

Minutes of the Troy Township Board Meeting

Monday, November 21, 2011

7:00 pm

Meeting of the Troy Township Board of Trustees held at the Troy Township Community Center, 25448 Seil Road, Shorewood, Illinois.

Supervisor Joseph D. Baltz called the meeting to order.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Assessor Patricia Gabrielson.

Roll call taken.

Present were:	Supervisor Joseph D. Baltz	Clerk George Muentnich
	Highway Commissioner Daniel Ward	Assessor Patricia Gabrielson
	Trustee Donald Walden – L	Trustee Larry Ryan
	Trustee Cheryl Seil	Trustee Jim McFarland

Absent were: Collector John Theobald – EA

EA – Excused Absence

L – Late Arrival

Supervisor Baltz opened the meeting for public comment and introduced guest, Kristen Ethridge from the Troy School District 30-C Board of Education.

Trustee Don Walden arrived at approximately 7:05pm. Trustee Walden was late due to Black Road being shut down by the fire department.

Supervisor Baltz asked for citizen comments. After asking twice and hearing no comments, Supervisor Baltz closed the meeting for public comment.

Motion made by Trustee Seil; seconded by Trustee McFarland to accept the **MINUTES** of the October 2011 Board meeting. Motion carried.

The **TREASURER'S REPORT** was acknowledged by Supervisor Joseph D. Baltz. Report was placed on file. Supervisor Baltz commented that the township has received about 97.7% of its general property tax revenue for the year and placed this report on file.

CORRESPONDENCE

Supervisor Joseph D. Baltz reviewed the following correspondence with the Board:

- Invitation to attend Shorewood Area Chamber of Commerce Holiday Celebration on December 15, 2011 from 4:30pm to 7:30pm.
- Invitation for the Board to attend the Senior's Christmas Lunch at Syl's on Tuesday, December 6, 2011 at 11:30am.
- Invitation to the Board, Cyber Niche Volunteers and Planning Commission to attend the office & highway department holiday lunch on Tuesday, December 20, 2011 at 12:00pm.
- Letter from Camelot resident sent to Trustee McFarland thanking the Board for their support of the residents in their efforts to fight a rate increase by Camelot Utilities.
- Letter from IMRF reporting that the township's rate for 2012 will go down to 12.97%.
- Letter dated November 14, 2011 from the Office of the Circuit Court Clerk for fines of \$90.00 received for the period of October 1, 2011 to October 31, 2011.
- Received Title XX Grant for Pace Bus Service for \$1,193.17.

- Letter from IDOT – Interstate 55 SE Frontage Resurfacing Project from County Farm to McDonough. Letting is to be on March 9, 2012. Highway Commissioner Ward believes this project may be already started if not completed.
- Timbers of Shorewood Newsletter
- TOIRMA Newsletter
- TOI Perspectives Magazine
- Letters from the Will County Board of Review regarding a request for reduction of 100,000 or more in assessed valuation. All letters are on file and available for review.
- Will County Board of Review sent notification that the Village of Shorewood purchased a parcel and is requesting tax exempt status on it.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Motion made by Trustee McFarland; seconded by Trustee Walden to accept the **TOWN FUND BILLS** as presented. Motion carried.

Motion made by Trustee Ryan; seconded by Trustee Seil to accept the **ASSESSOR'S BILLS** as presented. Motion carried.

Motion made by Trustee Walden; seconded by Trustee McFarland to accept the **GENERAL ASSISTANCE BILLS** as presented. Motion carried.

Motion made by Trustee Seil; seconded by Trustee Ryan to accept the **ROAD AND BRIDGE BILLS** as presented. Motion carried.

CYBER NICHE REPORT: – Jim Lynch reported that the Cyber Niche is plugging along. The newsletter tends to spark interest in the program. A few off-site training classes were done.

REPORTS OF TRUSTEES / COMMITTEES:

TRUSTEE LARRY RYAN – Trustee Ryan reported that he worked with Administrator Dylik and reviewed the PACE Contract for 2012. Based on what he has seen and the fact that PACE's projection of the township's cost is down over 10% from the prior year's projection, he would recommend approving the agreement when it is proposed under new business.

TRUSTEE JIM MCFARLAND – No Report.

TRUSTEE CHERYL SEIL – No Report.

TRUSTEE DONALD WALDEN – Trustee Walden reported he attended the TOI Conference with the other elected officials of the township. He commented that there are many changes in the policies and procedures for townships. He reaffirmed that it truly is a very valuable conference for all elected officials to attend. Trustee Walden further noted that there was only one VAC claim for Troy Township in the past month. Supervisor Baltz commented that he expects a workshop to be held in January to review the changes that were discussed at the conference.

TOWNSHIP COLLECTOR'S REPORT: No Report.

ASSESSOR'S REPORT: Assessor Gabrielson reported that she and her staff will be having hearings through December. The hearings are challenging because of a lack of good comparables. Assessor Gabrielson expects to get a final abstract in the first part of February 2012. Trustee McFarland asked if this was happening county wide. Assessor Gabrielson confirmed that yes and that these are the most hearings that the appeals board has ever had.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT REPORT: Highway Commissioner Ward reported that his department has about a week or so left of picking up leaves.

TOWNSHIP CLERK REPORT: No Report.

TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATORS REPORT: Administrator Dylík reported **Camelot Utilities** – On November 8, 2011 the Illinois Commerce Commission approved a requested increase for the water and sewer utilities in the Camelot subdivision. Camelot Utilities was requesting a combined total increase in water/sewer revenue of \$299,118. The ICC approved an increase which was 14.28% less than requested, totaling \$256,383. A copy of the press release was emailed to the Board on Friday, November 18th.

Website Changes – Effective with the November 21, 2011 Board meeting, agendas and minutes of meetings will be posted to the Troy Township website.

Changes to the Open Meetings Act – Effective January 1, 2012 all elected & appointed officials must take the Illinois Attorney General's on-line training for the Open Meetings Act. For all currently seated elected officials training must be completed within one year. For any person appointed to or elected to a position who takes office on or after January 1, 2012, training must be completed within 90 days of taking office. All certificates of completion must be filed with the Township Clerk.

Gael Drive (1124) – In October the township started to receive a few complaint calls and emails regarding a foreclosed home on Gael Drive. This home had a detached garage which has been burned down around July 4th. Complaints were that the burned garage was a safety concern and that mounds of garbage were on the site and becoming home to many rodents. Once contact was made with the township, we were able to combine efforts with Will County Executive Larry Walsh and the Will County Land Use Department. The garbage we removed within about a week and the burned garage was torn down the week of November 7th.

AARP FREE Tax Prep Site for Senior Services – The Township Community Center and Cyber Niche will once again be a site for AARP (coordinated with Senior Services Center of Will County) for free tax preparation services for seniors. Last year the township was able to offer 33 appointments to individuals/couples. This year AARP/Senior Services Center of Will County was able to increase our coverage and hours and we will be able to offer 88 appointments for individuals/couples. Appointments will be held every Wednesday starting February 1st and will continue through April 11th. Seniors can call anytime after January 1st to schedule their appointment.

General Real Estate Property Tax Revenue: Dylík reported that she distributed the report requested by Supervisor Baltz showing where the township was at to-date with regards to general real estate tax receipts comparing actual receipts to the amount budgeted and to the actual extended levy.

General Announcements from Administrator Dylík:

- Community Room – Calendar Distributed.
- Office and Community Center will be closed on Thursday November 24th and Friday the 25th for the Thanksgiving Holiday
- The Township Board is invited to the Senior's Holiday Lunch at Syl's on December 6th. If you have not already sent your RSVP it is needed by November 30th.
- The Township Board is invited to the Office & Highway Department Holiday lunch on Tuesday, December 20th. Please RSVP by December 16th.

TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS REPORT: Supervisor Baltz commented that his items will be covered under new business.

OLD BUSINESS: Supervisor Baltz asked for any old business. After asking twice, he moved to new business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Supervisor Baltz introduced the **PACE Paratransit Local Share Agreement 2012**, commenting that PACE's cost projections for the township are 10% less than what PACE was projecting for 2011. Supervisor Baltz recommended the contract for approval. **Motion made** by Trustee Ryan, seconded to Trustee Walden to

accept the 2012 PACE Paratransit Local Share Agreement. Role Call Vote: Walden – Aye; Seil – Aye; McFarland – Aye; Ryan – Aye; Baltz – Aye. 5 Aye, 0 Nay, 0 Absent. Motion carried.

Supervisor Baltz presented the resignation received from Clerk George Muentnich effective December 31, 2011 for clarification purposes. **Motion made** by Trustee McFarland; seconded by Trustee Walden **to accept the resignation of Clerk George Muentnich** as Troy Township Clerk effective December 31, 2011. Motion carried.

Clerk Muentnich recommended Trustee Jim McFarland be appointed as Clerk.

Supervisor Baltz presented a resignation letter from Jim McFarland resigning as Trustee effective December 31, 2011. In the resignation letter, Trustee McFarland expressed his interest in being considered for the appointment of Clerk effective January 1, 2012. **Motion made** by Trustee Seil; seconded by Trustee Walden **to accept the resignation of Jim McFarland as Trustee** effective December 31, 2011. Motion carried.

Supervisor Baltz highlighted that while serving as Trustee McFarland headed up the township's Planning Commission committee; co-chaired the township's programming committee and worked diligently with township staff on improving the township newsletter with a clear focus on improving communication to township residents. Trustee McFarland was also the driving force behind the township hosting its first ever Senior Expo in June of 2011. **Motion made** by Trustee Ryan; seconded by Trustee Seil to **accept the appointment of Jim McFarland as Clerk** effective January 1, 2012 for the unexpired term of George Muentnich. Trustee McFarland abstained from voting. Motion Carried.

Supervisor Baltz reviewed a letter received from Collector John Theobald formally requesting to be considered for the appointment to Trustee for Troy Township to fulfill the unexpired term of Jim McFarland. Additionally the letter contained a formal resignation as Collector effective December 31, 2011. **Motion made** by Trustee McFarland; seconded by Trustee Walden to **accept the resignation of John Theobald as Collector** effective December 31, 2011. Motion carried.

Supervisor Baltz reviewed the recommendation he received from Trustee Jim McFarland recommending John Theobald to fulfill the remainder of his unexpired term. In his recommendation McFarland noted that he has worked with Theobald since January of 2010. During that time Theobald has made himself available to the township residents volunteering at many township events including the Shorewood Chamber Expo, the township's First Senior Expo and the township's semi-annual shredding event. **Motion made** by Trustee Walden; seconded by Trustee McFarland to **accept the appointment of John Theobald as Trustee** effective January 1, 2012 to fulfill the unexpired term of Jim McFarland. Motion carried.

Supervisor Baltz reviewed a letter received from John Theobald recommending that Brett Wheeler fulfill the remainder of his unexpired term as collector. Wheeler previously served as Collector for Troy Township from January 2003 to April of 2005 when he was elected as Troy Township Trustee. Wheeler then served as Trustee for four years. Supervisor Baltz commented on Wheeler's biography, noting that he is the owner and operator of The Body Werks Collision Repair Center in Shorewood, is a member of the Troy Fire Protection District and a volunteer as paid on call fireman since 1996, is a former Township Collector from January 2003 to April of 2005, is a former Township Trustee from April 2005 to April 2009, and is a current member of the Shorewood Area Chamber of Commerce. **Motion made** by Trustee Seil; seconded by Trustee McFarland to **accept the appointment of Brett Wheeler as Collector** effective January 1, 2012 to fulfill the unexpired term of John Theobald. Motion carried.

Supervisor Baltz announced that he has received a letter from Highway Commissioner Daniel R. Ward announcing his retirement effective December 31, 2011. In the retirement letter, Commissioner Ward also recommended that his son Thomas Ward be appointed as Highway Commissioner to fulfill his unexpired term. Thomas Ward has worked with the highway department both part-time and full-time over the past 17 years. Tom is familiar with the operations of the department, the equipment and all processes and procedures. **Motion made** by Trustee McFarland; seconded by Trustee Ryan to **accept the resignation of Highway Commissioner Daniel R. Ward effective December 31, 2011**. Motion carried.

Supervisor Baltz stated that he too recommends the appointment of Thomas Ward, Shorewood resident, to be appointed as Highway Commissioner. Tom was born and raised on the Ward Farm in Shorewood; attended Troy Grade Schools; graduated from Joliet Catholic High School; studied agriculture at Joliet Junior College; currently serves on the Troy Township Planning Commission; is a member of St. Anne's Church in Channahon; is a member of the Moose Lodge in Joliet; is a member of the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 150 for 24 years; is employed at Ball Land Improvement as a Supervisor; experienced in land development including subdivisions, commercial and road construction; experienced in storm drainage; OSHA (1926) competent person training certification; certified in hazardous waste awareness; has worked for the Troy Township Highway Department for the past 17 years both part-time and full-time. Supervisor Baltz commented that the township is fortunate to have a person of Tom's caliber available to be appointed to this position. **Motion made** by Trustee Walden; seconded by Trustee Seil to **accept the appointment of Thomas Ward as Highway Commissioner** effective January 1, 2012 to fulfill the unexpired term of Daniel R. Ward. Motion carried.

Supervisor Baltz distributed the official Warrants of Appointment for all positions to be executed by all Trustees.

Trustee Walden addressed the Board stating that the City of Joliet will no longer provide mosquito abatement services and therefore he was confronted by the residents of Glenwood Manor asking if Troy Township would then take over this service. Supervisor Baltz noted that the Board will take this request under advisement; confirming that yes, the township currently provides this service for unincorporated areas of the township; and noting that the Board will have to research and review this service for the portions affected by the City of Joliet's cuts and consider providing for it when the 2012-2013 budget is prepared. Supervisor Baltz asked that Administrator Dylak contact the other municipalities that are part of the township including Rockdale, Crest Hill, Channahon and Shorewood and see if they intend to provide mosquito abatement services. He also asked that she contact Clarke Mosquito and have them prepare a cost estimate of providing this service for the portions effected by the City of Joliet's elimination of this service. Trustee McFarland asked if the City of Joliet has officially cut this program or if it was at the discretion of the City Manager. Audience member, Bob Okon from the Herald News, stated he believes it is at the City Manager's discretion. Trustee McFarland asked that a workshop be conducted to review the budget and the possible inclusion of this service.

Supervisor Baltz reminded that the newly appointed officials must make sure they complete the Illinois Attorney General Open Meetings Act Certification within the 90 days of taking office.

Supervisor Baltz announced that the Board meeting scheduled for December 19, 2011 will include the swearing in of the new officials by current Township Clerk, George Muentnich. Newly appointed officials are invited to bring their families. He further commented that the newly appointed officials are all very qualified and that this is the most turn over he has seen in one meeting during the 28 years he has been Supervisor. Supervisor Baltz further stated how fortunate the township is to have a person like Tom Ward able to step in and complete the term of such a vital position in the township.

Supervisor Baltz asked for any other new business. Hearing none, he entertained a motion to adjourn.

A **motion to adjourn** was made by Trustee McFarland; seconded by Trustee Ryan. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:35pm.



Respectfully submitted,


George E. Muentnich
Town Clerk