

DON GRAY

CAPITAL TOWNSHIP CLERK

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MINUTES

CAPITAL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

JULY 12, 2022

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The Capital Township Board of Trustees met in the County Board Chambers, 2nd floor County Building. Supervisor Aiello led them in the Pledge of Allegiance. The following members answered to roll call: Joe Aiello, Brad Carlson, Bernadette Gordon, Ken Leonard, and Tammie Rockford. Mark Crawford and Joe Roesch were also present.

A motion was made by Trustee Carlson, seconded by Trustee Rockford, to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Trustee Gordon requested clarification on what exactly the Supervisor/Collector/General Assistance Administration and Township Clerk/Township Assessor’s Administration Expenses were for last month. Supervisor Aiello explained the Supervisor expenditure was the monthly retainer fee for legal services from Stratton & Reichert Law firm. Clerk Gray stated his expenses were for continuing education, mileage reimbursement and office supplies. Upon a roll call vote, there were 5 Yeas - 0 Nays for approval of the minutes.

A motion was made by Trustee Carlson, seconded by Trustee Leonard, to approve payment of the Supervisor/Collector/General Assistance Administration Expenditures, in the amount of \$7150.00. Upon a roll call vote, there were 5 Yeas – 0 Nays.

A motion was made by Trustee Rockford, seconded by Trustee Carlson, to approve payment of the Township Clerk/Township Assessor’s Administration Expenditures, in the amount of \$726.13. Upon a roll call vote, there were 5 Yeas – 0 Nays.

HOMELESS INITIATIVE UPDATE

Supervisor Aiello introduced Josh Sabo who is the Coordinator for Heartland Continuum of Care. Mr. Sabo reported that they are in the final stages of the draft process of the strategic plan. Later this week the steering committee will look at the draft, approve it and will then be sent out for further community conversations and listening sessions. In August or September,

they should have a plan in place. They have continued to be aware of the gaps in the community. One of the things they hope to do through the strategic planning process is to build capacity across organizations throughout the community.

Brad Lovin from the Washington Street Mission addressed the board. He's been there since January of this year. Over the past six months, they've tried to focus on how to build community among those who really don't have a community. Belonging is what someone needs to feel before they're willing to better themselves. They've seen significant increases in their regular numbers. In the last three months, they've seen an average of 120 people a day during the three hours of operation they have. They've given out over 7,000 items of clothing, provided over 1,000 showers and have completed over 880 load of laundry. In their space now, they regularly have other agencies coming to take part. Memorial Behavioral Health is there three or four days a week. Salvation Army case workers have been there and they have been in discussions with Helping Hands. On July 12, they will have seven agencies in their building doing a Community Fair which they will start offering on a monthly basis. Hopefully this week or next, they are going to be doubling their hours of service. They will be open from 12:30 – 3:30 pm in the afternoons as a cooling center but will also begin a jobs program which will include life, job and everyday skills mentoring. His goal is that ten people will invest in the jobs program with all its components over the course of a year. They are seeing that if people feel like they own a space and belong somewhere it is a lot easier to move that group of people in the direction you'd like to move them in.

Mr. Lovin would like to bring the experts to the table and work together for our city and invite others from the community to do that. They are not the experts in everything. They are trying to cultivate the soil by removing rocks and weeds so that when those that come in to plant the seeds they will be successful.

They are also challenging organizations to help impact the roots of homelessness in the community by engaging in childhood literacy programs rather than just literacy among homeless folks. They need to impact the addiction, the literacy and those issues early before they get to the point of where individuals slip into homelessness. They are trying to provide a place where people belong and connect them to the folks that can make a difference.

Traditionally they have never taken public funding. They believe there are many people in the public sector that are good partners that also want to demonstrate that they are part of the picture. They have put a proposal together that are asking businesses, churches and individuals for funding so they are able to take part in their mission.

Supervisor Aiello met with Mr. Lovin and let him know that Capital Township has a homeless initiative line item. He also reached out to Josh Sabo and asked if this was the right program to help and does it fit into the plan that is being studied. Mr. Sabo assured him it was. Mr. Aiello met with County Administrator Brian McFadden and the County is willing to help as well. Washington Street Mission is looking for \$80,000. Supervisor Aiello proposes that they put in 1/3 of that amount with other groups like the County and churches matching that.

Supervisor Aiello sees structure and discipline at the facility. He's introduced Mr. Lovin to individuals at the General Assistance Office with the hopes of getting some of their workfare employees over there. This is an opportunity to work hand-in-hand with the Washington Street Mission. Mr. Aiello stated that this is a good effective program that is helping people change their lives.

Trustee Rockford asked if people bring their families in there or children under 18. Mr. Lovin stated that no they do not except on clothing day, when women will bring their children in for clothes. They used to have a children's program but have shied away from that due to legal issues and other concerns.

Trustee Gordon had a question about when the plan would be put in place. Mr. Sabo stated that he will be seeking to get the plan adopted by the County Board and the City Council. Those conversations will most likely take place in August or September. The draft will be available this month to allow for further community comment and input before it is adopted.

Trustee Gordon stated that she would like to hold something to allow the community to hear about Capital Township and what they offer. She would like to do an event to allow the community to become more involved and letting them know what's going on with the homeless. She proposed bringing some of the homeless in to hear about the strategic plan.

Trustee Carlson made a motion to provide \$30,000 toward expense of the Washington Street Mission. Trustee Leonard seconded the motion. Trustee Gordon inquired about the amount and how it would affect their daily operations of providing rental assistance and anything else of that nature. Supervisor Aiello stated that the funding will come out of a separate line item. It is money that is set aside for projects of this nature. It will have no effect on their daily operations. Aiello added that the best thing this could do was get someone off the street and they could then come see them for rental assistance. It is definitely a separate line item.

Supervisor Aiello asked for a roll call vote on the motion to provide \$30,000 toward expense of the Washington Street Mission. Yeas were Aiello, Carlson, Leonard and Rockford. Nay was Gordon.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADJOURN

A motion was made by Trustee Carlson, seconded by Trustee Rockford, to adjourn the meeting to August 8, 2022 at Noon. Upon a roll call vote, there were 5 Yeas – 0 Nays.

Don Gray
Town Clerk