

DON GRAY**CAPITAL TOWNSHIP CLERK**

200 SOUTH NINTH STREET – ROOM 101

SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62701

TELEPHONE: 217-753-6700/FACSIMILE: 217-535-3233

MINUTES**CAPITAL TOWNSHIP BOARD****JUNE 12, 2023**

The Capital Township Board of Trustees met in the County Board Chambers, 2nd floor County Building. The board stood for the Pledge of Allegiance. The following members answered to roll call: Joe Aiello, Bernadette Gordon and Ken Leonard. Tammie Rockford was absent. Joe Roesch, Justin Reichert and Mark Crawford were also present.

A motion was made by Trustee Leonard, seconded by Trustee Gordon, to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Upon a roll call vote, there were 3 Yeas – 0 Nays.

A motion was made by Trustee Leonard, seconded by Trustee Gordon, to approve payment of the May and June Supervisor/Collector/General Assistance Administration Expenditures, in the amount of \$14,373.00. Upon a roll call vote, there were 3 Yeas – 0 Nays.

A motion was made by Trustee Leonard, seconded by Trustee Gordon, to approve payment of the May and June Township Clerk/Township Assessor's Administration Expenditures, in the amount of \$1,790.00. Upon a roll call vote, there were 3 Yeas – 0 Nays.

ACTION ON TRUSTEE VACANCY

Supervisor Aiello stated that he was going to put out a press release regarding the vacancy created by Brad Carlson being elected as City of Springfield Alderperson. He will set the deadline for those interested to apply as Wednesday, June 21, 2023 at 5:00 pm. He is looking at scheduling a special meeting on June 26, 2023 to fill that vacancy.

ACTION ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY COMMITTEE

Supervisor Aiello stated that by law the township board is required to form an efficiency commission to study the township. This is a statewide initiative from last year's General Assembly. All members were given a copy of a resolution to establish the committee. The committee will study their efficiencies, look at intergovernmental agreements and everything the township does from top to bottom including the

assessment process, the Supervisor's Office, and General Assistance. They are to report back to the County Board by December of 2024.

Supervisor Aiello added that today's action is to establish the committee. By law, the committee is comprised of the Supervisor, the Clerk, the trustees, and two individuals from the general public. The committee will meet at least three times prior to December of 2024.

A motion was made by Trustee Leonard to establish the Efficiency Commission. Supervisor Aiello asked Trustee Gordon if she would second the motion and she said "NO". Supervisor Aiello was told by legal counsel that he could second the motion. Upon a roll call vote, Trustee Leonard and Supervisor Aiello both voted "YES" and Trustee Gordon voted "PRESENT".

SUPERVISOR'S UPDATE

Supervisor Aiello introduced Josh Sabo from the Heartland Housed initiative. Mr. Sabo stated that one of the gaps identified was they did not have stable leadership around the issue of homelessness. Heartland Housed is a new organization that was created to provide staffing and other support for the Heartland Continuum of Care. They put together an initial budget of \$625,000. Capital Township came in as a partner as did Sangamon County and the City of Springfield. This allows them to create additional staff. Prior to this year, Mr. Sabo was the only staff person. Now, they have a team of three and hope to add two additional staff people by the end of the year.

Mr. Sabo added that each quarter they are committed to putting out a list of what they have accomplished and what they are going to work on in the next quarter. The quarter one report was included with the Board's packet. They will be working on the quarter two report over the next several weeks. The quarter one report goes all the way back to when they established the organization and adopted a strategic plan back in October. Some of the efforts taken place in the first quarter of 2023 include new training efforts. They need new programs to be created. Diversion is one they had identified in this community. The more they can help people prevent the experience of homelessness the better off their community and those individuals are going to be. The diversion training is about how to do that – how to set up that type of system. They had 14 people from six different organizations in the community that went through the training. They are in the process of following up on that training by developing a policy and then they will be pursuing local philanthropic funding to fund the new diversion program.

Much of what they did the first quarter had to do with foundational types of things. They were hiring staff and were able to engage a consultant to work with them on their coordinated entry system. The way they are mandated to match people who are experiencing homelessness with housing opportunities is through a process called coordinated entry. A person gets assessed, they evaluate what their needs are and try to match them up with the best possible housing opportunity. This is mandated by Housing and Urban Development and by their state funding.

As they looked at their system, they knew there were ways they wanted to improve it. They are currently meeting with the consultant to get a team of 11 people who are meeting each week to evaluate their system and make improvements that they will then present to the Heartland Continuum of Care Board.

The coordinated entry system's first step is assessment. Whether a person is unsheltered on the streets or they are in a shelter setting, that gives them an idea of how many people in that situation who are seeking a housing opportunity. At this time, they have over 160 people who are on a waiting list. They are essentially in the coordinated entry system but they don't have the resources to create those housing opportunities. Another big thrust of the strategic plan, if they are going to move forward, is to expand programs that provide those housing opportunities.

They received a \$25,000 grant to do a capacity building process or what is called medical respite care. That is in partnership with local hospitals who often are providing care for people who have no adequate place to discharge to. Medical respite care beds can provide that bridge for a person and "hopefully" helps the hospital discharge people who are ready to be discharged, but also helps people who need a space to recover. The shelter may not be the best place to do that. They are going to a couple of sites in the Chicago area tomorrow to see how they do that. By the end of the month, they will be presenting a plan on what medical respite care could look like in our community.

Something else they are working on is stabilizing funding for their homeless management information system that is a HUD mandate. Historically, they have pulled money to accomplish that from a number of different places. Now, Heartland Housed will be able to make sure the system is funded to a degree that they can keep stable staff and also housing navigation services. They have been able to have those services in the community but it's been through a grant that's going away in September of this year. Heartland Housed will contract out for those services.

They are also in the process of developing data dashboards. Individuals will be able to go to their website and get a visualization of the homeless situation. Is it declining or is it increasing? They are evaluating what their options are. The goal is to have clear and transparent communication with the community that is as up-to-date as possible.

Some of the bigger community efforts have taken place in January. They did their annual point-in-time count. That is when they go out to abandoned buildings and encampments and count each person. They also go to emergency shelters and transitional shelters in the community. In January of 2023, that number was 306. That provides them with an annual snapshot of what homelessness looks like in the community. That number declined during the pandemic for many reasons including the eviction moratorium. Also, many of the organizations decreased the amount of people they could shelter resulting in not as many people in shelters.

He added that during the first quarter they received their scoring results from HUD's Continuum of Care competition. This is how HUD determines how much money the community will get from the federal government. In 2010, we were getting around \$650,000, but by 2019, that number had dropped to right around \$400,000. HUD will pull money away from communities they don't think are doing an effective job. In the 2022 competition, their score was within 11 points of the highest Continuum score in the country. For the first time in almost two decades, they were awarded new money from HUD. They were able to receive about \$35,000. What they need to do over the years is pursue additional funding opportunities from HUD. Receiving the new money from HUD is a significant step forward for them.

One other big development is that the Helping Hands emergency shelter will be moving to the other side of the Juvenile Detention Facility. Helping Hands and the County will be preparing a public document about that. This will create significant stability around an emergency shelter in our community that has not historically been there. It's an important effort to bring as many services under one roof to make it as easy as possible for people to access. It will also be open 24 hours a day for 365 days a year, which has never been the case in our community. This is quite a significant development for the community.

Supervisor Aiello questioned the move-in date for the new facility. Mr. Sabo stated November 1st is the target date. The new facility will be able to serve 150 people as opposed to 50-75 at the old one. There will also be 30 beds in a separate space for women, which has not been offered before. There will also be some space for families on an emergency basis.

Supervisor Aiello thanked Mr. Sabo and told him they look forward to his next presentation.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

ADJOURN

A motion was made by Trustee Leonard, seconded by Trustee Gordon, to adjourn the meeting to June 26, 2023 at 12 noon. There were 3 Yeas - 0 Nays.

Don Gray
Town Clerk