

DON GRAY

CAPITAL TOWNSHIP CLERK

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MINUTES

CAPITAL TOWNSHIP BOARD

OCTOBER 10, 2023

The Capital Township Board of Trustees met in the County Complex, 3rd floor County Building. They stood for the Pledge of Allegiance. The following members answered to roll call: Joe Aiello, Kelly Gilmore, Bernadette Gordon, Ken Leonard, and Tammie Rockford. Justin Reichert was present as Legal Counsel.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Trustee Gilmore, seconded by Trustee Rockford, to approve the Minutes of September 11, 2023. Upon a roll call vote, there were 5 Yeas – 0 Nays.

ADMINISTRATION EXPENDITURES

A motion was made by Trustee Rockford, seconded by Trustee Leonard, to approve payment of the Supervisor/Collector/General Assistance Administration Expenditures in the amount of \$750.00. Upon a roll call vote, there were 5 Yeas – 0 Nays.

A motion was made by Trustee Gilmore, seconded by Trustee Leonard, to approve payment of the Township Clerk/Township Assessor’s Administration Expenditures in the amount of \$1,233.35. Upon a roll call vote, there were 5 Yeas – 0 Nays.

SUPERVISOR’S UPDATE

Supervisor Aiello stated he sent out a proposed FY2024 budget to place on file with the Town Clerk for 30 days. A motion was made by Trustee Leonard, seconded by Trustee Gilmore, to place the FY2024 budget on file with the Town Clerk for 30 days.

Trustee Gordon asked if they can go back and revisit this if it’s placed on file for 30 days. Supervisor Aiello stated they could. Final approval will be in November. Mark Crawford stated there will be a public hearing and a notice will be published in the newspaper. Supervisor Aiello explained that with the General Assistance services, they looked at actual expenditures and not

budgeted. Other changes will include an upgraded assessment system. It is a \$3 million system, and the Township portion will be about \$500,000. Capital Township assess fifty percent of the properties in Sangamon County. Every township has their own assessor. What is different in this budget is they are working with actual figures for rent, utilities, and the other general assistance services. They also looked at the actual expenditures. If they decide they want to increase the rent assistance and utility expenditures by \$50 to \$100 per month, there would be enough in there to cover that. The over budgeting on that side of the budget of \$250,000 was pushed towards the Town Clerk budget, and the other \$250,000 is still in the General Assistance budget in the homeless initiative line item. They have taken the position that they can do more for their community through the homeless initiative through Continuum of Care and Helping Hands. The County has invested about \$8 to \$9 million into the homeless shelter located out where the Juvenile Detention Center is. They can move things around in the budget as needed going forward.

A voice vote was unanimous to place the FY2024 budget on file with the Town Clerk. Upon a roll call vote, there were 5 Yeas – 0 Nays.

NEW BUSINESS

Supervisor Aiello stated Trustee Gordon sent her documents regarding some local initiatives she is involved with. They cannot take any action on these without it being on the Agenda. He asked her to go over some of the initiatives.

Trustee Gordon stated that Mike Phelon, who owns The Outlet, came to her to see if Capital Township wants to partner with him for their Halloween event Trunk or Treat. Another organization that would be partnering is Diamond in the Rough along with the organization Sing (Shifting into New Gear). This event will be at 2108 E Laurel. They will offer chili, hot dogs, chips, and drinks. They will also have cars there with candy in the trunks. They would also have s'mores. Fire trucks will be there as well. She is proposing Capital Township gives out 50 bus passes or 50 gift cards for the families that come to the event, or any type of monetary donation. She doesn't know if this comes out of the Capital Township Trustee budget or if they would all have to partake out of their own budgets.

Supervisor Aiello stated they've had requests of this nature before and they had to use what they call discretionary funds. They do not have any standards for this as a board. He has talked to the Trustees in the past to see if they are willing to take something out of their campaign funds or out of their own pocket. These are discretionary funds that are outside the realms of our responsibility. That doesn't mean they can't look into something that is a little more structured with regards to discretionary funds. They have talked about putting together a plan or approval process for discretionary funds. Outside of rent, utilities, and other things they do, there is no criteria for the approval process.

Hypothetically speaking we could say "We are going to set aside \$2,000 per year for discretionary funds and each of you gets \$500 to \$1,000 to give to the community". At some point they would probably need to come up with some sort of an approval process. It is

something they can look at and work on. This would be an opportunity for us, as individuals working in our community, to work outside the scope of rent, utilities, workfare, and the homeless initiative because there are groups in town who are willing to contribute. For the Trunk or Treat, he could probably get you 700 or 800 pieces of candy by the end of the month to take care of that. He usually just calls people to ask for donations. They cannot vote on anything without it being on the Agenda, but what they should do is structure a plan. Mark Crawford stated it comes to how you make your decisions. When we are out of money people may ask why someone got funded and they didn't. It needs to be pretty low key and have some deadlines to apply for it. Supervisor Aiello stated he will call Trustee Gordon on this and will get some candy for that group. There are other groups in town that are willing to participate.

Supervisor Aiello stated they do look to make sure the organizations meet certain criteria. They make sure they are in good standing. As a group, we have to decide what we want to do. He does recall, when he first got here, talking to Tom Cavanagh and the one thing he said was they never give money to a religious organization. Legal Counsel Justin Reichert stated they do want to build criteria and need to tread lightly. You could easily find yourself where you look like you are using township funds for personal agendas. The criteria is going to be very important because you will have to pass some sort of test for legitimacy. You have some discretion but just be careful to have some criteria in place so you are not accused of using township funds for personal gain. It does help when you are pairing with another government agency and agencies that are 501c3's that are required to maintain standards in how they use their funds. Supervisor Aiello stated working with Community Resources would create some of the criteria they are looking for with regard to the spending of funds. He will communicate with Trustee Gordon, Legal Counsel, and Community Services on this. He will send out information to everyone.

Trustee Rockford asked if the incident at the Juvenile Center would have any impact on the homeless initiative project. Supervisor Aiello stated it is his understanding that everything is still moving forward. He believes County Security, the Sheriff's Department, and the Juvenile Department will all look at this as closely as anybody and they will all learn from it. Justin Reichert stated the Illinois State Police is also investigating. At some point they may set up an open house to go out there and take a look at the facility or even have a meeting out there.

ADJOURN

A motion was made by Trustee Rockford, seconded by Trustee Gilmore, to adjourn the meeting to November 13, 2023 at Noon. Upon a roll call vote, there were 5 Yeas – 0 Nays.

Don Gray
Town Clerk