

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: 5:49pm

The August 10, 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. 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 July 13, 2016 Regular Meeting.

MOTION MADE BY: Trustee Jerry Christensen

2nd BY: Trustee Steve Biroshik

That the minutes of the July 13, 2016 Regular Meeting be approved. No further discussion was required.

Aye's: 5

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 Biroshik

2nd BY: Trustee Bob 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: Aye

Supervisor Henry Araujo: Aye

Aye's: 5

Nay's: 0

Motion: Carried

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

SUPERVISOR'S:

Supervisor Araujo passed around a certificate of appreciation given to Bruce Township by Relay for Life of La Salle County for being a 2016 sponsor.

HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER'S:

Highway Commissioner Barton reported on the progress being made on the Marilla Park Road project. Last week the majority of the cement blocks were placed along the north side of Marilla Park Road embankment. A total of 33 blocks were stacked and lined up by Hatzler using a crane. The cost of the crane, operator and one laborer came to a little over \$2,100.00. The City of Streator will pick up this cost as their portion of the projects cost. The City of Streator was also willing to provide assistance, if needed. The plan is to start to put dirt in place next week. There were 19 remaining cement blocks not needed for the project. Highway Commissioner Barton plans to store those for the time being and will eventually use them for the base of bins for storing chips, salt and other such materials needed in the course of road maintenance and repair.

There was a brief discussion on the progress the City of Streator is making on the tile and retention pond being built just off North Shabbona St. and the Millis property. He noted that there is a buckle in the road on North Shabbona that he will be contacting the City of Streator about and ensure that it gets repaired.

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ASSESSOR'S:

Assessor Sullivan reported that her office is finishing up the tax cycle for the year. They are following up on any incorrect tax bills for those residents who may have forgotten to file their Homestead exemption or other such problems. They are also following up on items that have been presented to the Board of Review.

TRUSTEE'S:

There were no reports offered by the Trustees.

OTHER:

There were no other reports presented.

REPORTS BY SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

HEALTH BOARD:

Supervisor Araujo reported that he had checked on the property at 47 Helen Street and that it appeared that progress had been made to clean up the property. Trustee Harrison indicated that it appeared that the majority of the garbage and debris had been moved to the north side of the property. Supervisor Araujo will follow up on the matter.

OLD BUSINESS:

Supervisor Araujo opened the discussion on setting the salaries for the Bruce Township Elected Officials for the term beginning May 15, 2017. He reminded the board that the salaries are only for the elected officials and not the staff whose wages are set and administered through the yearly budget process. Clerk Sedlock confirmed that the Resolution which sets the salaries for the 2017-2021 term must be approved no later than November 16, 2016 (180 days prior to the start of the term on May 15, 2017). Trustee Biroshchik distributed copies of 5 options he had generated with various salaries and stipend amounts for all elected official positions for consideration. There was a brief discussion where several of the board members had questions about the suggested options which Trustee Biroshchik addressed. Supervisor Araujo also presented a proposal for the Supervisor's salary and Highway Commissioner Barton presented a proposal for the Highway Commissioner's salary for consideration. Clerk Sedlock gave a verbal proposal for the Clerk's salary. There was a brief discussion on the contents of the Township Officials of Illinois (TOI) 2016 Township Salary Survey results. Assessor Sullivan noted that the survey only reflects the data submitted by 59.53% of the townships in our zone (Zone II). Since the data does not reflect over 40% of the salaries, it was mentioned that it is not possible to make an accurate comparison. There was a brief discussion on stipends vs. expense reimbursements for covering expenses such as travel and insurance. Trustee Baumrucker recommended the board review the article in the June 2016 edition of the TOI Perspective magazine starting on page 74. In particular, there is a bolded statement concerning the appropriate handling of health insurance benefits in setting salaries. Given the number of proposals presented, the board agreed to take time before the next meeting to review all the proposals and come back prepared to further discuss them at the September Regular Board Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, September 14th at 5pm. Any additional proposals will be considered at that time, as well. When the board agrees on the salaries for each Township Official, they will be put into the Resolution format and scheduled for the final approval.

NEW BUSINESS:

There was no new business raised for discussion.

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

2nd BY: Supervisor Araujo

Aye's: 5

Nay's: 0

Motion: Carried

