

MINUTES - BOARD of TOWN TRUSTEES

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TYPE OF MEETING HELD: Regular

LASALLE COUNTY,

SS.

TIME MEETING BEGAN: 5:00pm

TOWN of BRUCE

TIME MEETING ENDED: 5:21pm

The May 11, 2016 meeting of the Bruce Township Board of Trustees opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Highway Commissioner John M. Barton and Assessor Mary Sullivan were in attendance. Trustee Steve Biroshik was absent. The meeting was conducted by Mr. Henry Araujo as chairman and recorded by Clerk Sheryl Sedlock.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING'S MINUTES:

The first order of business was to read and approve the minutes from the April 12, 2016 Regular Meeting. Assessor Sullivan asked that a correction be made to the Supervisor's Committee Report to remove the phrase "sponsored by the Lion's Club" following the reference to the annual Senior Expo. No other clarifications or corrections were identified.

MOTION MADE BY: Trustee Jerry Christensen

2nd BY: Trustee Bob Harrison

That the minutes of the April 12, 2016 Regular Meeting be approved once the correction to remove the phrase "sponsored by the Lion's Club" has been made. No further discussion was required.

Aye's: 4

Nay's: 0

Motion: Carried

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There were no public comments raised at the meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT/APPROVAL OF BILLS

A summary of the bills was distributed for review.

MOTION MADE BY: Trustee Randy Baumrucker

2nd BY: Trustee Harrison

That the bills be allowed and paid.

No further discussion was required. Clerk Sedlock took the roll call vote:

Trustee Bob Harrison: Aye

Trustee Jerry Christensen: Aye

Trustee Randy Baumrucker: Aye

Trustee Steve Biroshik: Absent

Supervisor Henry Araujo: Aye

Aye's: 4

Nay's: 0

Motion: Carried

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

SUPERVISOR'S:

Supervisor Araujo did not have any items to report on for this meeting.

HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER'S:

Highway Commissioner Barton gave an update on the progress being made on the re-enforcement of the embankment of the east end of Marilla Park Road along the creek bed to help slow down the erosion of the embankment. He has been acquiring 6'x2'x2' cement blocks which will be placed 2 high along the base of the embankment at the water's edge and then fill dirt will be put in place and supported by the cement blocks. The City of Streator will be supplying the fill dirt. There was a brief discussion on how much dirt the township will be able to get from the City of Streator and, if there is any extra dirt not needed for this project, where it will be stored for future use. Highway Commissioner Barton will continue to keep the board informed of the progress.

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Highway Commissioner Barton shared that he is looking into whether he and his department need to be certified for spraying weeds. It has not been required in the past but, if such certification is available, he will pursue getting the training and certification.

Highway Commissioner Barton gave an update to the board on some calls he has been receiving concerning water in the ditches along Pine Tree Avenue. He noted that there have been drainage issues in that area for many years. He has informed the residents that he is responsible for maintaining and repairing the roads. The water is not on the roads and the purpose of the ditches is to keep water off the roads. So there are no plans to do anything at this time. However, he is in contact with the City of Streator concerning a possible repaving and storm sewer project they may be planning in that area and will investigate if anything may be able to be done by the residents to reduce their drainage problem.

ASSESSOR'S:

Assessor Sullivan reported that in February 2016 about 1,200 Homestead Exception letters were mailed to the residents of Bruce Township. Of those, there were 165 that were not filed by the May 1st due date. Her office has sent out reminder letters suggesting that the remaining residents get them filed by June 7th. She and her staff will be in the office on Tuesday and Thursday mornings to assist residents. During the rest of the week, they are out doing their field work for changes and new construction for the year.

TRUSTEE'S:

No reports were given.

OTHER:

There were no other reports presented.

REPORTS BY SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

HEALTH BOARD:

Supervisor Araujo shared with the board that the 611 W. 3rd Street property, of which the health board has been following up on complaints concerning, was featured in an article in the May 5th edition of The Times. In the article the owner, Douglas Johnson, indicated that he had not been contacted or made aware of any issues with this property. Clerk Sedlock was asked to pull the file and shared with the board that Mr. Johnson had been sent 2 letters via the United States Postal Service dated July 30, 2014 and May 28, 2015 and had not received a response. However, work had been done on the property in between the two dates which the Health Board had attributed to the letters. Reports on the efforts to get this issue resolved can be found in the Bruce Township Regular Meeting Minutes in the Board of Health section. The LaSalle County Board is now, and has been, pursuing the issue with Mr. Johnson.

OLD BUSINESS:

Supervisor Araujo asked for any comments, corrections or clarifications on the draft Budget & Appropriation Ordinance Township – Ordinance No. 2016A and the draft Budget & Appropriation Ordinance Road District – Ordinance No. 2016B which were distributed at the April 12th Regular Meeting. There was a brief discussion on a number of line items resulting in a few minor changes being required. Clerk Sedlock informed the board that the public hearing for the review and adoption of the Budget & Appropriation Ordinance Township – Ordinance No. 2016A will be held on June 8, 2016 at 4:45pm at the Bruce Township Office. She further stated that the public hearing for the Budget & Appropriation Ordinance Road District – Ordinance No. 2016B would immediately follow on that same day. The public hearing notice was published in The Times on Wednesday, May 4, 2016 in compliance with the minimum of 30 days notice requirement.

Clerk Sedlock distributed copies of the Annual Towns Meeting Minutes dated Tuesday, April 12, 2016.

Clerk Sedlock shared that she had, at Supervisor Araujo's request, submitted the ¼ page advertisement request for the 75th Anniversary Issue of the Township of Illinois (TOI) Township Perspective Magazine. The ad will read:

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“Bruce Township proudly salutes TOI and Township Perspective on 75 years of publication. It has always been and will continue to be a great resource for township officials.”

NEW BUSINESS:

There was no new business identified for discussion at this meeting.

MOTION MADE BY: Trustee Baumrucker
That the meeting be adjourned.

2nd BY: Trustee Christensen

Aye's: 4

Nay's: 0

Motion: Carried

Bruce Township
216 N. Sterling St.
Streator, IL 61364

