office | \$ 9,260.57 | |
| Community Support | \$ 70.00 | |
| Youth Services | \$ 517.50 | |
| Senior Services | \$ 1,249.50 | |
| Operating Expenses | \$ 29,232.15 | |
| Township Fund Total Expenses | | \$ 40,329.72 |
| <u>General Assistance Fund</u> | | |
| Public Support | \$ 1,753.02 | |
| Community Support | \$ 0 | |
| Operating Expenses | \$ 15,551.76 | |
| General Assistance Fund Total Expenses | | \$ 17,304.78 |
| <u>FICA</u> Total Expenses | | \$ 2,439.56 |
| <u>IMRF</u> Total Expenses | | \$ 3,966.53 |
| TOTAL BILLS: | | \$ 64,040.59 |

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

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

Chairman Neal stated that the Town Fund is balanced with \$628,473 in revenue and \$622,867 in expenses. Trustee McDowell stated that his concern is with the General Assistance (GA) Fund. Chairman Neal stated that General Assistance cannot be budget-based as the Township must serve residents. She stated that a \$25,000 insurance deductible must be included in the General Assistance budget for client medical insurance. Chairman Neal stated that the GA Fund reflects \$275,000 in reserves, \$235,000 in revenue and \$309,525 in expenses so the GA Fund budget is balanced by using reserve funds. Trustee McDowell stated that, if it does not cause the Township hardship, he would like to table approval of the budget until the next Township meeting to allow him time to better understand the GA Fund.

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

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO HARRIS POLICY LABS STUDY

Chairman Neal stated that she met with newly-elected Benton Township Supervisor Larry Booth re: the University of Chicago Harris Policy Labs Study and the available options. She stated that Supervisor Booth asked for a couple of months to familiarize himself with the study results and research the various options.

ASSESSOR'S REPORT

Assessor Wicketts stated that the tax bills were out and the first installment is due on June 6, 2017 and the second installment is due on September 6, 2017. He stated that the average tax bill increased 5.5% to 6%. He stated that values will go up another 10% this year.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Chairman Neal provided the following information:

- Zion Township Monthly Report – April 2017
- LIHEAP application processing -- Walk in sessions are available at Zion Township each Wednesday from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. through May 31st.
- Zion Township partnered with Partnership for a Safer Lake County and the Lake County Community Foundation to host two On The Table events in the community with youth from Zion Central Middle School and Citizens United for a Better Zion.
- Congressman Brad Schneider and Senator Melinda Bush will have staff providing office hours at Zion Township the second Wednesday of the month from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- The 15th Annual Senior Resource Day was attended by 205 seniors with 41 vendors.
- Summer Work Program youth were interviewed. The program will run from Monday, June 19th through Friday, July 28th.
- Zion Township met with the Lake County Housing Authority Self-Sufficiency Program (SSP) Team and identified a number of ways to collaborate. On Friday, May 19, 2017, Zion Township will be hosting a Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Program, providing training support for those who are unemployed for the SSP Participants.
- Zion Township has been working on a plan for 2017-2018 and beyond. Below are the items staff will be focusing on:
 - Marketing: revamping website to include applications for General Assistance and Emergency Assistance; redesigning and creating new brochures in English and Spanish; schedule outreach presentations to educate groups; annual open house; place signage on Sheridan Road
 - Maximize space at Zion Township by:
 - providing space for agencies to offer services, ie: Congressman Brad Schneider and Senator Melinda Bush.
 - collaborating to bring resources to the community for those interested in starting small businesses.
 - host workshops at Zion Township addressing various issues and needs
 - Research bringing in interns for various duties

- Chairman Neal distributed a Township Officials of Illinois Newly Elected and Returning Township Officials Boot Camp flyer and requested that the Board attend as a group.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, it was moved by Trustee McDowell, seconded by Trustee Fischer, and unanimously approved the meeting be adjourned at 7:09 p.m. Motion carried.

Town Clerk