

RICHMOND TOWNSHIP  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

7812 S. RT 31 RICHMOND, IL

May 8, 2024

7:00 pm

**PRESIDING:** Supervisor Paul Hain

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

**ALSO PRESENT:** Assistant Supervisor Ron Kay, Clerk Tammy Kay, Assessor Patricia O'Neill, Administrative Assistant Diana Benitez

**ABSENT:** Road Commissioner Chris Gumm

Hain called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm, with the Pledge of Allegiance recited by all.

**ROLL CALL:** Freund, Iftica, Lotz, Dickens, R. Kay and Hain were present. Quorum established.

Hain added item 12a to the agenda, Board Member List.

**MINUTES:** Freund moved to approve the minutes of the regular April 10th, 2024 meeting, seconded by Dickens and passed with unanimous voice vote.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** none

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Hain presented the reports and balances. The new budget started April 1, 2024. Next month new tax monies should come in. The Senior Transportation Fund received several donations and fees. General Assistance Fund had a steady flow of people needing help with small amounts.

Iftica moved to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Lotz, and passed with unanimous voice vote.

Township Warrant #24-5T in the amount of \$16,168.95 was presented. Iftica moved to approve payment, seconded by Freund and passed with Freund, Iftica, Lotz, Dickens and Hain voting yes.

Lotz and Iftica questioned the large phone bill for the Road District. R. Kay explained that the Road District has experienced poor telephone reception and service at the building for a long time. Gumm purchased new phones/internet from Ring Central, a voice over internet service. After the initial purchase fee, there will be a savings of about \$1,500.00 a year.

Road District Warrant #24-5R in the amount of \$22,156.62 was presented. Dickens moved to approve payment, seconded by Iftica, and passed with Freund, Iftica, Lotz, Dickens and Hain voting yes.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** A letter from a Senior Transportation rider was received inviting Paul Hain and Diana Benitez to a rider get together. A \$25.00 donation was given to Senior Transportation, and food was provided by the inviting host.

**REPORTS:**

**Supervisor:** Hain reported he has been working in tandem with R. Kay. They have been covering a lot of subjects.

**Road District:** absent

**Assessor:** O'Neill stated she met with R. Kay at her office and has plans to show him the field work that is done. There are 25 new homes to be measured. She has hired two new part time workers and stated there were no plans to hire any 14-year-olds. She explained that solar farms, if commercial, can be assessed per megawatt.

**Clerk:** none

**Trustees:** Lotz stated plans for the NHS members to beautify the township property on May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Hain expressed the need for help placing flags at the cemeteries for Memorial Day and suggested to Lotz a possible NHS project to participate in.

Iftica handed out a township general information page he created, to be placed in the lobby, Road District office and on the website.

**Senior Transportation:** Hain reported there were 81 rides given, 1227 miles driven with a cost per mile of \$3.53, with Richmond being the most frequent destination. The budget is different as Diana Benitez salary line has been moved to the Township Administrative Budget.

Dickens stated he received an email letter from McHenry County regarding the grant for Senior Transportation. The letter was quoted "...providing for transportation vehicles or services for senior citizens". Discussion ensued regarding applying for the grant again, as the county has denied any further grant money for the township Senior Transportation Program. Hain feels it is a waste of time applying again, Lotz, Iftica and O'Neill want to pursue the grant.

**Cemetery Board:** R. Kay reported Angelo Gallegos has been appointed to the Cemetery Board and he will be taking Gallegos to the cemeteries tomorrow and showing him the computer program and grave purchase process. R. Kay stated he has sold several lots and has cremation burials scheduled this month. Freund stated he has a 2-point survey system the Cemetery Board can use to create maps of the cemeteries.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** Iftica handed out copies of the finished Decennial Report.

Freund moved to accept the report and file with the McHenry County Board, seconded by Hain and passed with unanimous voice vote.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Hain presented the Township Tentative Budget for FY2025. He stated the revenue increased \$51,000.00. Senior Transportation has a \$10,000.00 grant this year, but he did not budget for the McHenry County Grant. He explained Benitez salary line was moved to the Township Personnel budget. He stated that along with R. Kay, they examined the actual 2024 budget and found places to trim down.

Freund moved to approve the Township Tentative Budget for FY2025 as presented and to place on public display for 30 days, seconded by Lotz and passed by voice vote with Freund, Iftica, Lotz, Dickens, and Hain voting yes.

Hain explained the tentative budget can be changed during the 30-day display time frame if needed and if anyone has any suggestions please call or email. Freund asked about the upcoming elected salaries that will need to be set. He is concerned about the low Supervisor salary. R. Kay and Hain both expressed they do the job for the chance to give back to the community, not for the salary.

Hain stated he has done research about investing in The Illinois Funds, which is a Public Treasurer's Investment Pool with a AAA rating from Moody. He stated there is an incredibly low risk involved and funds are guaranteed by the State of Illinois. Hain believes funds from the Road District and Cemetery Perpetual Care Fund could be placed here safely. There was discussion of fees and monthly reports for the board.

Dickens moved to approve The Illinois Funds as an additional depository, seconded by Lotz and passed by voice vote with Freund, Iftica, Lotz, Dickens and Hain voting yes.

The Township Officials of Illinois 2024 Scholarship Award was not given. There were no recipients or presenters in attendance.

R. Kay stated he has been cutting grass with his own mower, since the Village of Richmond cancelled the IGA that provided for the mowing. He has researched the cost to hire a service, (\$400-500 month) purchase a zero-turn mower (\$4,000-5,000) and the use of a potential broken mower owned by the Road District, currently in the process of being repaired. Dickens volunteered to bring his mower in to also cut, Freund stated the same. R. Kay will check with Gumm the status of parts for the broken mower.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** none

**CLOSED SESSION:** Iftica moved to go into closed session for personnel discussion, seconded by Lotz and passed by unanimous voice vote. 8:40pm.

Iftica moved to leave closed session, seconded by Dickens and passed by unanimous voice vote. 8:45pm.

Lotz moved to accept Paul Hain's resignation letter, seconded by Iftica and passed by unanimous voice vote.

Iftica moved to appoint Ron Kay Supervisor, seconded by Freund and passed by voice vote, with Freund, Iftica, Lotz, Dickens and R. Kay voting yes.

Iftica moved to approve the 2024-25 Officers of Richmond Township as;

Ronald Kay, Supervisor/Treasurer

Kara Lotz, Board Member

Scott Freund, Board Member

Tracy Dickens, Board Member

Kostian Iftica, Board Member

Seconded by Freund and passed by voice vote, with Freund, Iftica, Lotz, Dickens and Hain voting yes.

Dickens moved to appoint Paul Hain as Assistant Supervisor, seconded by Freund and passed with unanimous voice vote.

There was no other business. Iftica moved to adjourn, seconded by Dickens, and passed with unanimous voice vote. 8:50pm

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Township Clerk

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_