

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
CITY of BLOOMINGTON TOWNSHIP

Tuesday, April 12, 2011
6:00 p.m.

City Hall Council Chambers
109 East Olive Street, Bloomington, Illinois

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order: Tracey Covert, Town Clerk
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Introduction of Town Officers
- IV. Nominations for Moderator
- V. Election and Swearing in of Moderator
- VI. Remarks by Moderator on Conducting the Meeting
- VII. Approval of Minutes of 2010 Annual Town Meeting
- VIII. Reports
Supervisor: Joe Gibson
Assessor: Michael W. Ireland
- IX. Public Comments
- X. Setting of time for Next Annual Town Meeting
- XI. Other Business
- XII. Adjournment

TOWN OF THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON TOWNSHIP
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
APRIL 13, 2010

The Meeting was called to order by the Town Clerk, Tracey Covert. She asked that everyone rise and join her in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The Town Clerk announced that the nominations for Moderator would be in order.

Motion by Ruth Ann Sikora Fraker, seconded by Randy Hoffman, that David Stanczak be nominated as Moderator.

The chair called for further nominations from the Floor. There were no further nominations.

Motion by Randy Hoffman, seconded by Ruth Ann Fraker that David Stanczak be elected Moderator by acclamation.

Motion carried.

The Chair announced that Dave Stanczak had been elected as Moderator.

Dave Stanczak came forward and was given the Oath of Office as Moderator by the Town Clerk.

Mr. Stanczak opened the Town Meeting. He referred to the Annual Town Meeting Agenda. The meeting would be conducted in compliance with the Open Meetings Act. The Annual Town Meeting Agenda was approved by the Township Board at their March 22, 2010 meeting.

He stated that it was a privilege and honor to serve as Moderator. He enjoyed serving in this role. He noted that Joe Gibson was the newly elected Township Supervisor. He added that Mike Ireland, Township Assessor, was absent. Mr. Ireland had undergone surgery. There would not be a formal report this evening.

The Moderator directed the Town Clerk to read the "Notice of the Annual Town Meeting."

Tracey Covert, Town Clerk, read the Notice as published.

The Moderator requested all present to sign in. Records prepared for the Annual Town Meeting were available.

Town Clerk, Tracey Covert, presented the 2009 Annual Town Minutes.

Motion by Karen Schmidt, seconded Randy Hoffman, that the minutes be approved as presented.

Motion carried.

Mike Ireland, Township Assessor, had prepared a written report entitled 2009 Annual Report on Property Assessments.

Joe Gibson, Township Supervisor, welcomed those present. He acknowledged the City of Bloomington's elected officials who were present, (Steve Stockton, Karen Schmidt and Steven Purcell). These individuals also served as the Township's Trustees. He also introduced the Township staff present from the Assessor's Office and the General Assistance Office. The Township had excellent staff and was a wonderful place to work. Financial statements for both the Town Fund and General Fund had been prepared. These reports had not been subject to audit. He presented the Annual List of Meetings.

Mr. Gibson reviewed what services Township government provided: 1.) General Assistance; 2.) Property Assessment; and 3.) Road and Bridge Maintenance. He noted that the City Township was a coterminous urban township. Its boundaries match the City of Bloomington. The City Township has no road and bridge responsibility. There were only twenty (20) coterminous townships in the state.

Mr. Gibson addressed the General Assistance (GA) program. This program provided assistance to families and individuals. Orientation sessions began in October 2004 have been continued to date. He described these sessions as informational. The idea for orientation sessions was copied from the state's Office of Rehabilitation Services. Individuals are given a folder during the thirty (30) minute meeting. Orientation was held four times a week.

He reviewed the Types of Assistance. The monthly grant was \$265. This amount was set. The individual had a choice of how to use these dollars. Vouchers can be issued and there are also benefit cards. Hair Masters offers hair cuts to GA clients for \$5. GA provided medical, dental, and vision services. GA operated like an insurance policy. The GA staff must determine eligibility. He noted that medical services can be very expensive. The medical service providers must accept the public aid rate. Emergency Assistance is offered. An individual is eligible once every twenty-four (24) months. The individual must present an eviction notice or a utility shut off. There were additional allowances to assist GA recipients with employment.

He presented figures for the average cost per recipient for FY 2008 (\$377), FY 2009 (\$411), and FY 2010 (\$398). The average cost included medical costs and transportation. Information was provided regarding the number of GA recipients by quarter and annually for FY 2008, FY 2009 and FY 2010. He noted that the numbers were down. He cited the impact of extended unemployment. He noted that the numbers of SSI applications had increased. However, these cases were being processed faster.

Mr. Gibson presented GA Fund Expenditures for the past three (3) fiscal years. The data was presented in a bar graph chart. He noted that GA expenses must be paid (statutory

requirement). He added that GA costs had declined. This trend was related to the number of clients and staff's effort to determine eligibility.

Mr. Gibson introduced Ruth Ann Sikora Fraker, his predecessor.

Mr. Gibson addressed Scott Health. There was an intergovernmental agreement between the City and Township. The Township managed this program as part of the GA Office. This program worked with low income workers who do not have health insurance. The GA Office also partners with other governmental units. He cited the McLean County Health Department as an example to address vision issues.

He cited challenges as a new Township Supervisor. He noted the impact of the state's finances. He cited the closure of ODC (Occupational Development Center). The McLean County Center for Human Services had stopped providing intake services. He noted GA clients' needs for counseling/therapy.

Mr. Gibson addressed Community Agency funding. There were three (3) key areas: 1.) General Assistance Client Service Funding; 2.) Youth Services; and 3.) Senior Services. Dollars budgeted for ODC were used to establish a counseling grant with the Center for Human Services. This was the third year for the YWCA's transportation to work program. There was a match grant with the Baby Fold. The Bloomington Day Care Center provided day care services to low income employed families. He also addressed senior services.

The primary goal of GA was to have recipients return to work. The GA Office provided a variety of classes in collaboration with a variety of service providers. GED classes would continue to be a requirement. The work program had been hindered by the loss of ODC. The GA Office worked with local agencies. GA clients were working less hours and spending more hours searching for work.

Jack Porter, 1405 W. Locust St., addressed Mr. Gibson. He addressed a situation that GA applicants may be confronting. Individuals trapped by debt from pay day lenders. Mr. Gibson did not believe this situation was typical. He acknowledged that some individuals were in horrible financial shape. He cited the high fees charged for income tax preparation for individuals with limited income as an example.

Mr. Porter questioned foreclosures. Mr. Gibson had seen some GA cases which included foreclosure.

Mr. Porter questioned if there would be changes to the Scott Health program in light of federal health insurance reform. Mr. Gibson responded affirmatively. The impact of this legislation would not impact the Township until 2014. He was unsure of the impact upon the Scott Health program. He was unsure of what the physicians would accept. He cited the vision program as an example. Mr. Porter expressed his belief that the state would have a larger responsibility for health care. Mr. Gibson noted that there had been little direction to date from the state.

Mr. Porter questioned wages and hours for GA recipients. Mr. Gibson noted the number of individuals. Most worked ten to thirteen (10 – 13) hours per week. Employment was one condition of eligibility. However hours tended to be limited.

Ms. Sikora Fraker, 16 Prairie Vista Ct., addressed Mr. Gibson. She complimented Mr. Gibson as he filled the role of Supervisor. She believed that he was performing well on behalf of the Township and Scott Health.

~~Mr. Stanczak thanked Mr. Gibson and Mr. Ireland (although absent) for their service to the Township.~~

Mr. Stanczak noted that the next Annual Town meeting would be held on Tuesday, April 12, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.

Motion by Randy Hoffman, seconded by Steven Purcell to hold the Annual Town Meeting on Tuesday, April 12, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.

Motion carried.

Motion by Randy Hoffman, seconded by Guy Fraker to adjourn. Time: 6:31 p.m.

Motion carried.

Tracey Covert, Town Clerk