

LOCKPORT, ILLINOIS

NOVEMBER 30, 2017

WORKSHOP MEETING

TOWN CLERK'S RECORD BOOK

TOWN FUND

A workshop meeting was held on Thursday, November 30, 2017, 6:30 PM at Lockport Township Government, 1463 S. Farrell Road, Lockport, IL 60441, in the Multi-Purpose Room #127. Supervisor Ron Alberico presiding.

Present were Trustees Gregg Bickus, Barb Boyce, Barbara Delaney and Dean Morelli, Attorney Gary Mueller and Deputy Clerk Jessica Strickland. Also present were: See attendance sheet. Absent were Assessor Debbi Mason, Clerk Denise Mushro Rumchak, Highway Commissioner John Cielenski and Collector Lance McCalla. The meeting agenda was posted at the Lockport & Crest Hill Libraries, Lockport Township Government Building, on the Township website (Clerk's section), and the calendar and also on the Multi-Purpose door.

Items discussed were garbage pickup, an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Lockport for snow removal and the approval to purchase a building maintenance truck.

Attorney Mueller recited the rules and regulations to the residents in attendance in regards to public comment.

Citizens Wishing to Address the Board-

**Delinda Herod**- President of the Fairmont Community Partnership, requested that the Board approve the creation of a referendum for garbage pickup for the Fairmont area and have it place on the ballot for the March election.

**Annette Parker**- Will County Board member, stated there are many options available for unincorporated Lockport Township residents to receive garbage service.

Supervisor Alberico read the Township law for special refuse/recycling programs (60 ILCS 1/210-15). He stated if the Board makes the final decision for garbage disposal, the Township will have to create a new tax levy. Supervisor Alberico stated there are other options available, but these options will not met the County's deadline date to place a referendum on the March election ballot. Attorney Mueller stated there are five options available: To file a petition with as least 1,226 voter signatures minimum to the County Clerk by December 18, 2017 and then the Board would have to certify the ballot question by January 17, 2018 to have it placed on the March election ballot; Pass a resolution by January 2, 2018 and then the Board would have to certify the ballot question to the Will County Clerk by January 17, 2018; Create a Home Owner Association for a specific area and Submit an advisory question (power of the electors at the annual town meeting #31) to the Board to be placed on the agenda for the Annual Town meeting.

A resident asked why the Township, County and garbage company cannot work together to get this taken care of. He commented that this issue keeps getting swiped to the side. Attorney Mueller stated that all the options that are available will require a vote.

**Sylvia Dotson**- Stated everyone is worried about their taxes going up for a service they already have and they do not want to double pay. She asked if the tax increase would affect everyone or just the residents of unincorporated Lockport Township. Supervisor Alberico commented that if the Board puts the referendum on the ballot, only unincorporated Lockport Township residents would receive a tax increase. He explained the problem is that there are unincorporated areas in Lockport Township that already have a garbage disposal service through their home owner association. These areas would be paying double for the same service.

**Delinda Herod**- Stated no resident wants to be taxed twice and asked if there is a better way to write the referendum so those residents will not be affected by the increase. Supervisor Alberico commented that if the Board puts the referendum on the ballot, there will be a tax increase for all unincorporated residents, but if the electors at the Annual Town meeting request to have it placed on the ballot, then the referendum could be written to not include residents who already have garbage disposal.

**Phil Mock**- Reviewed the state statute law and said there are two ways to proceed with this situation: using a tax levy or having the utility contract state that the users of the service will pay the provider directly.

**Annette Parker**- Wondered if raising taxes was the only way the referendum would be placed on the March ballot. Supervisor Alberico commented that is the way he is understanding the law and is not aware of the second option that Phil Mock mentioned.

Trustee Morelli expressed his concern about the referendum not passing for the March election due to the resident's lack of knowledge of the current situation. He would like to find out the number of households that do not have garbage service to have a better understanding of the number of voters that will agree to this referendum.

A resident asked how the Bonnie Brae subdivision managed to get garbage disposal. Supervisor Alberico believes the City of Lockport took over the Bonnie Brae water system because it was an advantage to their water district.

**Annette Parker**- Said she thinks the Township is doing a disservice to the unincorporated residents. She stated they have been waiting long enough and you are refusing to pass a resolution to have the referendum placed on the March ballot.

Trustee Bickus asked Attorney Mueller if the residents file their petition papers could they decide on how the referendum could be written. Attorney Mueller stated yes, but the signatures will need to be filed with the County Clerk by December 18, 2017. There was discussion with the Board.

Attorney Mueller disclosed that the law that Mr. Mock was referring to also states there needs to be an annual budget and an appropriation ordinance.

**Dean Olson**- Will County Solid Waste Director summarized how the City/Village of Homer Glen obtained their contract for garbage disposal. He stated that the County will help the Township with the process to obtain garbage service that is needed for the unincorporated residents. Attorney Mueller disclosed that the City and Village laws are different than the Township.

**Annette Parker**- Commented that the County has helped Wheatland Township.

**Betty Bird**- Stated a referendum that will double tax residents, will not pass. She said Lockport will not help the Fairmont community because it does not provide a benefit for them.

Trustee Morelli commented he appreciates everyone's comments and stated the Board will move forward with this matter.

Attorney Mueller suggested the community to create an association. He stated the association is similar to a home owner association and explained the proper steps.

**Delinda Herod**- Commented that the community of Fairmont will not agree on a home owner association and stated a referendum will have to be placed on the ballot for the March or November elections.

There was additional discussion with the Board on the different options available to the residents of unincorporated Lockport Township for disposal service.

Supervisor Alberico spoke with Ben Benson from the City of Lockport about plowing the Township's parking lot until a vehicle is purchased. The City agreed to service the parking lot as long as an agreement was created stating that the City is not liable for any damage. Attorney Mueller created an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Township and the City of Lockport. There was discussion with the Board and Attorney Mueller. Supervisor Alberico will send the Intergovernmental Agreement to the City for approval.

Supervisor Alberico stated the Township needs a vehicle at the facility for the maintenance men to run errands and to be able to plow the parking lot. There was discussion with the Board.

On a Motion of Alberico, seconded by Boyce to purchase a 2018 Ford F-250 XL at the price of \$26,380.00. Roll call vote resulted in Alberico Aye, Bickus Aye, Boyce Aye, Delaney Aye and Morelli Aye.

MOTION CARRIED

Trustee Bickus stated the Board has not made a decision in regards to the action to be taken for garbage disposal. There was discussion with the Board and Attorney Mueller about the necessary steps needed to present this at the annual town meeting. The Board discussed that at least 15 registered voters will need to submit the request for the agenda item. The Board preferred to have the garbage disposal topic placed on the agenda for the annual town meeting. The Board agreed to let Supervisor Alberico contact the residents of unincorporated Lockport Township and suggest they submit a question for the annual town meeting agenda.

On a Motion of Bickus, seconded by Boyce to adjourn at 7:52 PM.

MOTION CARRIED

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DENISE MUSHRO RUMCHAK, TOWN CLERK