

DON GRAY

CAPITAL TOWNSHIP CLERK

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MINUTES

CAPITAL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

OCTOBER 11, 2022

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The Capital Township Board of Trustees met in the County Board Chambers, 2nd floor County Building. Trustee Carlson led them in the Pledge of Allegiance. The following members answered to roll call: Joe Aiello, Brad Carlson, Ken Leonard, and Tammie Rockford. Bernadette Gordon came in late at 12:03 p.m. Joe Roesch was present as Legal Counsel. Mark Crawford and Josh Sabo were also present.

A motion was made by Trustee Carlson, seconded by Trustee Leonard, to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Upon a roll call vote, there were 4 Yeas - 0 Nays for approval of the minutes.

A motion was made by Trustee Leonard, seconded by Trustee Carlson, to approve payment of the Supervisor/Collector/General Assistance Administration Expenditures, in the amount of \$750.00. Upon a roll call vote, there were 4 Yeas – 0 Nays - 1 Present. Trustee Gordon voted Present.

A motion was made by Trustee Carlson, seconded by Trustee Rockford, to approve payment of the Township Clerk/Township Assessor’s Administration Expenditures, in the amount of \$2,166.71. Upon a roll call vote, there were 5 Yeas – 0 Nays.

A motion was made by Trustee Carlson, seconded by Trustee Leonard, to place the FY2023 Budget on file for 30 days in the Town Clerk’s office. Upon a roll call vote, there were 5 Yeas – 0 Nays. Supervisor Aiello stated they would bring the budget back next month for approval.

NEW BUSINESS

Supervisor Aiello stated Josh Sabo is present to update them on the strategic plan for homelessness in Springfield and Sangamon County. It has been an ongoing discussion for many years and what they have now is their best path forward. One of their items in the annual budget is \$250,000 for the homeless initiative.

Josh Sabo with Heartland Continuum of Care addressed the Town Board to give an update on the Homeless Strategic Plan. They have a steering committee made up of Chairman Van Meter, Mayor Langfelder, hospital representatives, and people who have experienced homelessness. They are going to take all the information they have compiled, look at their local data, and put together a plan to address homelessness, and ultimately get to what they call functional zero. Functional zero is the new golden standard for communities as they seek to address homelessness. That means within 30 days of a person experiencing homelessness, they want to connect them with supportive housing opportunities. Right now, the average in their community is close to 90 days. In order for them to get from where they are now to where they want to be in five years, it is going to take a tremendous amount of work, new energy, and a focus on what really works. What is reflected in the plan is what they believe it will take to get to functional zero by January 2028.

There are four key strategies. The first one is the idea of working together to address homelessness. They are hoping to create a completely different structure for how this issue is addressed in our community. The primary group is the Heartland Continuum of Care Board. What they are advocating for is enhancing that board by creating a new group solely focused on strategy. They will be looking at data on a monthly basis to know how many people are experiencing homelessness, how many are exiting homelessness, and how the system is working and not working. Capital Township will have a role on that strategy board that will hopefully get put together in the next month. Another key part of this is system leadership to create an entity and staff that will provide leadership on the issue of homelessness moving forward. Strategy 2 is about housing opportunities. Right now, they have about 230 housing opportunities and have over 1,100 people over the course of a year who are connected to our homelessness system. Over the course of five years, they aim to create 765 new housing opportunities annually. Strategy 3 is looking at the resources they currently have available and how to make them better. Another key piece is building a diversion strategy to create an additional safety net to keep families in their housing before they become homeless. Strategy 4 is about increasing their partnerships with mental health providers, hospitals, and foster care. It is all about how they build better bridges from one system to another to make sure people don't end up homeless through those transitions.

They will soon have a final version of the plan for you. They are asking the County Board to adopt the plan as their strategy to address homelessness. They are asking City Council to do the same. They would love for Capital Township to review the plan and formally adopt it to address homelessness. The City and County have both expressed interest in matching each other and providing 40% each to create that backbone organization.

They have put together a budget of \$625,000 to support six staff people, training, conferences, and cost of doing business as that entity. They are asking Capital Township to provide the remaining 20%, which would be \$125,000. Another key place they are trying to build out is the flexible housing and support subsidy pool. They hope to pull together over \$1 million granted out to organizations to create new housing programs. They are asking the County, Capital Township, the City, and other partners to help.

Trustee Carlson asked how this would work with what they passed several months ago. Supervisor Aiello stated that was the Washington Street Mission. Mr. Sabo stated that is something different.

Trustee Rockford asked if the number 1,100 is broken down by the number of women, children, and men. Mr. Sabo stated that 90% of the people in the system are single households with most of them being single men.

Trustee Carlson asked if on any one day is there 75 to 100 people on the street in summer and if in the winter the number goes up. Mr. Sabo stated that HUD mandates them to do a one-time count every year. Typically in the last week of January. This year it was 264 in their community. In the last five years, they had numbers as high as 320. This includes everyone in shelters, in transitional housing, and people on the streets and in their cars. Realistically where they are at is around 264 to 300 people.

Supervisor Aiello asked if the community foundation would be a part of this. Mr. Sabo stated they would put together a needs list and will share that with all their donor advised funds. They will try to create some other education as well in hopes of getting some of the donors advised of where their dollars go.

Trustee Gordon asked if the community foundations are places like churches. Mr. Sabo explained they would be different family units that put money to the foundation and the interests off that is given to charitable causes. They have reached out to different choices on this.

SUPERVISOR'S UPDATE

Supervisor Aiello stated he would continue spending time with various groups that Josh works with to find out what their needs are. We continue to see an uptick in homelessness in certain areas. Some of the things they do at the General Assistance office has helped to prevent homelessness. There may be a gap they need to work on. He has asked Justine in that office to provide them with a proposal on how they can enhance their services to keep up with inflation and other increases. He will have her report to you in the coming months.

Clerk Gray announced that the Capital Township Assessor's office would soon be moving over to the Sangamon South building during renovations of the county building. They will provide more details as they get them.

ADJOURN

A motion was made by Trustee Carlson, seconded by Trustee Leonard, to adjourn the meeting to November 14, 2022 at Noon. Upon a roll call vote, there were 5 Yeas – 0 Nays.

Don Gray
Town Clerk