

LOCKPORT, ILLINOIS

MARCH 14, 2016

TOWN CLERK'S RECORD BOOK

TOWN FUND

The Lockport Township Board of Trustees met in the Central Square Board Room 318, 222 East Ninth Street, Lockport, Illinois on Monday March 14, 2016, at 7:14 PM with Supervisor Ron Alberico conducting the meeting.

Present were Trustees John Batusich, Barb Boyce, Michael Lewandowski and Dean Morelli, Collector Lance McCalla, Clerk Denise Mushro Rumchak, Assessor Debbi Mason, Highway Commissioner John Cielenski, Attorney Gary Mueller and Deputy Clerk Michele Rutter. Also present were residents Grant Spooner, filming the meeting, George Rudnicki, Tom Kelley, Mava Zilka and Peter Delaney. The meeting notice and agenda were posted at the Lockport & Crest Hill Libraries, at the Central Square Building, and also on the Township website (Clerk's section) and Board Room door.

On a Motion of Boyce, seconded by Batusich to approve the minutes from the previous regular monthly meeting on February 8, 2016 and the reconvened meeting on February 22, 2016.

MOTION CARRIED

On a Motion of Lewandowski, seconded by Batusich, that all bills and payroll in the amount of \$49,246.70 be allowed and paid. Roll call vote resulted in Alberico Aye, Boyce Aye, Batusich Aye, Lewandowski Aye and Morelli Aye.

MOTION CARRIED

Assessor's Report- Assessor Mason passed out monthly reports for January and February 2016.

In January there were 35 Residential Permits, -0- New Construction (single family), 13 Industrial Commercial Permits, 47 Certificate of Occupancy (residential), 2 Certificate of Occupancy (commercial), 184 Deeds, 87 Green Sheets, 6 Sr. Citizens Homestead Exemption, 2 Sr. Citizen Freeze Exemption, 4 Disabled Person's Homestead Exemption.

In February there were 43 Residential Permits, -0- New Construction (single family), 10 Industrial Commercial Permits, 82 Certificate of Occupancy (residential), 8 Certificate of Occupancy (commercial), 182 Deeds, 89 Green Sheets, 18 Sr. Citizens Homestead Exemption, 2 Sr. Citizen Freeze Exemption, 6 Disabled Person's Homestead Exemption.

Assessor Mason requested Per Diem's for employees for continuing education classes in Bloomington, 5 nights (March 20-25) for 4 employees and 4 nights (March 20-24th) for 1 employee.

On a Motion of Batusich, seconded by Lewandowski to approve 5 night Per Diem (March 20-25) for 5 Employees and 4 Night Per Diem (March 20-24th) for 1 employee for continuing education classes in Bloomington. Roll call vote resulted in Alberico Aye, Boyce Aye, Batusich Aye, Lewandowski Aye and Morelli Aye.

MOTION CARRIED

Clerk's Report – Approval of Annual Town Meeting Agenda to be held on April 12, 2016–

Electors petitioned 4 items to the Township Clerk to be included on the agenda for the Annual Town Meeting as follows:

Discussion and possible action regarding directing the Township Board to seek the assistance of the Office of the Secretary of State of the State of Illinois with regard to updating and optimizing the Township's practices for maintenance, archiving, destruction, and/or transfer of public records from paper to digital format, and all as in accordance with the Local Records Act 50 ILCS 205/1, et seq.

Discussion and possible action regarding final settlement of the monetary judgement levied against Lockport Township in favor of Aqua Service Management Co.

Discussion and possible action regarding the formation of a committee which would be empowered to study and make recommendations regarding the Township's office and meeting room space needs, as well as to perform an evaluation of the services offered by the Township, with such committee to be made up of one member of the Township Board and two persons chosen by the electors (to be known as the "Space Committee"), and such study shall be completed and submitted to the Township Board within ninety (90) days from the April 12, 2016, for consideration and action by the Township Board.

Discussion and possible action regarding directing the Township Board to cease all spending and renovation of the property known as 1463 Farrell Road, Lockport, Illinois 60441, until at least such time as the Space Committee has studied and made its recommendations to the Township Board regarding the Township's office and meeting room space needs.

Clerk Rumchak consulted with Township Attorney Gary Mueller. Attorney Mueller reviewed the request and sent a response letter to Clerk Rumchak and Supervisor Alberico indicating what can be placed on the Township agenda for the Annual Township meeting and those items which cannot. A copy was included in the Trustees meeting packet. Attorney Mueller went on to say, as the Board is aware your duties, powers and responsibilities are very specified, very specific what you can do, if it is not listed then you can't, similarly for the Electors at an Annual Town Meeting, their powers of authority are specifically designated within the statute and if any of those are outside of that, those are not powers of authority that they can ask to be placed on the agenda. Simply put none of the requests fall within those items that Electors can request at the Annual Town Meeting. Some of the items the Board may consider on their own to consider as being things that might be beneficial to the Township as a whole, however they are not items that would then be voted upon and left to the Electors to select at an Annual Town Meeting.

Clerk Rumchak read the Agenda items for the Annual Town Meeting on April 12, 2016, 6:30 PM for the Boards review and approval:

Call the Meeting to order

Pledge

Public Notice – read

Nominations for Moderator

Motion to appoint Moderator

Oath of the Office of Moderator

Approval of Minutes from the previous Annual Town Meeting

Motion to dispense with the reading of the full financial report

A Motion to accept the financial report

Motion to set time for the next Annual Town Meeting

Any other miscellaneous matters as authorized by law

Adjournment

Trustee Lewandowski asked what these requests missed in the Electors petition in order not to make it on the agenda. Attorney Mueller responded they missed the specific authority within the statute to allow the Electors to have that considered at the Annual Town Meeting. For example a decision to have a subcommittee falls solely within the Township Board. If the Township Board decided to form a space committee and how it would be configured, how it would report to the Board, how it would be financially created is something the Board does, it is not within the power of the Electors.

Trustee Lewandowski thinks the people should have a voice and asked if they could go ahead and allow these things. Clerk Rumchak stated that there are 38 items allowed and these requests are outside the perimeters by law. Trustee Lewandowski understood that these requests are outside of that.

Trustee Morelli said the Board had talked about having a building committee previously when the Township considered building a new space and he still feels it's a good idea. Trustee Lewandowski added he thinks it should be amongst themselves, rather than the general population. Trustee Morelli said he knows the public wanted two Electors and possibly a Trustee involved (according to the petition letter) to discuss the building space. Morelli's thought is that it would come back to the Board to decide if it was acceptable or not.

Supervisor Alberico asked if they could vote on the agenda items and then discuss the possibility of forming a committee.

On a Motion of Batusich, seconded by Boyce to approve the Annual Town Meeting Agenda presented by Clerk Rumchak. Roll call vote resulted in Alberico Aye, Boyce Aye, Batusich Aye, Lewandowski Nay and Morelli Aye.

MOTION CARRIED

Clerk Rumchak said 521 participants came to her office for Early Voting. It was a record high for the Primaries. Approximately 75% of the voters were seniors and 25% were under 55. Clerk Rumchak went on to thank her staff and said they did a great job.

Clerk Rumchak reminded everyone that tomorrow (March 15, 2016) is Election Day. Polls are open from 6:00 AM to 7:00 PM. Please call the Clerk's office if you have any questions or need assistance.

Central Square Report – The next Central Square Committee meeting is this Thursday. We are working on the dissolution draft discussed previously. It was drafted in anticipation of the Township moving out of Central Square. It was decided that any remaining monies would be split, however the document has not been signed yet. It is not finalized yet. We are waiting to see when we determine a moving date. The city will be taking over Central Square eventually.

The City has a cleaning service for the building and a maintenance crew for landscaping, snow, snow removal, etc.

The Central Square Committee is considering re-keying the building and replacing windows in the gym.

New Business – Supervisor Alberico is awaiting scholarship reports from the Board. There were 6 applications.

The Spring Newsletter is being printed and should be sent out around March 25th. The Newsletter is very informative and provides a lot of information about the Township programs and services.

Supervisor Alberico attended a TCC (Transportation Corridor Committee) Meeting for discussion about the Caton Farm/Bruce Road Corridor. There was a lengthy discussion about the membership of the Committee. The participants included Township Supervisor's and Mayors from Plainfield, Homer Glen, Homer Township, Lockport, Crest Hill, Will County Engineer and Joliet. It was discussed and determined that representation from Fairmont should be added to the Committee as well. There was a long discussion in reference to the route.

Bruce Gould, Will County Engineer, is setting up a meeting with several Highway Authorities and they will discuss several concerns, cost of redoing environmental studies, routes, costs etc. He will attend the meeting and update the Board. Supervisor Alberico would like to see the bridge get done. Collector McCalla asked where the money would come from. Supervisor Alberico said it would be mostly federal. If studies have to be redone, that may be covered by the affected City.

Fairmont Clean up - Supervisor Alberico spent time in Fairmont on Saturday with a cleanup group. There was a good turnout. Everyone did a nice job. Helpers of Mother Earth is the group that coordinates the project. Next cleanup dates will be held on March 24, 26, April 9, 23, 30th and May 7th from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM.

Supervisor Alberico attended a CDBG meeting. He is on the advisory board. They discuss grant money. Grant monies will be put into Fairmont for flooding cleanup.

Building update- Supervisor Alberico is not opposed to a committee with the public. He would suggest a committee with Board members and public. He asked Trustee Lewandowski if he'd like to be part of that. Lewandowski said he likes the concept. If someone else would volunteer that would be up to them, the final say is left to the Board. Lewandowski when on to say based on all the Boards input it seems like enough to him, but he wants to give the public the opportunity. Alberico responded he does too. If a committee is put together Alberico would like to see one of the Trustees volunteer to be on the committee. Alberico doesn't know if he'd stop all the work on the building while waiting for an answer, I would like to have them come back next month and get together have some meetings and talk about what you think would be a good analysis for this building and if you come up with some good ideas we'd like to hear them, this is the communities (residents) building. Alberico likes the concept of two from the public and one Board member.

Lewandowski added based on legal decision, this does not have to take place, and you are offering it. Attorney Mueller said it is up to the Board to form a committee. The Board has to decide how many people are on the committee and who's going to be on the committee and then open it up to the public. The actual creation is up to the Board if they want to go that route. It's not something you turn to the residents and say you guys come up with the committee and tell us what you want. If the Board decides on 7 people, 2 from the Board, then the public would know there are 5 spots available. Clerk Rumchak suggested a Workshop to discuss further. Supervisor Alberico said he would like to schedule a Workshop on March 28, 2016.

Old Business – 1 Night Per Diem for Officials to attend Topics Day, April 6, 2016, Springfield, IL
On a Motion of Lewandowski, seconded by Batusich to approve a 1 night Per Diem for 2 people for Topics Day on April 6, 2016, Springfield, IL. Roll call vote resulted in Alberico Aye, Boyce Aye, Batusich Aye, Lewandowski Aye and Morelli Aye.

MOTION CARRIED

Supervisor Alberico received a letter from the Township Officials of Illinois inviting our Township to be part of the 75th Anniversary issue of the Township Perspective magazine and requesting support and sponsorship by placing an ad in this keepsake issue. Supervisor Alberico asked if the Board would approve a quarter page ad.

On a Motion of Alberico, seconded by Morelli to approve a ¼ page ad for \$250.00 in the 75th Anniversary issue of Township Perspective magazine. Roll call vote resulted in Alberico Aye, Boyce Aye, Batusich Aye, Lewandowski Aye and Morelli Aye.

MOTION CARRIED

Building Update – Supervisor Alberico got 2 bids for the garage doors and took the lowest bid for around \$8,000.00. He obtained the permits through the City of Lockport. He is meeting with the contractor to register him with the City and will get the doors put in.

Supervisor Alberico went over ideas for the building with Dewberry Architects. He would like to form a committee for possible design plans. Trustee Morelli asked if that could be discussed at the Workshop. Supervisor said yes. Trustee Batusich added he had suggested a Workshop in February. There is a lot to discuss.

Meetings and Correspondence

* The Lockport Chamber of Commerce sent an invitation to the Township for the STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS on April 19, 2016. RSVP's required by April 5, 2015.

* Kankakee County Community Service Inc. Will County March for Meals is having a Mardi Gras Party on Friday, March 18, 2016, tickets are \$35.00. Buffet Dinner and Silent Auction benefit the Nutrition Program of Will County

*Knights of Columbus sent a thank you note for the AED Heart Defibrillator unit the Township donated to them.

*Crisis Line of Will County sent a thank you note for the \$500.00 donation from the Township.

Resident George Rudnicki relayed that he felt the Township Attorney should also represent residents in reference to getting the petitioned items on the Agenda for the Annual Town Meeting. He said the Township was spending money like crazy and paying the Attorney with taxpayer's money, so the attorney should also represent residents.

Supervisor Alberico responded he felt the Board did their due diligence in expending monies properly and being fiscally responsible.

Resident Mava Zilka spoke – Expressed her concerns about the new building and the duplication of senior services offered through organizations. She gave her opinion on the high level bridge going through Fairmont.

Resident Peter Delany spoke 1) Asked if the Township looked at the Crest Hill Public Library as a possible location for Township offices. 2) He asked the attorney the legal reason the Agenda items were not added to the Annual Town Meeting.

The Township did look into the Crest Hill Public library and determined the building would not meet their needs.

Attorney Mueller said as stated earlier the Electors have certain powers of authority and none of them fall into the powers of authority. None of the 4 agenda items put forth fall into Electors Power of Authority. There are at least 38 specific items within the statute none of the 4 provided fall within any of those 38.

Mr. Delany asked for a list of those items. Attorney Mueller responded you can obtain a list through the Township Officials (TOI.com) of Illinois and the Illinois State Statute.

Clerk Rumchak added that the new building was approximately \$50.00 a square foot to purchase.

On a Motion of Lewandowski, seconded by Boyce to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 PM

MOTION CARRIED

DENISE MUSHRO RUMCHAK, TOWN CLERK