

LOCKPORT, ILLINOIS

APRIL 12, 2016

TOWN FUND

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

The Annual Town Meeting was held at Lockport Township High School, East Campus Auditorium Entrance, 1333 East 7th Street, Lockport, Illinois on Tuesday April 12, 2016 at 6:30 PM. The Clerk's office is required to confirm Township residency for all attendees. Present were – See attached list of attendees. The meeting agenda and notice were posted at Crest Hill & Lockport Libraries, City of Crest Hill, Village of Romeoville, Lockport Township High School- East Campus, Central Square Building, the Joliet Herald News, and Township's website (Clerk's section) in accordance by law.

Clerk Rumchak led the pledge allegiance to the flag.

Clerk Rumchak read the Public Notice that was posted on March 23, 2016 in the Joliet Herald News. Clerk Rumchak explained that the venue was changed to accommodate the large number of residents expected to be present.

On a Motion of William Doyle, seconded by Norbert Likar, to nominate Lance McCalla as Moderator of the meeting. Hand raised vote resulted in 39 ayes.

On a Motion of James Louch, seconded by George Rudnicki to nominated John Barbush as Moderator of the meeting. Hand raised vote resulted in 44 ayes. John Barbush was appointed by majority vote.

MOTION CARRIED

Clerk Rumchak administered the Oath of Moderator to John Barbush. Clerk Rumchak confirmed Moderator Barbush had a copy of the agenda.

Moderator Barbush stated Lockport Township relocated the meeting to Lockport Township High School- East Campus Auditorium for the reason that they expected to be over the legal capacity for the Township Hall. Moderator Barbush read his introductory remarks to commence the meeting.

Moderator Barbush asked if any resident wanted to be a spokesman for the opponents. There was no further action taken.

Moderator Barbush asked Barb Delaney to come up to the podium to assist him with the order of Robert's Rule. Attorney Mueller explained to Moderator Barbush that he was out of order and she cannot assist him.

Moderator Barbush asked if any resident wanted to be a spokesman for the proponents. Resident Ken Griffin raised his hand to be a spokesman. Resident Carl Bebrich stated that there is nothing to be for or against at the present time. Moderator Barbush obtained advice from Attorney Mueller and informed residents that opponents and proponents will be addressed during Public Comment.

A motion was made by Resident Ken Griffin and seconded by William Doyle to approve the annual town meeting minutes held on April 14, 2015. Moderator Barbush asked if there is any discussion on the minutes.

Resident Mava Zilka commented for discussion that the minutes are not accurate. Attorney Mueller explained corrections can be made to the minutes for the previous annual town meeting held on April 14, 2015 before approval. Resident George Rudnicki suggested the reading of the minutes.

Moderator Barbush needed to consult with Attorney Mueller on the motions and discussion regarding the dispensing and approval of the minutes.

On a Motion of Ron Alberico, seconded by James McGuffog to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the previous Annual Town Meeting held on April 14, 2015. Moderator Barbush asked if there was any discussion, there was no discussion. Hand raised vote resulted in 62 ayes and 6 nays.

MOTION CARRIED

On a Motion of Ken Griffin, seconded by William Doyle to approve minutes from the previous annual town meeting held on April 14, 2015 as presented. Hand raised vote resulted in 61 ayes and 1 nay.

MOTION CARRIED

Resident Carl Bebrich requested residents to raise their hands if they have seen and read the full Financial Report. There were 12 residents that raised their hands. A resident spoke without the address of the Moderator and stated she was not able to retain a copy of the Financial Report. Moderator Barbush assured the resident there were 150 copies made. Resident Mava Zilka suggested the use of power point to display the Financial Report at the meeting.

On a Motion of Ken Griffin, seconded by William Doyle to dispense with the reading of the Financial Report. Hand raised vote resulted in 53 ayes and 9 nays.

MOTION CARRIED

Resident Carl Bebrich suggested Lockport Township to practice the use of advanced technology to publish the Budget, instead of only being on display at the Clerk's office. He is concerned that residents have not reviewed the town budgets. Clerk Rumchak stated that the report being addressed, is not a Budget that the electors are voting on, but a Financial Report which includes all the Township's expenditures from last year. Clerk Rumchak informed residents that the Financial Report was filed and on display in accordance by law. Moderator Barbush asked how long it needs to be on file. Clerk Rumchak responded two days before the meeting. Clerk Rumchak mentioned to her understanding, reports and minutes cannot be put online until they are approved. Resident Carl Bebrich stated two day availability for the report is not enough time for residents to understand what their government is doing and it is limiting their access to information they are voting on. Moderator Barbush agreed with Carl Bebrich and expressed the reports and minutes can be labeled draft. Resident Al McCowan informed Moderator Barbush that he cannot comment or agree as a Moderator. Moderator Barbush apologized for his statement. Resident Carl Bebrich inquired about reports and minutes being posted as drafts for earlier review. Resident Terry Braodhurst suggested summarizing the Financial Report in all categories.

On a Motion of Al McCowan, seconded by Ken Almond to accept the Financial Report as presented. Hand raised vote resulted in 55 ayes and 10 nays.

MOTION CARRIED

Moderator Barbush opened the floor for Public Comment and reminded residents to wait for the microphone before speaking.

Ken Griffin- Read a sheet labeled Important Facts and Information to the residents (see attached list). He stated Will County intends to build a new courthouse, the Will County Sheriff Department is building a new dispatch center, the Lockport Fire Department is rehabbing fire station #1 and Troy, Frankfort and New Lenox townships have recently built new facilities. He discussed the different options Lockport Township reviewed for renting or buying a building. He stated the Corwins Building would be \$2.5 million to purchase without renovations, land on Renwick and Borio was investigated for \$400,000, the Crest Hill library was examined for \$650,000 with no parking or renovations, Kinetic Systems would cost more in rent per square

foot than the existing facility, Lewis University had no land available, renovation of Central Square's third floor was investigated and the cost would be approximately \$2.5 million plus having to move offices during remodel and shut down the Board Room and the Crest Hill strip mall on Division and Weber was investigated at the cost of approximately 2.5 million just for the buildings. The Township currently rents the third floor of the Central Square Building for \$85,000 a year and since 1979 they have spent over \$3 million dollars in rent. He commented that a building was purchased for the Highway Department for \$550,000 which is approximately \$55 per square foot and the Township paid \$1.1 million dollars for a 25,424 square feet on a 7.24 acre parcel which is approximately \$43.27 per square foot. He explained there is very little impact on the tax bill from their purchase of the new building. He also explained on his tax bill, Lockport Township is less than 2% which would have drastically changed if the Township decided on a different option.

Denise Marynowski- Stated Lockport Township was not going to allow Public Comment until the Board found out it was against the law. She expressed she was just informed of the change of venue and Illinois State Statute of Township Law states the Township Clerk needs to give 15 day notice before the Annual Town meeting. She suggested the location was changed to keep down the attendance and believed the annual town meeting was illegal due to the change in venue to accommodate the large crowd.

George Rudnicki- Agreed with resident Denise Marynowski. He recommended the Township to digitalize all their records in case of a disaster such as a tornado. He expressed the new building would not have been necessary if this was already done and wanted to know when the Township plans on doing so.

Jacqueline Mathys- Mentioned there was an overwhelming response from the people to not purchase property last year and next thing she knew Lockport Township purchased the church without the people's permission. She asked how to change the people on the Board.

Al McCowan- Expressed Lockport Township has been doing a wonderful job. The Township programs provided him with medical equipment when he needed it. He explained the Board acquired a great deal on the new property and it will allow further programs and services for residents.

James McGuffog- Stated residents need to get out and vote to change things.

Sue Bebrich- Commented she lives in a large horse populated area and has spent many years endorsing the environment. She would like to know if the Township can become an advocate to her community of horses.

Dean Morelli- Represented himself as a Trustee of the Board and voted yes for the purchase of the new building. He stated last year at the annual town meeting, he was well aware of electors not wanting Lockport Township to build a new building. Lockport Township was advised to look for a different place to rent or for a constructed building to purchase. He explained when the church became available, there were two meetings held for residents to voice their opinion and only a few residents attended. Lockport Township did not deceive the public. It was a quick sale due to the church wanting to close by the end of the year which saved Township monies by not going through a realtor.

Chris Piazza- Asked Attorney Mueller if the annual town meeting was legal with the short notice change of venue. Attorney Mueller commented yes to the meeting being legal.

Jessica Cannaday- Expressed her concern with the lack of transparency with the Board of Trustees. She stated Illinois Policy Institution scored Lockport Township at 33% transparency. She requested posting the agendas in a timely manner and making better efforts to make information more accessible to residents.

Moderator Barbush read Illinois Statue of Governing Townships Code for notice of meeting and agenda. He asked Attorney Mueller what he was missing.

Attorney Mueller advised Moderator Barbush to review his duties and responsibilities as a Moderator. Moderator Barbush interrupted Attorney Mueller. Attorney Mueller expressed that the Moderator needs to be impartial, not to impart one view or another. If you have an opinion that you want to state, then do not except the position of Moderator. Attorney Mueller has treated all Moderator over the years with the same consistency and transparency. Attorney Mueller commented again that Moderator Barbush is out of order and cannot make his statement.

Carl Bebrich- Stated Moderator Barbush's statement was a question and not as a position. Carl Bebrich believes that Moderator Barbush is not in violation of his current position. He asked Attorney Mueller why the annual town meeting was legal.

Attorney Mueller stated his answer stands as it was before, the meeting is legal.

Carl Bebrich- Asked Attorney Mueller why the meeting is legal because it is not clear to him.

On a Motion of Al McCowan, seconded by William Doyle to close Public Comment Discussion. Moderator Barbush did not respond to the motion on the floor.

Ron Alberico- Represented himself as Supervisor of Lockport Township. He mentioned at the last annual town meeting Lockport Township asked to borrow 3.5 million dollars to build a new Township facility and heard an overwhelming answer of no. Alberico did look further into other options as the residents asked him to do and explained the rejections of each location. Ron Alberico disclosed how the Township was able to save money with previous administrators over the years. The current rental cost of Central Square Building being \$80,000.00 a year and once Lockport Park District ends their contract, the rent will be \$120,000.00 a year due to maintenance cost being spilt two ways instead of three. He reiterated that residents from the last annual town meeting were concerned Lockport Township would raise their taxes. As a result of the Township's purchase of property, resident's tax rate decreased. He thanked the Board for their support with the purchase of the building.

James McGuffog- He stated Lockport can do a lot better than a 33.5% transparency rate as previous stated.

Al McCowan- Expressed once a motion is made, then seconded, there needs to be a vote, not additional discussion.

Electors were speaking loudly out of turn while discussing the motion to close Public Comment Discussion. Al McCowan spoke of Robert's Rule of Order that once a motion is made to close Public Comment and seconded there is a vote, not more discussion or you can vote that motion down and have more discussion.

Moderator Barbush addressed the residents to regain order to the meeting and spoke about the details of the current motion. Attorney Mueller instructed Moderator Barbush that he was out of order and he needs to call the question for the motion on the table. Moderator Barbush expressed to the residents that the motion on the table will end Public Comment. The residents were again unruly. Attorney Mueller articulated again to Moderator Barbush that he is out of order and needs to call the question for the motion.

On a Motion of Al McCowan, seconded by William Doyle to close Public Comment. Hand raised vote resulted in 43 ayes and 43 nays.

MOTION FAILED

Moderator Barbush commented the motion failed and Public Comment was still open to the residents.

Ceon Magosky asked if the Moderator can be replaced. Residents were speaking out of turn without the address of the Moderator, while a resident asked how to determine who is a neutral person to be a Moderator.

On a Motion of Ceon Magosky, seconded by Michael Lewandowski to replace the Moderator with a more neutral person. Comments from the electors:

Pete Delaney- He found the meeting appalling since there was a motion to close Public Comment before all the residents were able to speak. He expressed residents are allowed to voice their opinion at least once a year.

Attorney Mueller announced to electors that their discussions need to pertain to the current motion on the table.

Terry Broadhurst- He expressed the meeting is almost over and being a Moderator is a lot of pressure. He suggested finishing the meeting with the same Moderator.

Moderator recalled the question to change to a more neutral Moderator. Hand raised vote resulted in 12 aye and more than 12 nays.

MOTION FAILED

Cynthia Allison- She expressed she is very thankful for the Board. She wished Lockport Township would be more transparent. The statement from Supervisor Ron Alberico regarding the new property was very informational. This information should have been provided for residents to understand the logic of the Board's decision for the purchase of the new property. She stated residents only want to discuss what is going on in the Township, not take over. She would like the Board to clarify information that is presented to us, for example "rent".

Carl Bebrich- Asked Attorney Mueller to cite the code that applies to why the two day notice is legal when Illinois State Statue Law clearly states 15 day notice.

Clerk Rumchak stated the original notice was posted and published in the newspaper, Township's website, Crest Hill and Lockport libraries, City of Crest Hill, and Village of Romeoville before the 15 day deadline. Clerk Rumchak explained she received many calls to inform her Central Square Board Room will be over the capacity with the residents attending. On Monday April 11, 2016 she called two councils and spoke with the clerk division of TOI (Township of Illinois) to obtain legal counsel if the venue could be changed. She explained the venue had to be changed to accommodate the residents of Lockport Township. Clerk Rumchak said she reached out to the VFW, St. Dennis Church, and Lockport Township East High School to move the meeting to a larger facility. The Board approved the change of venue and the notice was posted as soon as possible on the website, Central Square doors, and Lockport Township East High School door to let the residents know. She appreciated all the suggestions voiced by Lockport Township residents. She commented Lockport Township offices are always open if any resident has a question, comment, or wants to file a FOIA (Freedom of Information Act). She explained the Financial Report has never been online, but will look into it further. Clerk Rumchak apologized if the notice did not make it to residents that were interested in attending.

Carl Bebrich- Stated Clerk Rumchak's information still does not explain if the meeting is legal or not.

Clerk Rumchak commented there is a provision in the Illinois State Statue to accommodate the residents in a safe manner.

Carl Bebrich- He would like to see Lockport Township enhance electronic capabilities so electors of the Township can be informed and make good decisions about how we want to conduct business. Lockport Township needs to become more transparent.

James McGuffog- Mentioned the Board had a whole year to think about where this meeting would take place. Last year there were at least 150 residents in attendance, so why was this not thought of earlier.

Clerk Rumchak- Explained the Board of Trustees prepared the agenda for the annual town meeting. Clerk Rumchak stated this annual town meeting did not include an agenda item to be voted on, so originally why the Lockport Township Board believed Central Square would be able to accommodate the residents. Rumchak received many phone calls the Friday before the meeting of the possible large number of residents that could be present at the meeting. The venue needed to be changed for the reasons stated to accommodate residents and their safety. Clerk Rumchak apologized to the residents. An employee was stationed at Central Square to direct residents to the new venue at Lockport Township East High School.

Johnny Seals- Stated Fairmont has been forgotten about. The Fairmont area does not have very many voters. He would like the Board to consider repaving the streets in this area.

Lance McCalla- Represented himself as Collector of Lockport Township. He explained he was newly appointed to his position and would like residents to attend Lockport Township monthly meeting to address their concerns to the Board.

George Rudnicki- Stated at last year annual town meeting, residents expressed not to buy a building, but to digitalize to save space. He is tired of the Board not doing what residents suggest them to do.

Don Bauer- Explained the new building has already been purchased so next year there will not be a change of venue because Lockport Township will have plenty of space for residents to attend.

Mava Zilka- Commented the next annual town meeting should be at Lockport Township East High School.

Tom Boyce- Expressed the new building will be able to hold 300 plus residents. His wife is Barb Boyce, a Trustee for Lockport Township, and Boyce was aware of the different options the Board discussed for building, renting, or purchasing. He felt the building was perfect and Lockport Township would be wise to buy this building. He stated it is better to spend \$1.5 million then to spend \$4 million, and the Township had the monies on hand to purchase the building

A motion was made by Ken Griffin, seconded by Debbi Mason to schedule the time for the next annual town meeting. Moderator Barbush asked if this now closes Public Comment. Attorney Mueller explained to Moderator Barbush that there has not been a motion to close Public Comment. Ken Griffin withdrew his motion and Debbi Mason withdrew her second.

On a Motion of Norbert Likar, seconded by James McGuffog to close Public Comment. Hand raised vote resulted in 51 ayes and 3 nays.

MOTION CARRIED

On a Motion of Ken Griffin, seconded by Barbara Delaney to schedule next annual town meeting at 6:30 PM. There was discussion with electors. Hand raised vote resulted in 53 ayes and 11 nays.

MOTION CARRIED

Moderator Barbush asked three times if there was any miscellaneous matters as authorized by law. There were no comments or suggestions.

On a Motion of Ken Griffin, seconded by Tom Boyce to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 PM. All ayes in favor.

MOTION CARRIED

JOHN BARBUSH, MODERATOR

DENISE MUSHRO RUMCHAK,
TOWN CLERK