

**Minutes – Board of Town Trustees  
May 21, 2015**

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
Crawford County  
Town of Robinson

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES met at the Robinson Township Office at 6:00 p.m. May 21, 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
	Sue Roberts	Assessor
	Shirley Berry	Township Trustee
	Lori Hodge	Township Trustee
	Pat Richards	Township Trustee
ABSENT:	Dave Lachenmayr	Township Highway Commissioner
	Greg Wolfe	Township Trustee

Persons from the public attending the meeting were as follows: Brian Bradbury, Sandy Hyde, Sharon McCoy, Becky Taylor, Leon Taylor, Janie Thackrey, Lacey Whipkey, and Matthew Wilson.

Item 3, Pledge of Allegiance.

Under Item 4, Mr. McCoy asked if the trustees had any questions or changes concerning the minutes of the April 16, 2015 regular Monthly Board Meeting. There being none, Pat Richards made the motion, seconded by Lori Hodge, to approve the minutes as written. Motion carried with vote as follows: Larry McCoy-yes; Shirley Berry-yes; Pat Richards-yes; Lori Hodge-yes.

Under Item 5A, the Supervisor's report, Mr. McCoy read the beginning and ending monthly account balances from April 1, 2015 to April 30, 2015. He noted the interest rate has remained the same on the Certificate of Deposits at First Robinson Savings Bank. Mr. McCoy stated that \$240.00 has been received for assistance cases done in April 2015 for the other townships. \$1373.20 has been disbursed for the fiscal year for General Assistance and \$300.00 for Emergency Assistance for April 2015.

Under Item 5B, there was no Highway Commissioner's report as Mr. Lachenmayr was attending his daughter's wedding.

Under Item 5C, Assessor's report, Sue Roberts stated that she completed 15 hours of continuing education last week and has 15 hours more to complete in July. She is also going to attend the legal update June 10<sup>th</sup> at Rend Lake.

Item 6A, Discuss and finalize method for financing proposed new Highway Dept. Building. Mr. McCoy said Mr. Lachenmayr had mentioned at the March 2015 meeting that he had spoken with First Robinson's Savings Bank and was quoted an interest rate of 2 ½ percent. Mr. McCoy said he wasn't sure if he remembered the interest rate correctly. Other board members thought it might have been 3 percent. (At the March meeting minutes, Mr. Lachenmayr said that a ten year loan from FRSB would be 2 ½ percent.) Mr. McCoy noted that the rate was still below what everybody else was getting.

Mr. McCoy then said discussion was made about the possibility of the Township financing the building and charging an interest rate on the loan. He opened the matter for discussion and said that the board needed to come to a decision on the issue. He said he had researched the issue and found that the rule of thumb was that the Township should have on hand an amount that is twice the amount needed to fund the Township's operating expenses for a year. He referred the trustees to the expense sheet that Lacey Whipkey, Township bookkeeper, had prepared for each fiscal year starting in 2009-2010 through 2014-2015. Mr. McCoy noted that the average total expense for the last 6 years has been roughly \$480,000. He said as of today, 5/21/2015, we have \$800,000 in the Total Town Money Market Fund which is not even one time operating expenses if there were a catastrophe or emergency of some kind. He stated that Mr. Lachenmayr has budgeted \$400,000 for the construction of the highway building. If the Township were to loan the highway department even the \$280,000, it would put the township at a severe disadvantage in the event of an emergency. Roughly \$500,000 is spent annually to operate and if another \$300,000 were loaned to the highway department for the building, that would leave the Township only \$100,000 or less to operate.

Mr. McCoy asked the trustees to keep in mind that the budget is made for the coming year and is different from the levy in that the levy is where you determine how much you are going to tax people on their property to fund the budget. What we're going to receive this year was levied last year in December.

He concluded, "Having said that, I'll just state plainly that I'm not for appropriating funds from the Town Fund for the building. The board has already decided to build the building, and I think Dave has received assurance from one banking institution that they'll fund it....and my opinion is that's the way to go. I don't want to....run us so short...that we don't have the money to operate on...that's my take."

Mr. Richards commented that if it says legally the Township has to have two years of operating expenses in the funds, we can't do it, because there isn't that amount in the funds.

Mr. McCoy responded by stating he did not want to give the impression that it says by statute that there has to be that amount. He continued that the courts have found that if the Township appropriates an amount of two times or more in the budget, we have to reduce the levy because we're keeping too much money in the budget. He concluded by stating that is why he has tried to run a fairly tight ship.

Mr. McCoy asked if there were other comments. Mr. Richards stated that there are other places one could use the money, i.e. for equipment or a building, if there were an excessive amount, but there is not an excessive amount in the budget.

Mr. McCoy referred the trustees to their Laws & Duties Handbook which says a capital fund or savings account could be established by the Highway Commissioner. Ms. Hodge said that would take quite some time. Mr. Richards noted that construction costs could increase during that time.

Mr. McCoy called for a motion. Mr. Richards made the motion that the Highway Commissioner secure financing from a lending institution. Shirley Berry seconded the motion. Motion carried with vote as follows: Larry McCoy-yes; Shirley Berry-yes; Pat Richards-yes; and Lori Hodge-yes.

Item 7A, New Business, Town Funds Tentative Budget for fiscal year 2015-2016, (\$675,160 Budgeted). This is \$108,781 less than last year's budget. Final action is to be taken at the June 18, 2015 meeting. Mr. McCoy requested a motion to set the Town Budget hearing for 5:30 P.M., June 18, 2015. Lori Hodge made the motion and Pat Richards seconded. Motion carried with vote as follows: Shirley Berry-yes; Pat Richards-yes; Lori Hodge-yes; Larry McCoy-yes.

Item 7B, New Business, Road Funds Tentative Budget for fiscal year 2015-2016, (\$1,243,783 Budgeted) This amount is \$240,823 more than last year's budget. Final action is to be taken at the June 18, 2015 meeting. Mr. McCoy requested a motion to set the Road Budget hearing for 5:45 P.M., June 18, 2015. Lori Hodge made the motion which was seconded by Shirley Berry. Motion carried with vote as follows: Pat Richards-yes; Lori Hodge-yes; Larry McCoy-yes; Shirley Berry-yes;

Item 7C, Reappoint Rebecca Taylor as FOIA officer. Pat Richards made the motion which was seconded by Shirley Berry. Motion carried with vote as follows: Lori Hodge-yes; Larry McCoy-yes; Shirley Berry-yes; Pat Richards-yes.

Item 8A, Pat Richards moved to approve payment of Town, G.A., and Payroll bills. Shirley Berry seconded the motion. Motion carried with vote as follows: Larry McCoy-yes; Shirley Berry-yes; Pat Richards-yes; Lori Hodge-yes.

Item 8B, Lori Hodge made a motion to pay the Road District bills. Larry McCoy seconded the motion. Motion carried with vote as follows: Larry McCoy-yes; Shirley Berry-yes; Pat Richards; Lori Hodge-yes.

Item 8C: Shirley Berry made a motion, seconded by Lori Hodge, to pre-approve payment of Elected Officials for the time period of May 22, 2015 through June 18, 2015. Motion carried with vote as follows: Shirley Berry-yes; Pat Richards-yes; Lori Hodge-yes; Larry McCoy-yes.

Item 9: Shirley Berry made a motion, seconded by Lori Hodge, to pay per diem. Motion carried with vote as follows: Pat Richards-yes; Lori Hodge-yes; Larry McCoy-yes; Shirley Berry-yes.

Item 10: Public Comments. There were none

Item 11: Lori Hodge made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Larry McCoy seconded. Motion carried with all in favor voting aye.

Meeting adjourned at 6:19 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

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Vickie Gribben  
Township Clerk

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Larry McCoy  
Township Supervisor