

MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF THE CITY
OF BLOOMINGTON TOWNSHIP
September 23, 2013

The Board of Trustees for the Town of the City of Bloomington Township met in the Council Chambers of City Hall Building at 6:31 P.M. on September 23, 2013.

The meeting was called to order by Trustee Renner and the following were present:

Trustees: Karen Schmidt, Scott Black, Jim Fruin, Rob Fazzini, Mboka Mwilambwe, Judy Stearns, Kevin Lower, David Sage and Tari Renner.

Trustee Absent: Jennifer McDade.

Also present were Staff: Renee Gooderham, Chief Deputy Town Clerk; Deborah L. Skillrud, Township Supervisor, Mike Ireland, Township Assessor and Steve Scudder, Township Assessor elect.

Absent: Tracey Covert, Town Clerk.

The Minutes of August 26, 2013 Public Hearing and Regular Session were presented.

Motion by Trustee Schmidt, seconded by Trustee Black that the reading of the Minutes August 26, 2013 Regular Session meeting be dispensed with and approved as presented.

Motion carried, (viva voce).

The audit for the General Town Fund and the General Assistance Fund and Request for Payment were presented for August 2013.

Motion by Trustee Schmidt, seconded by Trustee Black, to approve the audits as presented and place on file.

Ayes: Trustees Stearns, Fazzini, Schmidt, Mwilambwe, Fruin, Sage, Black, Lower and Renner.

Nays: None.

Motion carried.

The anticipated expenditures were presented.

Motion by Trustee Schmidt, seconded by Trustee Black, to approve the anticipated expenditures.

Ayes: Trustees Stearns, Fazzini, Schmidt, Mwilambwe, Fruin, Sage, Black, Lower and Renner.

Nays: None.

Motion carried.

Presentation: Gene Lorch, President, Board of Trustees of Evergreen Memorial Cemetery.

Deborah L. Skillrud, Township Supervisor, introduced Gene Lorch, President, Pam Eaton and Amelia Buragas, Board members, Trustees of Evergreen Memorial Cemetery.

Mr. Lorch addressed the Board. He cited the mission statement. He cited four main goals for Evergreen Memorial Cemetery: 1.) maintain the natural beauty; 2.) maintain the historic significance; 3.) continue as the final resting place for the needy and 4.) continue to increase nontaxable revenue. He provided a historical overview. He stated that there were two (2) cemeteries. The private cemetery consisted of eighty-seven (87) acres. It was combined with the old City cemetery in 1962. It was the final resting place for Adlai Stevenson I, Adlai Stevenson II and David Davis. There were Spanish/American and Civil War Veteran Memorials. The cemetery was home to one of the largest "Avenue of Flags" display. Flag Day is held yearly through July 4th. Each flag represents a deceased veteran. The family provides partial funding for the flag and pole. A plaque notes the name, rank and war service. He noted that the mausoleum contains a chapel.

Mr. Lorch noted non tax revenue had doubled (see Statistics slide, line 6). The last increase to the tax levy was 2011. He cited the five to ten (5 – 10) year plan. He requested assistance in promoting the cemetery as a product. He defined the product as in ground graves, crypts and niches for the cremated remains.

Trustee Fazzini believed the Cemetery was beautiful. He noted the yearly Cemetery Walk held.

Trustee Fruin believed the Cemetery was taken for granted. He noted articles had been written about other cemeteries in disrepair. He thanked Mr. Lorch and staff.

Trustee Sage and Lower echoed Trustee Fruin's comments.

Deborah L. Skillrud, Township Supervisor, addressed the Board. She noted the dates of the Cemetery Walk.

Mike Ireland, Township Assessor, addressed the Board. He provided a verbal report. Property assessments had been mailed. He noted the following: 1.) new residential construction added \$16 million; 2.) residential improvements added \$1.1 million and 3.) new commercial added \$10.7 million to the assessment base. The taxable base increased \$2 million and the exempt decreased. The Equalized Assessed Value (EAV) decreased by \$6.4 million. The tax

base was increased by \$27 million. He explained after the Township completes processing the information was sent to the McLean County Supervisor of Assessment's Office. It was anticipated that through the Board of Review, assessments would decrease to \$19 million. The last day to appeal was October 21, 2013.

He noted that assessed value had grown since 2002. It was controlled by residential and commercial properties.

He reminded the Board that the tax levy process would begin soon. He explained that the tax rate was driven by the assessed rates and amount of the levy. A public act in 2013 increased the Senior Citizen Exemption from \$3,500 to \$5,000. He anticipated zero growth.

Trustee Renner opened the meeting to Public Comment. No one came forward to address the Board.

Motion by Trustee Fazzini, seconded by Trustee Stearns to adjourn. Time: 6:56 p.m.

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Renee Gooderham
Chief Deputy Town Clerk