

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE TOWN ELECTORS

April 9, 2024
7:00 p.m.

Clerk Larry Ryan called the 174th Annual Meeting of Troy Township to order at 7:00 p.m. on April 9, 2024. The pledge to the flag was recited, led by Township Administrator Jennifer Dylik.

Clerk Ryan announced that legal notifications of the Annual Town Meeting were published by the required minimum of 15 days in advance and was published in the March 22, 2024, edition of The Herald News, was posted at the Troy Township Community Center, and was posted at three public locations around the township: Village of Shorewood Towne Center, Shorewood-Troy Public Library, Joliet Public Library on Black Road. The Annual Meeting notice was published on the Township website at www.troystownship.com and information was emailed out to all email addresses on file with the Township via Constant Contact.

Clerk Ryan announced that the first item of business was the election of a Town Moderator and called for nominations.

A motion was made by Kim Anderson that Bryan Kopman act as Moderator. Tom Ward seconded the motion.

After asking for any other nominations for moderator, and hearing none, Clerk Ryan closed the floor for nominations.

Clerk Ryan called for a vote on the motion for Bryan Kopman to act as Moderator. Motion carried.

The following oath was administered to the Moderator. "I do solemnly swear that I will faithfully and impartially discharge the duties of Moderator at this Township Meeting to the best of my ability, so help me God."

Moderator Kopman thanked everyone for attending and instructed that the minutes from the April 11, 2023, Annual Town meeting be approved. He asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Dawn Damiani made a motion to approve the minutes; seconded by Johnnie Greenwood. Motion carried.

Moderator Kopman then announced that the following items of business would be acted upon at this meeting.

- a. Accounts of the Supervisor
- b. Financial statements of the Supervisor
- c. Accounts of the Highway Commissioner
- d. Financial Reports
- e. Disposition of Surplus Items
- f. Motion to Pay Moderator
- g. Town Meeting Announcement

Township Administrator Dylik announced to the Moderator and Clerk that she will present items a, b, c, and d on behalf of Supervisor Baltz. Also, at that time the following items were placed on file: the Preliminary Supervisor's Annual Treasurer's Report & Financials ending March 31, 2024 for the **Town Fund, General Assistance Fund, and Road & Bridge Fund**, and the current inventory reports of the Township.

Moderator Kopman announced that the financial reports are placed on the head table and available for distribution to the electors. They are also available at www.troytownship.com.

On behalf of Supervisor Baltz, Township Administrator Dylik gave a summary of the past year for the Township (attached).

Moderator Kopman asked if there were any items to declare surplus.

Kim Anderson announced that the Assessor's department has 13 monitors to declare surplus. A motion was made by Tom Ward to declare the Assessor's 13 monitors as surplus for disposal. Jerry Nudera seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Tom Ward announced that the Supervisor's department has one piano that is old and is un-tunable and one oak credenza with water damage that are surplus and to be disposed of. Dawn Damiani made a motion to declare the piano and credenza as surplus for disposal; seconded by George Muentnich. Motion carried.

No other motions for surplus items were brought forward.

Moderator Kopman asked for a motion to pay the moderator. No motions to pay the moderator were made.

Moderator Kopman announced that the next Annual Town Meeting would be Tuesday, April 8, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.

Moderator Kopman asked for any citizen comments or announcements.

George Muentnich commented that the employees and elected officials of Troy Township are top-notch and other units of government should be like the township.

Ronald Huritz inquired about improvements to the interchange and ramps at Rt. 52 and I-55 asking if the improvements were a DOT project or a township project. Moderator Kopman reported that it was not a township project. The electors present discussed the project briefly noting that it was an IDOT project and likely done with coordination from the Village of Shorewood. Administrator Dylik directed electors to www.i55atil59accessproject.org which is IDOT's website about the proposed improvements in the I-55, IL 59, and I-80 corridor.

Larry Ryan, Jr. asked, do the township officials have dialog with the State regarding the future of township government in the Illinois given the crusades to eliminate township government regardless of the number of financial reports that show how well it works and how well it is received. Moderator Kopman reported that yes, we are in regular contact with our local legislators and turned to Administrator Dylik for more information. Dylik commented that yes, she and other elected officials of the township have active communication with local legislators. In fact, she and Assessor Kim Anderson are traveling to Springfield on April 17, 2024, for the Township Officials of Illinois Lobby Day where they have appointments confirmed with Representative Natalie Manley, Senator Rachel Ventura, Senator Meg Loughran Cappel, and commitments from Representative Harry Benton and longtime township supporter Representative Larry Walsh, Jr. They will be presenting the legislators with information that supports township government including its low-cost operations and efficiencies. Kim Anderson and Larry Ryan encouraged all to read a recent report published by the Township Officials of Illinois titled "Local Government in Illinois: A Comparison of Township Government" (formerly the Wendell Cox Report). Larry Ryan, Kim Anderson, and Johnnie Greenwood all noted how the report shows that township government costs less than their municipal counterparts, including a lesser debt load. The electors present continued a brief discussion about the report, how schools are funded, and the efficiencies of township government.

Moderator Kopman asked for any announcements or additional comments. No other comments were made.

Moderator Kopman asked for a motion to adjourn. Dawn Damiani made a motion for adjournment; seconded by Jason Cox. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Ryan
Town Clerk

SEAL

Troy Township Year in Review
174th Annual Town Meeting
April 9, 2024
Report from Supervisor Joseph D. Baltz

As the 2023-2024 fiscal year comes to a close, we find the Township remains in a very strong financial position. Overall, all three funds performed better than budgeted with the Town Fund adding to its total fund balance.

In summary:

- The Road and Bridge Fund budgeted for a fund balance decrease of \$794,221.00 but ended the year with a fund balance decrease of \$249,286.94
- The General Assistance Fund budgeted for a fund balance decrease of \$21,955.00 but ended the year with a fund balance decrease of \$10,196.84
- The General Town Fund budgeted for a fund balance increase of \$6,139.00 but ended the year with a fund balance increase of \$188,588.21

Although the Road District ended the year with a decrease in fund balance, the district remains in a strong financial position with a fund balance equal to over 16 months of a reserve balance. During the last fiscal year, the Road District paid off the last remaining debt on two pieces of equipment, which renders the Township as a whole completely debt free. The Road District also completed a significant renovation project on the office and garage building (built in 1974) that included new windows, new siding, new entry doors, and a new roof. Additionally, the third bay of the garage was redone to include insulation and a heating system so that all garage bays are now heated.

Our Road District is also the recipient of \$400,000 in ARPA grant funds. We are happy to report that these funds will help us complete stormwater draining improvements in the Ron Lee Estates subdivision.

The Road District's Shepley Road Bridge over the DuPage River replacement and realignment project is entering Phase 2 Engineering. We are in the process of securing additional grant funds to cover 80% of the construction cost with Will County participating at 10% and the Township participating at 10%. Estimates for an early start date are May of 2026. The project engineers currently estimate this project as an \$8.3 million dollar investment in local road infrastructure improvements.

Our Road District goes above and beyond by performing added services such as the annual spring cleanup, tree branch pickup, leaf pickup, recycling drop-off, and branch drop-off. They do all of this in addition to taking care of our township roads. Thank you, Highway Commissioner Ward and your crew, for all that you do. As always, job well done.

Our Assessor's Department completed the quadrennial assessment in 2023. Assessor Anderson and her staff worked countless extra hours to accomplish this task. Troy Township is now ranked 5th highest for assessed value amongst all Will County Townships. Amidst all of the extra work that comes with a quadrennial assessment year, staff assisted 893 taxpayers with exemption paperwork and are implementing a new assessment computer system. This is no small undertaking. Thank you to Assessor Anderson and her staff for all of your hard work and extra efforts. You should all be commended.

Here locally, road projects were and continue to be in abundance as IDOT is conducting a significant amount of infrastructure improvements in the Rt. 59 / I-55 / I-80 Corridor. Recent, ongoing, and upcoming projects include:

- Shepley Road Bridge over I80 was replaced in 2023.
- River Road Bridge over 80 is being replaced and is currently under construction.

- I-80 improvements from Ridge Road to Rt. 30 in New Lenox, increasing to 3 lanes in both directions.
- I55 at IL59 diverging diamond interchange and connection into the Rock Run Crossing Development is ongoing.
- Houbolt Rd. diverging diamond interchange at I80 was completed in conjunction with Houbolt Rd. Bridge extension which opened in April of 2023.
- Intersection improvements at Rt. 52 and County Line Road are in Phase 2 engineering. A roundabout design is IDOT's preferred alternative for those improvements.

For general operations at the Township the 2023-2024 fiscal year was a productive and very busy year. During the year the Town Fund completed its interior building renovations and exterior EIFS repairs and completed them within budget.

Compared to the prior fiscal year, calls for financial assistance were up over 350%, FOIA requests were up 55.5%, Wednesday senior lunch attendance was up approximately 66%, and Friday senior lunch attendance was up approximately 50%.

The Paid Leave for All Worker's Act became effective, January 1, 2024. To be in compliance with the Act the Township needed to make significant changes to its existing personal time and vacation time policy. Working through the changes took several man hours, consultations with our attorney, revisions to the policies and procedures manual, and changes to the accrual calculations in our payroll system.

In August of 2023 the Township started hosting our Decennial Committee Meetings for both the Township and the Road District. Required as a result of the Local Government Efficiency Act (P.A. 102-1088), the Committees were created to study topics including but not limited to the governmental unit's governing statutes, ordinances, rules, procedures, powers, jurisdiction, shared services, intergovernmental agreements, and interrelationships with other governmental units and the State. The committee also needed to collect data, research, and perform analysis as necessary to prepare a report that would summarize its work and findings, include recommendations in respect to increased accountability and efficiency, provide the report to the administrative office of the county board, and make the report available to the public. We worked through this process and I'm happy to report that the Township Decennial Committee accepted its final report in February of 2024 and the Road District Decennial Committee accepted its final report in March of 2024. Both reports were delivered to the Will County Board and are posted on the Township's website.

In addition to the ARPA grant funds mentioned earlier, in December the Township completed the grant application paperwork to receive \$270,000 in capital expenditure reimbursements from the State. The application required a significant amount of time collecting invoices, cancelled checks, completing the grant budget spreadsheets, etc. We hope to receive the \$270,000 reimbursement within the next few months which will be split 50/50 between the Township and the Road District to help reimburse expenses associated with each entity's recent renovation projects.

Thank you to the staff of the Supervisor's office for their hard work running the day-to-day operations including but not limited to payroll, HR, benefits, record keeping, financial reporting, grant reporting, keeping up with building and grounds maintenance, and running our programs like our Wednesday/Friday seniors, micro pantry, durable medical equipment, early voting, and more.

Lastly, I will close with may same comments as last year:

I truly believe Troy Township is the best township around thanks to our hard working and dedicated staff; backed by the support and guidance of our elected officials. Thank you all for what you do to make Troy Township a great place to call home.