

RICHMOND TOWNSHIP
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

7812 S. RT 31 RICHMOND, IL

November 13, 2024

7:00 pm

PRESIDING: Supervisor Ron Kay

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

ALSO PRESENT: Clerk Tammy Kay, Highway Commissioner Chris Gumm, Administrative Assistant Diana Benitez, Parker Johnston, Girl Scout Troop 1888 and their families

ABSENT: Assessor Patricia O'Neill

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.

PRESENTATION TO GIRL SCOUTS: R. Kay thanked Girl Scout Troop 1888 for their hard work cleaning headstones and picking up garbage in the Richmond Cemetery. He presented certificates for the community service they performed and thanked them for their work. He was very happy with the results and looks forward to working with the troop in the future. Lotz arrived at 7:06 pm.

MINUTES: Freund moved to approve the regular October 9th, 2024, meeting minutes, seconded by Dickens, passed by unanimous voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: none

TREASURER'S REPORT AND PRESENTATION OF BILLS FOR APPROVAL: R. Kay presented the reports and balances. He explained the bill from McHenry Township for General Assistance and the need for training on the program so that applications can be done in house. He reported the new bank account statements show charges that will be removed per the bank. Iftica moved to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Freund and passed with a unanimous voice vote.

Township Warrant #24-11T in the amount of \$7,232.32 was presented. Dickens moved to approve payment, seconded by Iftica and passed with Freund, Iftica, Lotz, Dickens and R. Kay voting yes.

Road District Warrant #24-11R in the amount of \$45,556.21 was presented. Iftica moved to approve payment, seconded by Lotz, and passed with Freund, Iftica, Lotz, Dickens and R. Kay voting yes.

CORRESPONDENCE: An email requesting the change to the Korpalski report; requiring the Supervisor, Road Commissioner and Trustee signatures instead of the Clerk. A flyer with specs for the new display cabinet that was installed by R. Kay at the Township Office front door, Letter from

McHenry County explaining the consolidated garbage collection program, and a page from Quick Books showing an unexplained glitch in the program.

REPORTS:

Supervisor: R. Kay stated he and Diana Benitez met with Katie Anderson about the Santa/Reindeer event possibly being held in The District courtyard during the Cocoa Walk of 2025.

Road District: Gumm reported the building addition is almost complete. Final inspection will be soon, and the garage doors should be in this week. He stated vehicles have been checked, salt brine has been made and they are ready for the weather change. Approximately \$14,000.00 in interest has been generated so far with the new bank accounts. Gumm stated he has been invited by IDOT to be a part of the stakeholder group for the redevelopment of the Rt. 173 and Keystone Rd intersection. Dickens asked what makes the intersection dangerous, to which Gumm explained the roads are offset and could be a depth perception problem.

The Road District will collect Christmas trees for recycling, as part of the Beyond the Roads Program. He wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and thanked Scott Freund for a “taking a vision to a reality” for his contribution to the new garage addition.

Assessor: none

Clerk: T. Kay reminded everyone that petition packets can be be turned in this week and Monday. She stated the hours available for handing in the packets.

Trustees: Iftica said he is preparing a flyer for the Santa/Reindeer event and would like to put a short list of the most requested food pantry items needed in the flyer.

Senior Transportation: R. Kay reported there were 77 rides given, 1,358 miles driven, with a cost per mile of \$2.54, with Johnsburg/McHenry being the most frequent destination, accounting for 56 of those rides.

Cemetery: R. Kay stated a new mausoleum will soon be placed in Richmond Cemetery. It will weigh approximately 86,000 pounds and the foundation for it has been paid for. He has a signed contract with the mausoleum owner that requires said owner to repair the cemetery road if damaged during delivery and installation. There is also an escrow account set up. He told of the local Cub Scouts cleaning stones and removing garbage at Cedarvale Cemetery and how interested they were in learning about the headstones and very enthusiastic about scrubbing to see the names. They will be invited to the December meeting to receive certificates for their community service.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: R. Kay added a few more items to the 5 year strategic plan and asked if the Trustees had anything to contribute. He asked the Trustees to bring their suggestions for the plan to the next meeting. He spoke to Christy Hecky at the McHenry County Health Department about the countywide garbage collection program. The contract is for 4 years, and they are currently in year one. She explained they also do leaf collection. R. Kay said we can go out to bid for our own contract and then explained the need for Resolution 2024-3, which has to be filed with the county by January 13th, 2025, in order to be placed on the ballot for the Consolidated Election, April 1, 2025. Discussion ensued regarding an annual newsletter with the information included, the

actual cost of the garbage service, bidding process for garbage service and how bid specs can be rejected if pricing is too high.

Dickens questioned how the squad car would be used at the Santa/Reindeer event. It was decided it would be parked near Rt 31 and the Township entrance with lights flashing. Dickens agreed to provide a squad for the 4-hour event.

R. Kay stated the Solinsky complaint received at the October meeting has been resolved for now. He had a conversation with Ernest Varga regarding the process of acquiring an abandoned road north of the Solon Mills Cemetery, called North Street. The street was platted but never developed. He will be talking to current neighbors about their involvement in and fees for the project.

R. Kay said he purchased and installed a display cabinet near the front door of the building. He said he has not heard back from the Assessor's office regarding the lease.

NEW BUSINESS: T. Kay read Resolution 2024-2 regarding amending the list of the Richmond Township Employee Handbook, page 6, "Holidays" list. Freund moved to adopt Resolution 2024-2, seconded by Iftica and passed with unanimous voice vote. R. Kay explained a new security policy for the Administration building where the Supervisor, Clerk, and Admin-Assistant are located, to provide safety for employees, clients and the public authorized, in the building.

R. Kay explained the Township levy is 3.4%, \$346,850.72 which is about \$7,000.00 more than last year. Be it hereby RESOLVED that the Township of Richmond, Illinois, to set the 2024 Richmond Township levy to be collected in 2025 as follows: \$346,852.16. The Supervisor and Township Clerk shall certify, and file all required documents with the McHenry County Clerk on or before the certification deadline. Freund moved to adopt Richmond Township Levy of \$346,852.72, seconded by R. Kay and passed by majority voice vote with Freund, Iftica, Lotz, Dickens, and R. Kay voting yes.

Adoption of 2024 Tax Levy for Richmond Township Road District; Be it hereby RESOLVED that the Township of Richmond, Illinois, to set the 2024 Richmond Township Road District tax levy to be collected in 2025 as follows; \$82,540 to be collected for the Road and Bridge fund, \$550,269 to be collected for the Permanent Road Fund, and \$55,026 to be collected for the Equipment and Building Fund for a total collection for 2024 tax levy to be \$687,835. The Supervisor and Township Clerk shall certify and file all required documents with the McHenry County Clerk on or before the certification deadline. Iftica moved to adopt Richmond Township Road District Levy of \$687,835.00, seconded by Lotz and passed by majority voice vote with Freund, Iftica, Lotz, Dickens, and R. Kay voting yes.

Resolution 2024-3 was read and presented, allowing the Township Supervisor and Board of Trustees to pursue a proposition question for the April 1, 2025, Consolidated Election Ballot, regarding garbage collection for township residents. Freund moved to pass Resolution 2024-3 seconded by Lotz and passed with majority voice vote, with Freund, Lotz, Dickens, R. Kay voting yes and Iftica voting no.

R. Kay stated he has concerns about conflicting and inconsistent answers from the current township law firm, Franks, Gerkin, Ponitz & Greeley P.C. Lawyers. He has contacted ZRFM Law regarding rates, which are less expensive than the current law firm, and they specialize in

municipal law. R. Kay would like to change law firms. He will have in writing, the fees and terms for the December meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Gumm suggested contacting the law firm that wrote the Township Officials Laws & Duties Handbook for their costs.

CLOSED SESSION: none

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

8:29pm.

Township Clerk

Approved: _____