

**MINUTES - BOARD of TOWN TRUSTEES**

COPY

**STATE of ILLINOIS**

**TYPE OF MEETING HELD: Regular**

**LASALLE COUNTY,**

**SS.**

**TIME MEETING BEGAN: 5:00pm**

**TOWN of BRUCE**

**TIME MEETING ENDED: 5:26pm**

The July 13, 2016 meeting of the Bruce Township Board of Trustees opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Highway Commissioner John M. Barton was 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 June 8, 2016 Regular Meeting.

**MOTION MADE BY: Trustee Jerry Christensen**

**2<sup>nd</sup> BY: Trustee Steve Biroshchik**

That the minutes of the June 8, 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 Biroshchik**

**2<sup>nd</sup> BY: Trustee Randy Baumrucker**

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 Biroshchik: Aye

Supervisor Henry Araujo: Aye

Aye's: 5

Nay's: 0

Motion: Carried

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**SUPERVISOR'S:**

Supervisor Araujo reminded the board that discussions on the topic of the Township Elected Officials salaries for the 2017-2020 term will start in earnest at the August Regular Meeting. The salaries must be set and approved no later than November 16, 2016. Trustee Biroshchik indicated that he has been working on a spreadsheet that contains a couple of proposals. He indicated that he would be happy to add other board members proposals into the spreadsheet.

**HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER'S:**

Highway Commissioner Mike Barton gave an update on the progress being made on the Marilla Road project. He indicated that weather conditions have delayed the placement of the cement block along the embankment on the north side of the road where the erosion is occurring. Recent rains caused the creek water level to rise delaying the activities. When weather conditions are favorable, the road will need to be closed for a day to allow for the work to be completed. He also noted that the City of Streator is placing tiles in the area but that project should not interfere with his ability to complete the Marilla Park Road project. There was a brief discussion on the City of Streator's work in the area, as well.

**ASSESSOR'S:**

Assessor Mary Sullivan was not present and did not provide a report.

**MINUTES - BOARD of TOWN TRUSTEES**

**TRUSTEE'S:**

Trustee Biroshchik shared with the board that the Streator High School Board, the Streator Grade School Board, the Woodland High School Board, the Grand Ridge Grade School Board and the LaSalle County Board are not happy with the provisions set forth in the recent letter from the City of Streator concerning the Streator Tax Increment Financing (TIF) district. The Superintendent of Schools has been authorized by the board to obtain an attorney to negotiate a fair deal for the other taxing bodies. He noted that, if successfully negotiated, the township will also benefit from this action. There was a brief discussion on the topic.

**OTHER:**

Clerk Sedlock informed the board that the following required activities have been completed:

- Budget & Appropriation Ordinance – Township, Ordinance No. 2016A was filed with the LaSalle County Clerk on 6/15/2016
- Budget & Appropriation Ordinance – Road District, Ordinance No. 2016B was filed with the LaSalle County Clerk on 6/15/2016
- Bruce Township Prevailing Wage Ordinance, Ordinance No. 2016C, mailed to the Illinois Department of Labor on 6/22/2016
- Prevailing Wage Ordinance Notice published in The Times on 7/6/2016
- Prevailing Wage Ordinance Publication Certification received and copies sent to participating Townships 7/11/2016

**REPORTS BY SPECIAL COMMITTEES:**

**HEALTH BOARD:**

Supervisor Araujo reported that he had checked on the 611 W. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street property early in the day and noted that there is no longer any progress being made to clean up the property. It was indicated that the Mike Harsted, the LaSalle County Environmental Services and Land Use Director, was looking into the situation. Supervisor Araujo reported that he has recently received complaints on the condition of the property at 47 Helen Street. He has taken pictures of the property and confirmed that the complaints of trash and debris are valid. A letter from the Bruce Township Health Board has been sent to the owner of the property indicating that the issues must be resolved in a timely manner. He has also personally talked to the owner concerning the matter. Trustee Biroshchik indicated that several properties on West 2<sup>nd</sup> Street are "looking bad" but no further discussion was held.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

When asked, Supervisor Araujo indicated that he has not done any further investigation on the possibility of purchasing a larger truck for General Assistance use. He decided to hold off until later in the year. There was a brief discussion on the topic.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Clerk Sedlock shared with the board that she had received a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request from Mr. David Giuliani, reporter for The Times, to obtain a copies of the Bruce Township Supervisor's Statement of Financial Affairs – Towns Fund and the Bruce Township Road District Statement of Financial Affairs – Road & Bridge Fund. With the help of Office Manager, Art Watson, we complied with the request on July 11, 2016. An additional FOIA request from Mr. Giuliani was received asking for detailed spending on general assistance. Specifically, he wanted information on what is spent on aid to the poor vs. administration. No report of this information is readily available however Office Manager Art Watson it is in the process of compiling the needed information into a summary report. We have agreed to provide this information no later than close of business on Friday, July 22, 2016.

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

**2<sup>nd</sup> BY:** Trustee Christensen

Aye's: 5

Nay's: 0

Motion: Carried

