

MEETING MINUTES-BOARD OF TOWN TRUSTEES

STATE OF ILLINOIS }
MCHENRY COUNTY } SS
ALGONQUIN TOWNSHIP }

The board of Town Trustees met at the office of the Township at 3702 Northwest Highway, Crystal Lake IL on Wednesday, December 9, 2015 at 7 PM. The following were in attendance:

Clerk: Charles Lutzow
Supervisor: Dianne Klemm
Trustee: Dan Shea
Trustee: Russ Cardelli
Trustee: Larry Emery
Trustee: Melissa Fischer

Also present: Highway Commissioner Robert Miller, Township Assessor Robert Kuntz, and Township attorney James Kelly.

Dianne Klemm acting as Supervisor and Charles Lutzow acting as Township Clerk, the following business was transacted. The meeting was called to order at 7 PM.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Trustee Cardelli , seconded by Trustee Shea to accept the minutes of the regular meeting held November 12, 2015.

Voice vote: All Ayes

Audit of Bills & Treasurer's Report:

A motion was made by Trustee Shea, seconded by Trustee Cardelli to audit the claims of the Town Fund in the amount of \$99,983.10.

Roll Call: all ayes

A motion was made by Trustee Emery, seconded by Trustee Shea to audit the claims of the General Assistance Fund in the amount of \$14,512.13.

Roll Call: all ayes

A motion was made by Trustee Shea, seconded by Trustee Cardelli to audit the claims of the Road and Bridge Fund in the amount of \$165,610.97.

Roll Call: all ayes

A motion was made by Trustee Shea, seconded by Trustee Cardelli to audit the claims of the Equipment & Building Fund in the amount of \$16,336.72.

Roll Call: all ayes

Audience Participation:

Donna Kurtz, 75 Walkup, Crystal Lake IL, wanted to share info on the Township consolidation. She had some handouts for the Board. She expressed her displeasure that the highest compensated Highway Commissioner in Mchenry County was in Algonquin Township. She also noted that the cost per mile was also significantly higher in

Algonquin Township according to her handout. She also noted that there may be a discrepancy in the roads reported and roads reported as maintained by Algonquin Township.

Cal Skinner, Crystal Lake IL, commented that the next township election may be based on a door to door campaign targeting those residents that are not happy with how much in reserves the Township has and the levy.

Michael Walkup, 5215 Walkup Lane, Crystal Lake IL, does not live in Algonquin Township, but stated there are discrepancies between the charges in Algonquin Township vs other townships in the county. He would like to know the specifics of why the expenses were significantly higher in this township.

Tim Knudsen, 607 Princeton, Crystal Lake IL would like the compensation of all the elected officials in the Township. Supervisor Klemm stated that they were posted on the website. They would make sure they are correct.

Robin Moore, 514 Oakcrest, Cary would like the website updated more often.

Reports:

Supervisor:

We are in the process of updating the website. Trustee Fischer has some ideas. The updates should be complete in a few months.

Trustee:

Trustee Shea reiterated the problems at the Waterway District. They have lost 90% of the sales of the dirt they used to sell. They also may need to tear down the building due to the mold.

Trustee Cardelli, thanked Donna Kurtz for the information. He asked Highway Commissioner Miller about the private non-dedicated roads and the services provided.

Trustee Fischer said that they are trying to get the website friendly and more interactive.

Trustee Emery thanked Donna Kurtz for the info. He stated that they are analyzing the reserves and would like to compare to other townships.

Clerk: Nothing to report.

Highway Commissioner:

Highway Commissioner Miller wanted to clarify some of the footnotes on the handout from Donna Kurtz and that they do not necessarily apply to Algonquin Township.

Miller stated that the 2014 Levy that was paid in 2015, after the redistributing to the cities was \$2,905,588.83. He has analyzed the last 5 years of data and determined that the levy amounts have been used. He pointed out that the asset amount stated in the lawsuit against the Township, not only included reserves, but also all the assets of the Township—buildings, vehicles, property, etc. and that it is a misrepresentation.

The Road & Bridge reserve is about 5.4 months carryover which is necessary because of the slow reimbursement from the State and county. The Equipment and Building is higher because it has the funds for next year's road projects and a building for the snow plows. He stated that Algonquin Township roads are more expensive to maintain because they are mainly city roads that require, curbs, lights, markings, gutters, etc. which are required by the cities. It is much different than a rural road with minimal width and gravel shoulders.

Assessor:

2015 is a general assessment year. The last 5 years due to the real estate mayhem has been a nightmare to all involved in Real Estate and has been nearly impossible to have proper valuations. Bank sales account for about 20% of current sales. The appeal period is going on right now and it has been very busy and the process is very time consuming.

Attorney: Report will be in New Business.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Attorney Jim Kelly provided a section of the Township lawsuit to the Board. His firm is defending 6 of these similar lawsuits in Cook County at this time. Essentially the lawsuit challenges the accumulation of funds by the various governmental agencies. The suit was filed 11/12/15 and they will be Petitioning to Intervene. They are coordinating with the States Attorney. The Plaintiff asked for a new judge and Judge Caldwell was assigned. The first court date is 2/11/16.

The lawsuit challenges the excess accumulation of funds by Algonquin Township. The plaintiffs have comingled the Road District and the Township which is incorrect and has incorporated assets which are misstated as cash reserves.

Trustee Emery asked if there is a best practice formula for reserves. Attorney Kelly has consulted with the Auditor and they said they would've noted in the audit findings if the reserves were excessive.

Trustee Shea asked if there needed to be an aggrieved party in the county to pursue the lawsuit. Attorney Kelly noted there are around 100 individuals or businesses listed on the lawsuit which are consolidated. They are allowed to file if there is a minimum of 1 property owner in Algonquin Township.

Supervisor Klemm asked for a motion to adopt the Algonquin Township levy for the tax year 2015 collectable in 2016 for \$1,800,380. A motion was made by Trustee Shea, seconded by Trustee Cardelli.

Trustee Cardelli asked if the levy has been reduced by \$100,000. Supervisor Klemm said the funds had been moved to a different fund to address the septic or if we need to join the Cary sewer system. She stated that the levy is flat.

Trustee Emery commented that the General Assistance has been steady. Trustee Emery asked if 13 months of reserves for the Town Fund is too high.

Trustee Shea pointed out about the unfunded mandates coming out of Springfield that can come at any time and also the lawsuit at hand. Insurance doesn't cover everything.

Supervisor Klemm pointed out that the levy was reduced last year and feels a flat levy is necessary this year.

Roll Call Vote:

Shea: Y

Cardelli: N

Fischer: Y

Emery: N

Klemm: Y

Supervisor Klemm asked for a motion to adopt the Algonquin Township Road District Levy for the tax year 2015 collectable in 2016 for \$4,048,990. A motion was made by Trustee Shea, seconded by Trustee Cardelli.

Trustee Cardelli feels we have the best equipment and a lot of equipment. He would like to see a massive reduction in the levy. Trustee Emery would like to see a 10% reduction and would like to keep equipment longer and would like to see an apples to apples comparison to other road districts. Trustee Sanchez pointed out that the appropriations don't always match the levy.

Highway Commissioner pointed out that the appropriations don't necessarily mean anything until the budget is compiled. The levy needs to be looked at as an overall picture.

Roll call vote :

Shea: Y

Cardelli: N

Fischer: N

Emery: Y

Klemm: Y

Motion to Adjourn by Trustee Shea, seconded by Trustee Cardelli at 8:24 pm. Voice Vote: All ayes

Charles Lutzow

Algonquin Township Clerk

Approved:

Date: