

**Minutes – Board of Town Trustees**  
**February 19, 2015**

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
Crawford County  
Town of Robinson

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES met at the Robinson Township Office at 6:00 p.m. February 19, 2015.

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
	Sue Roberts	Township Assessor
	Shirley Berry	Township Trustee
	Lori Hodge	Township Trustee
	Pat Richards	Township Trustee
	Greg Wolfe	Township Trustee

The Pledge of Allegiance was then recited.

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

Under Item 4, Approval of minutes of January 15, 2015 regular monthly board meeting, Mr. McCoy asked if the trustees had any questions or changes concerning the minutes. There being none, Pat Richards made the motion, seconded by Shirley Berry, to approve the minutes for the meeting as written. Motion carried with vote as follows: Shirley Berry-yes; Pat Richards-yes; Lori Hodge-yes; Greg Wolfe-yes; Larry McCoy-yes.

Under Item 5A, the Supervisor's report, Mr. McCoy referred the trustees to the balances of the Township Accounts and noted that the interest rate has remained the same—3/10ths of a percent—on the CD's at the First Robinson Savings Bank. He then referred to the intergovernmental agreement Robinson Township has with Oblong, Prairie, Licking, Montgomery, and Martin Townships to do the General Assistance paperwork and the total done for the fiscal year to date. He mentioned the letter from Mr. Bryan Smith, Executive Director of the Township Officials of Illinois which is sponsoring its 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Township Topics Day in Springfield on Tuesday, May 5, 2015. The event is an opportunity for "township officials...to meet with legislators and others in the State Capitol to discuss matters that concern all townships...." He asked for members wishing to attend to let him or Lacey know. He asked if there were any questions.

Pat Richards asked if there were a way to get better interest rates on the Township money. He said he had received a letter from State Farm offering something like 1.5 percent. He offered to bring it in for Mr. McCoy to read. Mr. McCoy said, "Do." Lacey Whipkey, bookkeeper, said she calls and when she mentions "government" she gets a different rate. FRSB has maintained the same rate and the others were lower. Chairman McCoy said he had considered other options, but that he'd heard horror stories of

governmental agencies that had invested in other things and lost it all. He concluded that he knew the interest they were receiving was not a lot of money. He then went on to the next report.

Under Item 5B, the Highway Commissioner's report, Mr Lachenmayr said that the road crew had come in twice at 4 a.m. because of the weather which this morning was 17 degrees below zero. The crew had trouble getting the equipment going and when they did they had problems, a flat tire, a popped cylinder, and a popped hydraulic hose. The snow was powdery and light and easy to push but drifted back on the roadway quickly. He concluded he was ready for spring.

Under Item 5C, Assessor's report, Sue Roberts said she was going to attend her required continuing education classes in Effingham and drive back and forth. One class is in May and one in July. Concerning her assessment work, she said she has talked to a lot of people and has found that "people in Crawford County are very nice to deal with....It's kind of nice to live here...." Mr. McCoy agreed and asked if there were any questions.

Under Item 6A, under New Business, Pool Fund, Mr. McCoy introduced Mike Shimer, City Parks Director, who told the Board that the City Council has voted to renovate the swimming pool which was built in 1955 and opened in 1956. The pool is used yearly by 20,000 to 25,000 people and is typically open 80 to 90 days. One improvement will be redo the entire filtration system and to install a heater system. The pool holds 256,000 gallons of water. The original pool opening stays the way it is and will have a liner, a sprayed material, put on the existing pool with tile on the guttering system. It will never need to be painted again. Two larger intertwined water slides will replace the existing one. Mr. Shimer passed the photographs of the remodel. He said a splash grounds will be added which includes a pirate ship, 26 feet long, 23 feet high, and 8 feet high, with water cannons where families can take small children. The pirate ship will cost \$94,000. The cost of the water park with splash area is over \$300,000. The big thing the pool remodel will do is to serve as a family vacation site. The entire project is in excess of \$900,000. Mr. McCoy asked if the water would be softened to save on the equipment. Mr. Shimer said, "No, it's your city water." He said the heater is \$20,000 and would add more days of activity. He said the park is a big draw, especially the baseball fields and the pool, and provides over 60 summer jobs. He said two grants had been written but he had not gotten either one. The city has found a way to fund most of it, some coming from tourism money. He said donations at this point are at \$42,000, and he is looking for any help he can find. Shirley Berry asked if the kiddy pool would still be there. Mr. Shimer said it would. Events are being added, the latest being a Power in the Park in May. He listed the other activities the parks hold, barbecue cook offs, fish fry, baseball tournaments, weddings, and said the pool is a highly used facility. People come from out of town, shop and eat here, have even bought a car while attending a tournament. Before leaving, he thanked the trustees and said he would appreciate any donation.

Chairman McCoy said there is a \$5000 line item budgeted for community relations that could be given to the pool project. After discussion, Shirley Berry moved to donate \$5000 to the renovation of the pool. Lori Hodge seconded. Motion carried with vote as follows: Pat Richards-yes; Lori Hodge-yes; Greg Wolfe-yes; Larry McCoy-yes; and Shirley Berry-yes.

Under Item 6B, New Business, Approval to Advertise for Bids for Mowing the Outlying Cemeteries, Robinson Old, Kirk, Newlin, Davis and LaMotte Minnick: Greg Wolfe made the motion to go out for bids and Lori Hodge seconded. Motion carried with vote as follows: Lori Hodge-yes; Greg Wolfe-yes; Larry McCoy-yes; Shirley Berry-yes; and Pat Richards-yes.

Under 6C, New Business, Discussion of Joint Taxing Body Appraisal Fee Funding Agreement. Chairman McCoy asked Sue Roberts to discuss what Marathon had been appraised for its EAV, estimated assessed value. Mrs. Roberts referred the trustees to page 4 which shows the percentage that Robinson Township and Robinson Road District would have in interest in tax money. The next page shows the proposed Marathon 2014 EAV posted by the Crawford County Assessor Hope Weber: \$199,897,952. Going down that same page shows the previous appraisal in 2008 which was locked in place until 2013. This year's proposed appraisal would hold for one year. Mrs. Roberts noted the assessment then, \$163,609,000 and now, \$156,000,000 (Marathon Appraisal submitted in 2014 EAV Appeal) which would be a decrease of \$7,609,000 if Marathon's appraisal submitted on appeal is accepted.

The purpose of the meeting the different Taxing Bodies attended on January 29, 2015 was to discuss how to proceed with negotiations. She said that Marathon built a new office building and a new lab, but one of the things Mrs. Roberts said she learned was that anything that Marathon builds that has pollution control attached to it is not taxable. At this point, Chairman McCoy asked how much the MAP unit cost that removes benzene from the gas—probably hundreds of millions. Mr. Wolfe concurred.

Mrs. Roberts stated that she thought Crawford County Assessor Hope Weber had done a good job in determining Marathon's 2014 EAV. Assessor Roberts said that no one in our area, possibly within the State of Illinois, is trained to assess a refinery, maybe four or five companies nationwide. The Funding Agreement has retained Whitt Law LLC to provide legal services for the Taxing Bodies listed on page 3 of the Funding Agreement. She said the public hearing from the Board of Review is coming up quickly. She said our board must decide if we want to participate along with the other Taxing Bodies in paying our share of the overall cost for appraisal services. For Robinson Township that would be 3.15 percent and for the Road District it would be 3.68 percent. Chairman McCoy said that appraisal fees are estimated at \$100,000 but that does not include legal fees. He said that money has been budgeted, \$2500 in the Town Budget and \$3100 in the Road, that can be used and, if necessary, money can be moved from another line item to cover remaining costs.

Mrs. Roberts said that if Marathon has an appraisal and if we don't have one, we have nothing to stand on. She said she did not know which other Taxing Bodies had agreed to participate. Mr. McCoy said the Hospital Board met and agreed pending approval of the document by their attorney. The Airport Authority has met. The County Board is meeting tonight. Basically the school board is "on the hook" for the amount if we participate or don't participate. She concluded that this assessment will only be for one year. Pat Richards moved to participate in the funding agreement with the other Taxing Bodies in Crawford County. Greg Wolfe seconded. Motion carried with vote as follows: Greg Wolfe-yes; Larry McCoy-yes; Shirley Berry-yes; Pat Richards-yes; and Lori Hodge-yes.

Under Item 7A, Lori Hodge moved to approve payment of Town, General Assistance, and Payroll bills. Greg Wolfe seconded. Motion carried with vote as follows: Larry McCoy-yes; Shirley Berry-yes; Pat Richards-yes; Lori Hodge-yes; and Greg Wolfe-yes.

Under Item 7B, Pat Richards made the motion to approve payment of Road District bills. Larry McCoy seconded. Motion carried with vote as follows: Shirley Berry-yes; Pat Richards-yes; Lori Hodge-yes; Greg Wolfe-yes; and Larry McCoy-yes.

Under Item 7C, Shirley Berry made a motion, seconded by Lori Hodge, to pre-approve payment of elected officials for the time period of February 20, 2015 through March 19, 2015. Motion carried with

vote as follows: Pat Richards-yes; Lori Hodge-yes; Greg Wolfe-yes; Larry McCoy-yes; and Shirley Berry-yes.

Under Item 8, Shirley Berry made a motion, seconded by Greg Wolfe, to pay per diem. Motion carried with vote as follows: Lori Hodge-yes; Greg Wolfe-yes; Larry McCoy-yes; Shirley Berry-yes; and Pat Richards-yes.

Under Item 9: Mr. McCoy asked if there were any comments from the public. There were none.

Under Item 10, Mr. McCoy called for a motion to adjourn the meeting: Motion was made by Shirley Berry and seconded by Lori Hodge. Motion carried with all in favor voting aye. Meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Vickie Gribben  
Township Clerk

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Larry McCoy  
Township Supervisor