

DON GRAY**CAPITAL TOWNSHIP CLERK**

200 SOUTH NINTH STREET – ROOM 101

SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62701

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MINUTES**CAPITAL TOWNSHIP
2022 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
APRIL 12, 2022**

Capital Township Clerk Don Gray called the Annual Town Meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. on Tuesday, April 12, 2022 in the County Board Chambers, 200 S. 9th Street, 2nd Floor, Springfield. Those in attendance were: Mark Crawford, Brad Carlson, Bruce Stratton, Justin Reichert, Nikki Stratton, Tammie Rockford, Brent Ellis, Kyle Foutch, Marc Bell, Unita Boyd, Jim Dickey, Julie Pittman, Joe Aiello, Don Gray, Bernadette Gordon, Steve Schoeffel, Sam Cahnman, and Angel Sides. Kyle Foutch led them in the Pledge of Allegiance.

NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF MODERATOR

A motion was made by Justin Reichert, seconded by Joe Aiello, to nominate and elect Brad Carlson as Moderator of the meeting. A voice vote was unanimous. Clerk Gray swore in Brad Carlson as Moderator.

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Moderator Carlson asked Clerk Gray to go over the annual financial statements. Clerk Gray briefly went over the financial statements. Supervisor Aiello detailed some of the main expenditures. They are in good shape financially and will be spending some money on the initiatives the board has approved. A motion was made by Justin Reichert, seconded by Tammie Rockford, to approve the financial statements. A voice vote was unanimous.

2021 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made by Joe Aiello, seconded by Justin Reichert, for approval of the 2021 Annual Meeting Minutes. A voice vote was unanimous.

ADVISORY QUESTIONS FOR NOVEMBER 8, 2022 ELECTION

Clerk Gray read Advisory Question #1. It asks, “Should the State of Illinois, their agencies and political subdivisions, set a date of 2030 for achieving 100% clean and renewable energy?” There was no motion to consider Advisory Question #1.

Clerk Gray read Advisory Question #2. It asks, “Should the State of Illinois, their agencies and political subdivisions, call on the federal government to pass an Improved Medicare for All program to ensure access to affordable and quality healthcare for all?”

A motion was made by Sam Cahnman, seconded by Bernadette Gordon, to consider Advisory Question #2. Sam Cahnman stated he thinks this is something the public should have the right to speak their mind on. Medicare for all is a hot issue all across the country, and he thinks it would be proper for this township to allow the voters of Capital Township to let their elected representatives know their position on this issue. This does not mean you support Medicare for all, but it means you allow the voters of Capital Township to vote on whether they want it or not.

Jim Dickey asked if anyone is going to be providing information to the voters on exactly what this proposal means. Sam Cahnman explained it would be up to the proponents of this and for the opponents to speak out on the issue prior to the Election. Brad Carlson stated it is more of a mechanical issue similar to someone running for office. Sam Cahnman stated he thinks the voters of Capital Township are intelligent and informed, and this is an issue talked about widely in public discussions in the news media. They should have enough trust in the voters of their township to vote whether they think this is in their best interest or not.

A voice vote carried on the motion to consider this question. Justin Reichert asked for a roll call vote on the motion. Upon a roll call vote, there were 5 Yeas – 11 Nays – 2 Present. Those voting Yea were: Marc Bell, Unita Boyd, Bernadette Gordon, Sam Cahnman, and Angel Sides. Those voting Nay were: Mark Crawford, Brad Carlson, Bruce Stratton, Justin Reichert, Nikki Stratton, Tammie Rockford, Brent Ellis, Kyle Foutch, Jim Dickey, Julie Pittman, and Steve Schoeffel. Those voting Present were: Joe Aiello and Don Gray. The motion failed.

Clerk Gray read Advisory Question #3. It asks, “Should the State of Illinois adopt an independent citizen’s commission for the federal and state redistricting process that would be guided by principles established in fair maps initiatives?”

A motion was made by Sam Cahnman, seconded by Jim Dickey, to consider Advisory Question #3. Bernadette Gordon asked if this means they would be able to redistrict the mapping of how people vote. She asked for a little more detail. Attorney Justin Reichert stated they are required to take the language exactly as it stands in front of them and as it exists, unless the proponent of it were present to explain it. Ms. Gordon asked how they would vote on it if they don’t understand it. Mr. Reichert stated he understands, but it was produced by a citizen and the language has to be presented exactly how the citizen provided it. Sam Cahnman explained that under Illinois law a voter in the township could place on the agenda of the annual meeting an advisory question to be voted on

at the next election with the signatures of ten or more township voters. He thinks this question of needing a citizen's commission to redraw the districts is something that was supported at the state level by the Republican Party and at the county level by the Democratic Party. It's a good idea. There is too much partisan redistricting where the legislators decide who their voters are instead of the voters deciding who their representatives are on public bodies. This is only advisory, so all they do by voting yes on this is to put it on the ballot and let the citizens of Capital Township vote to let their elected representatives know how they feel.

Clerk Gray called the roll on the motion to consider Advisory Question #3. Upon the roll call vote, there were 3 Yeas – 13 Nays – 2 Present. Those voting Yea were: Jim Dickey, Sam Cahnman, and Angel Sides. Those voting Nay were: Mark Crawford, Brad Carlson, Bruce Stratton, Justin Reichert, Nikki Stratton, Tammie Rockford, Brent Ellis, Kyle Foutch, Marc Bell, Unita Boyd, Julie Pittman, Bernadette Gordon, and Steven Schoeffel. Those voting Present were: Joe Aiello and Don Gray. The motion failed.

2023 ANNUAL MEETING

A motion was made by Joe Aiello, seconded by Tammie Rockford, to set the date of the 2023 Annual Meeting to April 11, 2023. A voice vote was unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Sam Cahnman, residing at 400 E Jefferson, Springfield, commented. He stated that Illinois has more local governments than any other states in the country. They need to reduce the number of local governments. Capital Township has served its purposes for many years, but he thinks it has outlived its usefulness. It has its boundaries that are essentially the same as the City of Springfield. It makes sense to merge the township into the City of Springfield. The same thing was done with the City of Evanston and Evanston Township. They saved over \$1,000,000. It has been proposed that they merge into the county; however, he does not think that makes sense because you would have the County Board members who are elected from outside the township making determinations on how township tax dollars are spent. Under current Illinois law, the township and the City of Springfield, could enter into an intergovernmental agreement to merge the township into the county. He believes that should be done. It has been done in Evanston and a number of other townships where the township is nearly coterminous with the city that it is in. For the County to take over, it would be taxation without representation. In the latest study he has seen, it shows for welfare, the township was spending about 50% in administration expenses for each dollar of benefits handed out, which is considered high by the independent group that reviews charitable expenditures. It shouldn't be any higher than 33%. He urges the Township Board to consider merging with the City of Springfield and eliminating one form of government. They have way too many forms of government in the State of Illinois.

Joe Aiello clarified some things. The money they spend on the Township General Assistance Office is probably closer to \$.30 on the dollar. He thinks there was some misinformation put out before. He doesn't think they are looking at the right line items on the expense side. They are within the national average. He also looked at other townships in the Sangamon County area, and they are one of the best with regards to the ratio of administrative costs versus the general assistance fees they dispatch.

ADJOURN

A motion was made by Joe Aiello, seconded by Sam Cahnman, to adjourn the meeting. A voice vote was unanimous.

Don Gray
Town Clerk