



## MINUTES - BOARD of TOWN TRUSTEES

---

should be reimbursed back to the GA Fund. He requested a list be generated, of such items as the trailer and any NAIR purchases, before the next meeting so a full accounting of what must be transferred can be generated. Supervisor Araujo agreed to provide that list. Supervisor Araujo also indicated that no transfers of funds would be done in association with this matter until after the Annual Town Meeting which is scheduled at 6pm on April 11, 2017. He will provide the proposed plan for the transfer of funds at that time. Trustee Christensen read an excerpt from Mr. Redlingshafer's letter for those in the meetings who did not have copies. Trustee Biroschik expressed a concern that by putting back the monies into the GA Fund we would be adding money to an already over funded account. He wants to know how much will be put back and what the plan to use the funds will be. There was a side discussion on how the GA Funds have been spent in the past (i.e. on donations to charitable organizations) and it was questioned whether those practices would be appropriate going forward. Supervisor Araujo brought the topic back to the use of funds for providing help to the members of the community that do not qualify for GA. Trustee Biroschik strongly feels that taking tax payers dollars to buy certain things and giving it to certain people may result in the items going to non-Bruce Township residents. He felt this was not an appropriate use of township funds. Supervisor Araujo indicated that the NAIR membership renewal is coming due and he does not plan to renew it. Supervisor Araujo indicated that he would like to continue to pick up free produce from local farmers and distribute it to the people who need it. Trustee Biroschik objected to the use of the township vehicles being used for any purpose that might benefit non-Bruce Township residents. He pointed to a comment in Mr. Redlingshafer's letter that indicated that this was the attorney's opinion on a proposed civil liability and that anyone has the right to take this question to the LaSalle County State's Attorney who has the ultimate authority and discretion to determine whether further investigation is required. When asked, Trustee Biroschik indicated that he has contacted the LaSalle County State's Attorney on this matter. He went on to say he is just trying to make sure we do everything right going forward. There was a clarification made at this point that there is no action required from this letter other than to determine the plan for the vehicles and take it to the Annual Town Meeting to be addressed. Trustee Biroschik wanted to make clear that the trucks will still be township equipment and they should only be used for purposes benefiting Bruce Township residents and that an ordinance should be put in place that outlines any programs that would use that equipment going forward. Trustee Biroschik then quoted Dillon's Rule from the front pages of the TOI Law and Duties Handbook. Supervisor Araujo pointed out that he had consulted with the attorney as Trustee Biroschik requested and that he was planning to follow the recommendations. He does not understand why that is not acceptable to Trustee Biroschik. He indicated that he will seek additional advice before using the trucks for getting free produce for distribution. Trustee Baumrucker asked the board if they had read the section of the TOI Laws and Duties Hand book on page 61 entitled "Distribution to Not-For-Profit Agencies". He felt this was relevant to the discussion at hand and recommended that board read it before the next meeting so it could be discussed at that time.

### HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER'S:

Highway Commissioner Barton indicated that he had nothing new to report to the board at this time.

### ASSESSOR'S:

Assessor Sullivan reported that Senior Homesteads will be mailed out on Thursday, February 9th.

### TRUSTEE'S:

Trustee Biroschik shared with the board that he had made a request to get copies of the township's check registers for all the funds. Supervisor Araujo indicated that Trustee Biroschik could expect to receive those copies of the registers on Friday of this week. Trustee Biroschik felt it was taking Supervisor Araujo longer than he expected to respond to his request.

### OTHER:

There were no other reports presented.

### REPORTS BY SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

#### HEALTH BOARD:

Supervisor Araujo reported that he did a follow up on the issue that was reported concerning garbage around the property at 47 Helen Street, Streator Illinois. He observed a dumpster has been brought in and there were signs of a cleanup in progress.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

The board reviewed the Bruce Township Board 2017-2018 Meeting Schedule which included the following meeting dates and times:

- April 11, 2017 (Tuesday) at 5pm – Regular Meeting
- April 11, 2017 (Tuesday) at 6pm – Annual Town Meeting
- May 10, 2017 (Wednesday) at 5pm – Regular Meeting
- June 14, 2017 (Wednesday) at 5pm – Regular Meeting
- July 12, 2017 (Wednesday) at 5pm – Regular Meeting
- August 9, 2017 (Wednesday) at 5pm – Regular Meeting
- September 13, 2017 (Wednesday) at 5pm – Regular Meeting
- October 11, 2017 (Wednesday) at 5pm – Regular Meeting
- November 8, 2017 (Wednesday) at 5pm – Regular Meeting
- December 13, 2017 (Wednesday) at 5pm – Regular Meeting
- January 10, 2018 (Wednesday) at 5pm – Regular Meeting
- February 14, 2018 (Wednesday) at 5pm – Regular Meeting
- March 14, 2018 (Wednesday) at 5pm – Regular Meeting
- April 10, 2018 (Tuesday) at 5pm – Regular Meeting
- April 10, 2018 (Tuesday) at 6pm – Annual Town Meeting

All meetings are held at 216 N. Sterling Street in the Township Office Lobby

There were not requests for any changes. Clerk Sedlock asked if a vote was necessary before she posted the dates and was told no. She will post the dates on the website and in The Times prior to the start of the fiscal year in April.

Trustee Biroschik asked for an update on the light fixture for the flag pole in the courtyard of the Township Office building. He was informed that the light fixture has been installed and is operational.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Supervisor Araujo shared with the board that he had received a letter from the City of Streator about the availability of Knox Boxes. He explained that Bruce Township can buy a Knox Box and install it on the outside of the building. A key to the building would be placed into the box and only be accessible by emergency personnel in the case of a fire or other emergencies when the building is locked. The benefit is that emergency personnel can access the building without doing any damage to the structure (such as breaking windows or doors) in case of emergency. When asked what the cost of the box would be, Supervisor Araujo indicated that he would have to get that information as it was not included in the letter. The board indicated that they would need that information on the cost before a decision could be made.

Supervisor Araujo informed the board that he has received a request for donation from the North Central Area Transit (NCAT) organization operating out of Ottawa. They are asking for a contribution to the costs since they provide subsidized transportation to the residents of Bruce Township. He asked if the board would like to contribute to this organization. Trustee Biroschik requested a legal opinion on donations. He felt we should be cautious on this. Supervisor Araujo indicated that he will not respond to their request.

Supervisor Araujo reported that he had received the township's franchise fee check from Mediacom. When asked how much we received, he indicated it was approximately \$4,000.00 and was deposited in the Town Fund.

Trustee Baumrucker reminded everyone to read #25 on page 61 of the TOI Laws and Duties Handbook. He feels this might be something we should address at the upcoming Annual Town Meeting and would like the rest of the boards input. Trustee Christensen asked if there was a deadline of March 1<sup>st</sup> for identifying the topics for the Annual Town Meeting Agenda. Clerk Sedlock clarified that the board sets the agenda for the Annual Town Meeting and that the March 1<sup>st</sup> deadline is for residents of the township to request any addition of topics to the agenda. The agenda for the Annual Town Meeting will need to be created and adopted by the board at the March Regular Meeting.

**MINUTES - BOARD of TOWN TRUSTEES**

---

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

2<sup>nd</sup> BY: Trustee Harrison

Aye's: 5

Nay's: 0

Motion: Carried