

**Minutes – Board of Town Trustees
March 20, 2014**

STATE OF ILLINOIS
Crawford County
Town of Robinson

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES met at the Robinson Township Office at 6:00 p.m. February 20, 2014. The following official business was transacted. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Larry McCoy. Clerk Vickie Gribben then called the roll.

PRESENT:	Larry McCoy	Township Supervisor
	Vickie Gribben	Township Clerk
	David Lachenmayr	Township Highway Commissioner
	Shirley Berry	Township Trustee
	Lori Hodge	Township Trustee
	Pat Richards	Township Trustee
ABSENT:	Sue Roberts	Assessor
	Greg Wolfe	Township Trustee

Persons from the public attending the meeting were as follows: Stan Mullins, Becky Taylor, Janie Thackrey, Lacey Whipkey, Gary Wilson and Matthew Wilson.

Item 3, Pledge of Allegiance.

Item 4, Public Comments. There were none.

Under Item 5, Mr. McCoy asked if the trustees had any questions or changes concerning the minutes of the February 20, 2014 regular Monthly Board Meeting. There being none, Pat Richards made the motion, seconded by Shirley Berry, to approve the minutes as written. Motion carried with vote as follows: Shirley Berry-yes; Pat Richards-yes; Lori Hodge-yes; Larry McCoy-yes.

Under Item 6A, the Supervisor's report, Mr. McCoy referred the trustees to the monthly account balances for the month of February 1, 2014 to February 28, 2014. Chairman McCoy read the beginning and ending balances for the Total Town Money Market and the Total Road and Bridge Money Market. He asked if there were any questions. There were none.

Under Item 6B, the Highway Commissioner's report, Mr. Lachenmayr told the trustees that the road crew had been busy working on gravel roads and noted that all of them were now in "pretty good shape." Mr. Lachenmayr stated that the crew is now working on filling the potholes on the blacktop roads. He said it would be a busy summer because a lot of roads have been damaged by the freeze and thaw. The crew is also working with the County on trimming trees. He noted that he would need to haul in more gravel, the small gravel #16, for chip and sealing. He plans on chipping and sealing seven miles of road. He had hoped by the coming Monday, he could unpost the roads. He concluded by saying it would be a busy summer doing a lot of repair.

Under Item 6C, Assessor's report. Mr. McCoy dispensed with the assessor's report as she was absent.

Item 7A, Continued Business, Bids for mowing of the outlying cemeteries. There were three bids. Chairman McCoy opened the bids. The bids for mowing the outlying cemeteries were as follows:

- **Denny Noblit:** Newlin Cemetery—\$85.00; Davis—\$25.00; Kirk—\$140.00; Davis—\$25.00; and Robinson Old—\$180.00. **Total \$455 per mowing.**
- **Maddal mowing:** Newlin Cemetery—\$145.00; Davis—\$40.00; Kirk—\$145.00; Davis—\$40.00; and Robinson Old—\$255.00. **Total \$625 per mowing.**
- **Eric Wells:** Newlin Cemetery—\$250.00; Davis—\$40.00; Kirk—\$250.00; Davis—\$60.00; and Robinson Old—\$400.00. **Total \$1000.00 per mowing.**

Chairman McCoy asked Lacey what Robinson Township paid last year and she said it was \$500.00 per mowing for all the outlying cemeteries. Mr. McCoy said the low bidder this year is Denny Noblit and asked if anyone knew him. Lori Hodge responded that she knew him, that he does Prairie Cemetery and he does a good job. She continued, “I’m sure he does others, but I know for a fact he does Prairie...His dad was Hershel Noblit. He did it before he passed away, and then Denny took over the business in Oblong.” Mr. McCoy responded, “He does the Oblong Cemetery too?”

Chairman McCoy said, “Thoughts.” Lori Hodge said, “I would feel comfortable recommending going with him.” Mr. McCoy said, “You would?” She replied, “Um Hm.” Pat Richards said, “I’ll second that.” Mr. McCoy responded that Ms. Hodge didn’t make a motion. Ms. Hodge said, “I’ll make the motion.” Mr. McCoy said he would like to have a discussion before proceeding because he “was not familiar with him.” He asked, “What did you think of the job that was done last year...by the other, by Maddal?” Shirley Berry asked, “How much difference is there?” Mr. McCoy said, “...\$170.00 difference.”

Mr. Richards responded, “I’d think the guy that does the Oblong Cemeteries....” Ms. Hodge said, “Like I said, he does Prairie and that’s where my dad’s buried and my grandparents are buried...he does a good job out there.” Mr. McCoy asked, “Does he do anything else?” Ms. Hodge responded, “Besides cemetery work? I mean, he digs graves, and he does the whole thing. That’s what they do...that’s their business.”

Chairman McCoy asked Stan Mullins, cemetery sexton, if he knew anything about him. Stan said he didn’t know him. Mr. McCoy asked Ms. Hodge how long he had done Oblong Cemetery. She responded that she had no idea. She said that Mr. Noblit is from Oblong and that she knew for a fact that he does Prairie. Mr. McCoy asked how big a cemetery Prairie is. Mr. Lachenmayr compared it to Kirk Cemetery. Mr. McCoy asked if he had anyone who works with him. Ms. Hodge said she knew of at least one son who helps him. Mrs. Berry asked how many workers the other gentleman, who had the cemeteries last year, has helping him. Stan Mullins responded “Three most of the time.” Ms. Hodge said she could not say how many employees he (Denny Noblit) has. Mr. McCoy said that it really doesn’t matter how many employees the business has. The job has to be “more than just satisfactory....It has to be good.”

Mr. McCoy stated that Cloudy Roy had worked last year when there was so much rain and any time Mr. McCoy would call him, Cloudy would come and make sure that the cemetery was mowed. He responded that what he is really concerned about is if Mr. Noblit can keep up “if it happens again this year.” He continued by describing Cloudy as a “known commodity” to him and that when the cemeteries “don’t look good, we hear about it and really, really quick.” Mr. McCoy said that he was

“inclined to stay with Cloudy.” The difference in the bids is not that much and “still nowhere near what we were paying before...It’s still a very reasonable rate.” He said Cloudy “uses his head” and would delay mowing to avoid rutting the cemeteries and would not cut too closely, “scalp it to where the grass died.” He concluded by saying that there is a motion on the floor. Mr. Lachenmayr interjected that “he (Denny Noblit) does do a good job out there.” Mr. McCoy said that Mr. Noblit did not enclose proof of insurance with his bid. More discussion followed with Lori Hodge amending her motion to stipulate that the Township accept Mr. Noblit’s bid as long as he provides proof of insurance. Pat Richards seconded the motion. Motion carried with vote as follows: Pat Richards-yes; Lori Hodge-yes; Larry McCoy-no; Shirley Berry-yes.

Chairman McCoy directed that Mr. Noblit be contacted and make sure he has insurance. Mr. McCoy then explained why he voted no. He stated, “He” (Cloudy) “had done the best job I’d seen for a long time...and I’m a firm believer...and I think I’ve demonstrated that I like to watch how the taxpayers’ dollars are spent...and nothing against this guy” (Denny Noblit) “...but Cloudy has demonstrated what he will do and I will tell you...I’m ultimately responsible and if he” (Denny Noblit) “doesn’t do a satisfactory job, he won’t remain doing it...that is, if I can get Cloudy to come, but that may not happen.”

Item 7B, Continued Business, Bids for a mini track hoe excavator. Mr. McCoy stated that they had gotten several bids. He asked Stan Mullins to make the presentation and give his preference. Stan Mullins said he would like to see the Township purchase the Caterpillar 303.5E. The hydraulics on it are heavier, and it will lift more. It has a piston pump which lasts two to three times longer than gear pumps and puts out more volume and pressure when lifting. Caterpillar will throw in a three year warranty. He said it is a higher price machine. At this point, Mr. McCoy asked Stan to explain what has been bid and what is included in the bid. Mr. Mullins listed the bids as follows:

- Caterpillar 303.5E \$41,265.00
- Case \$37,946.00
- Wacker Neuson \$40,400.00
- Kubota \$39,463.00
- John Deere \$29,785.00

Mr. Mullins said the John Deere is “quite a bit cheaper but is a lot smaller machine. It will not be able to pick up near as much as what the Caterpillar will or the others.” Mr. McCoy asked Stan to remind the trustees why the cemetery was considering the purchase of the track hoe. Stan responded that it would pick up the stones more easily and safely when the crew was resetting foundations. Mr. McCoy said the Township spent \$11,000 for resetting 36 stones in Robinson New Cemetery by Effingham Monument. He asked Stan, “You said thought you could realistically per year reset?” Stan said, “realistically, 75, depending on the weather and everything.” Pat Richards asked, “Can you use this to dig graves and stuff with too...assist?” Stan said “Yes, it will be one of the other reasons we’re getting it...” Lori Hodge asked, “What is the difference in the weight that can be lifted between the John Deere and the Caterpillar?” Mr. McCoy passed the bids to the trustees to look through the specifications. Stan responded, “The Caterpillar 303.5 is capable of lifting an 8 foot machine 5,160 pounds. The John Deere can lift 2,450 pounds...”(The difference is) “almost twice as much.” Ms. Hodge asked on average what a cemetery stone would weigh. Mr. Mullins replied said some stones easily weigh 3000 pounds. Mr. Richards asked if the bids all included cabs. Mr. Mullins said none did; he didn’t ask for a canopy because he didn’t want to be in a heated or air-conditioned cab when the crew was outside in the weather. He said, “If I’m going to be out there with them, I’m going to be just as cold or as hot as they are.” Mr. McCoy asked how much a cab would be. Mr. Mullins said he never priced them, then said, “They’re anywhere from a thousand to two thousand more.” Gary Wilson, a member of the public,

asked if the cab had a turn table tilt. Mr. Mullins said, that for the money, he didn't think he needed it. The track hoe he tried out for a while had one, but he found he didn't need the turn table tilt.

Mr. McCoy asked Mr. Mullins to go over the pricing again and include the hydraulic breaker or jack hammer.

- Caterpillar 303.5E \$49,082.00
- Case \$44,424.00
- Wacker Neuson \$46,878.00
- Kubota \$44,132.00
- John Deere \$33,985.00

He reiterated that while all the bids included a one year warranty, Caterpillar would throw in a three year warranty.

Mr. Wilson said he thought that Stan should price a heated and air conditioned cab because the man sitting on the track hoe would get colder more quickly than the crew on the ground working.

Mr. McCoy said the track hoe would be in next year's budget as the Township is at the end of the 2013-14 fiscal year budget. He said that all of the cemeteries have stones that are in need of resetting, most with no living relatives to take care of the resets. Mr. McCoy concluded by stating that the piece of equipment should pay for itself in three to four years. Mr. Richards asked Mr. Mullins if the Cat would get in to all the places the smaller track hoes could. Stan Mullins replied that there is only 8 inches difference in size.

Mr. McCoy asked if there was further discussion. Mr. Richards said he would get the cab with air conditioning. Mr. McCoy said he would make the motion to purchase the Cat with air conditioned cab not to exceed \$2000, stating that it doesn't hurt to negotiate. Mr. Richards asked for more discussion. Mr. McCoy said, "Go ahead." Mrs. Berry suggested amending the motion to \$55,082.00 to give Mr. Mullins a leeway of \$6000 for negotiation. Mr. Richards seconded. Motion carried with vote as follows: Lori Hodge-yes; Larry McCoy-yes; Shirley Berry-yes; Pat Richards-yes.

Item 8A, New Business, Town Budget Transfer/Adjustments. Chairman McCoy asked Lacey Whipkey, bookkeeper, to go over the needed transfers in the town budget line items. Lacey listed the different budget items and necessary transfers and the reason the line item went over budget. Lori Hodge made the motion to make the town budget transfers and adjustments. Larry McCoy seconded. Motion carried with vote as follows: Larry McCoy-yes; Shirley Berry-yes; Pat Richards-yes; Lori Hodge-yes.

Item 8B, New Business Road Budget Transfer/Adjustments. Lacey Whipkey went over the road budget items. Pat Richards made the motion to make the requested transfers and adjustments in the road budget. Larry McCoy seconded. Motion carried with vote as follows: Shirley Berry-yes; Pat Richards-yes; Lori Hodge-yes; Larry McCoy-yes.

Item 8C, Mr. McCoy requested a motion to adopt the regular monthly board meeting schedule for April 2014-March 2015 and stated the customary meeting night is every third Thursday of the month. Lori Hodge made the motion to adopt the schedule and Shirley Berry seconded. Motion carried with vote as follows: Shirley Berry-yes; Pat Richards-yes; Lori Hodge-yes; Larry McCoy-yes.

Item 8D, Reminder that the Annual Town Meeting is April 8, 2014 at 6:00 P.M. at the Robinson Township office.

Item 8E, Adopt Annual Town Meeting Agenda. Mr. McCoy referred the trustees to the agenda and moved to adopt the agenda as presented. Pat Richards seconded the motion which carried with vote as follows: Pat Richards-yes; Lori Hodge-yes; Larry McCoy-yes; Shirley Berry-yes.

Item 8F, Approval for purchase of new John Deere mowing tractor for highway department. Mr. McCoy asked Dave Lachenmayr to explain the details. Mr. Lachenmayr told the trustees that he wanted to trade in a 1999 New Holland 110 tractor that is completely worn out. He said "It has done a good job over the years but it's just done." He has obtained state bids so he doesn't have to do the bidding process. The county has purchased one about a month ago that is "size wise and horsepower" what the highway department needs. It is a John Deere 6140D with cab. List price is \$78,361.00 but with government discount price will be \$59,554.36. Trade in on the New Holland will be \$17,500.00 which brings the cost for the tractor to \$42,054.36. He said the tractor is dual purpose meaning it plows in the winter and mows in the summer. He concluded that it is 140 horsepower. He asked if there were any questions. There were none. Larry McCoy moved to approve the purchase. Shirley Berry seconded. Motion carried with vote as follows: Lori Hodge-yes; Larry McCoy-yes; Shirley Berry-yes; Pat Richards-yes.

Item 8G, approval to sell 10' John Deere Batwing mower for highway (excessive equipment). Mr. Lachenmayr asked for permission to put it out for bids to be opened at next month's meeting. He said it's really rough, but the gear box is still together. He has a couple of dealers interested in bidding on it. Lori Hodge moved to sell the mower. Shirley Berry seconded the motion which carried with vote as follows: Motion carried with vote as follows: Larry McCoy-yes; Shirley Berry-yes; Pat Richards-yes; Lori Hodge-yes.

Item 9A, Shirley Berry moved to approve payment of Town, G.A., and Payroll bills. Larry McCoy seconded the motion. Motion carried with vote as follows: Larry McCoy-yes; Shirley Berry-yes; Pat Richards-yes; Lori Hodge-yes.

Item 9B, Larry McCoy made a motion to pay the Road District bills. Shirley Berry seconded the motion. Motion carried with vote as follows: Shirley Berry-yes; Pat Richards-yes; Lori Hodge-yes; Larry McCoy-yes.

Item 9C: Lori Hodge made a motion, seconded by Larry McCoy, to pre-approve payment of Elected Officials for the time period of March 21, 2014 through April 17, 2014. Motion carried with vote as follows: Pat Richards-yes; Lori Hodge-yes; Larry McCoy-yes; Shirley Berry-yes.

Item 10: Shirley Berry made a motion, seconded by Lori Hodge, to pay per diem. Motion carried with vote as follows: Lori Hodge-yes; Larry McCoy-yes; Shirley Berry-yes; Pat Richards-yes.

Before the meeting adjourned, Pat Richards said he wanted to discuss the continuing education program he and Dave Lachenmayr attended on March 7, 2014 in Effingham, Illinois. He said, "It was really, really a good meeting. They came out and gave us a lot of information...stuff like that. And it came up on committees...if you wanted a committee or something like that...Say like if we wanted to form a committee and two or three guys want to go with Stan and debate...or something...look up this equipment...stuff like that, then, at that time, you can have up to three people on that committee. Even

though you're all voters, it's just that one item you're looking into and it will be brought up, right? Wasn't that what he said?"

At this point, Dave Lachenmayr, who attended the meeting with Mr. Richards, agreed. "That's what he said."

Mr. Richards continued, "So there are times when you can beat the process as far as...how many can attend the meetings...together, actual voters, and, in the case like that when you've got a committee, you can do it, as long as the only discussion you're doing is the piece of equipment or whatever you're doing....It was just amazing what they came up with this time that they never talked about before....So I suggest, anytime you get a chance, try to attend one....I've been to three or four of them already....and I got the most out of this one...."

Mr. McCoy thanked him for the input.

Item 11: Adjourn Meeting: Motion carried with all in favor voting aye.

Meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie Gribben
Township Clerk

Larry McCoy
Township Supervisor