

RICHMOND TOWNSHIP
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
7812 S. RT 31 RICHMOND, IL
October 9, 2024
7:00 pm

PRESIDING: Supervisor Ron Kay

PRESENT: Trustees, Scott Freund, Kosta Iftica, Tracy Dickens

ALSO PRESENT: Clerk Tammy Kay, Highway Commissioner Chris Gumm, Assessor Patricia O'Neill, Administrative Assistant Diana Benitez,

ABSENT: Kara Lotz

R. Kay called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm, with the Pledge of Allegiance recited by all.

ROLL CALL: Freund, Iftica, Dickens, R. Kay were present, Lotz was absent, quorum established.

MINUTES: Freund moved to approve the regular September 11, 2024 meeting minutes and the September 25, 2024 Special Meeting Minutes, seconded by Dickens, and passed by unanimous voice vote. Lotz was absent.

SEMI ANNUAL REVIEW OF CLOSED SESSION MINUTES: Clerk Kay handed out the list of closed minutes which were reviewed by the board silently. R. Kay moved to keep all closed session minutes closed, seconded by Freund, and passed by unanimous voice vote. Lotz was absent.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Wally Solinski had a complaint about weeds in the ditch line by the culvert near his home on Turner St. off of W. Solon Rd in Solon Mills. He said he has spoken to Commissioner Gumm about the blocked culvert and flooding issues several times in the past without resolution and is now bringing this to the board's attention. He had pictures on his cellphone to show Gumm and the board. Gumm stated it is on the list to address the problem with no projected timeline. Gumm stated the company across Rt. 12 from the Solinsky residence did concrete work on the property without a permit which has created a water flow problem and subsequent flooding. He has been working with McHenry County Stormwater Management to create a better solution for drainage

TREASURER'S REPORT AND PRESENTATION OF BILLS FOR APPROVAL: R. Kay presented the reports and balances. He explained the current bank statements were taken from the bank's website and there is important data missing. The bank will be creating better reports. Iftica moved to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Freund and passed with unanimous voice vote. Lotz was absent.

Township Warrant #24-10T in the amount of \$11,643.50 was presented. Dickens moved to approve payment, seconded by Iftica and passed with Freund, Iftica, Dickens and R. Kay voting yes. Lotz was absent.

Road District Warrant #24-10R in the amount of \$24,822.42 was presented. A discrepancy was discovered on the line 6-Sep IMRF 463. It should read \$649.64. After the warrant was corrected, Iftica moved to approve payment, seconded by Freund, and passed with Freund, Iftica, Dickens and R. Kay voting yes. Lotz was absent.

CORRESPONDENCE: none

REPORTS:

Supervisor: R. Kay stated a letter was received from the state of Illinois regarding an increase in General Assistance amounts, to be given to qualifying recipients, effective October 1, 2024, For 1 person, the amount changed from \$425.00 to \$439.00, 2 people from \$497.00 to \$596.00. R. Kay read Resolution 2018-1 regarding paying bills without prior approval. He said this board is not required to follow that resolution and will continue to require approval before paying bills. R. Kay said he has been working on checking account issues. As of now, there should not be any charges/fees for the checking accounts as long as minimum required amounts are kept in the accounts.

Road District: Gumm reported progress is being made on the garage addition, with the framing inspection tomorrow. He said the salt prices are very good, but he won't be able to take advantage of the pricing as the salt shed is full. He has been working with McHenry County Stormwater Management in regards to the new company on N. Solon that did work without permits, moving pipes to redirect water. He also has been working with the Cemetery Board to get 15' of abandoned road added to the Solon Mills Cemetery. R. Kay added they are waiting for the legal description.

Assessor: none

Clerk: none

Trustees: Freund stated, while campaigning, 2 different households asked if there was anything that could be done about the many garbage trucks traveling in their neighborhood. He would like to revisit the garbage truck issue that was discussed in the past in regards to getting a question on the ballot asking township residents if they want one garbage service. R. Kay said he would contact the county for more information. Gumm offered to share the information he has.

Freund also mentioned a new outdoor display cabinet should be placed by the front door, as the public generally goes to the front door and may not see the cabinet by the side door. He offered to install a new cabinet.

Senior Transportation: R. Kay reported there were 74 rides given, 1,209 miles driven, with a cost per mile of \$4.46, with Johnsburg/McHenry being the most frequent destination accounting for 31 of those rides. He said the rear brakes on the bus were changed.

Cemetery: R. Kay stated a new mausoleum is in the works for the Richmond Cemetery. It will weigh about 28,000 pounds and requires a 6' x 6' x 6' concrete foundation. Steps are being taken to protect the cemetery road and property during the installation. Local Girl Scout troops will be cleaning tombstones in the Richmond Cemetery, which will allow them to earn a patch.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: R. Kay asked Gumm if he had reconsidered contributing 1/2 of his salary from Road District funds. Gumm still does not want to do that. A voice vote to accept Resolution 2024-1 Elected Officials Salaries was taken, with Freund, Iftica, Dickens and R. Kay voting yes. Lotz was absent. R. Kay stated he had a letter from the McHenry County Division of Transportation that was a response to an email retired Supervisor Hain sent. The letter stated the Monthly Supervisor's Report (The Korpalski Report) needs to be signed by the Supervisor, Commissioner and Board of Trustees, not the Clerk. R. Kay presented a lease, that was drawn up by the township attorney, regarding O'Neill's office in her home and the ability of the township to access records in the event of an emergency. The board requested the lease at the September 25th, 2024 Special Meeting. O'Neill stated she gave permission to R. Kay already. She will have her attorney look at the lease before signing it.

NEW BUSINESS: R. Kay told the board he has received a quote of \$4,500.00 to design a 30' x 30' addition to the township office building. He would like to move forward and will place discuss/decision on the November agenda. Freund asked for names of the firms R. Kay spoke with. R. Kay will have that information at the November meeting.

The strategic 5-year plan was discussed. R. Kay handed out a worksheet asking the board for ideas and input on what they hope to see the Richmond Township accomplish. Different ideas were discussed like a newsletter, unified garbage pickup, website improvements and an outreach to area youth like what is done for senior services.

Iftica asked about the annual Santa and Reindeer event. Benitez stated everything is ready to roll. She said the High School is having a pancake breakfast the morning of the event and she hoped to offer flyers to hand out at the pancake breakfast. Iftica said he will create a flyer and asked for pictures of last year's event to include in the flyer. Dickens offered to volunteer his time as the police presence, thus the township wouldn't have to pay for the service which was \$280.00 last year. Finalization of the event will take place at the November meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: none

CLOSED SESSION: none

There was no other business. Iftica moved to adjourn, seconded by Dickens and passed by unanimous voice vote. Lotz was absent.

8:16pm.

Township Clerk

Approved: _____