

DON GRAY

CAPITAL TOWNSHIP CLERK

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MINUTES

CAPITAL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

FEBRUARY 14, 2022

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The Capital Township Board of Trustees met in the County Board Chambers, 2nd floor County Building. The following members answered to roll call: Joe Aiello, Richard Berning, Brad Carlson, Bernadette Gordon, and Tammie Rockford. Mark Crawford was also present. Bruce Stratton was present as Legal Counsel.

A motion was made by Trustee Berning, seconded by Trustee Carlson, to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Upon a roll call vote, there were 5 Yeas - 0 Nays, for approval of the minutes.

A motion was made by Trustee Carlson, seconded by Trustee Rockford, 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 Berning, seconded by Trustee Carlson, to approve payment of the Township Clerk/Township Assessor’s Administration Expenditures, in the amount of \$343.90. Upon a roll call vote, there were 5 Yeas – 0 Nays.

SUPERVISOR’S UPDATE

Trustee Gordon asked what the merger of Capital Township with Community Resources means for Capital Township. She asked how it will affect them and how it will affect jobs. Supervisor Aiello stated they have merged the General Assistance with Community Resources. They have an intergovernmental agreement with Community Resources. Their general Assistance office has moved to the same building as Community Resources and County Public Health on South Grand Avenue. They share space and resources. They are able to work hand in hand with Community Resources. If they cannot help someone, they can send them down the hall to Community Resources for assistance. He asked Trustee Rockford what some of the other

programs are out there. Trustee Rockford stated some of the services they provide are the WIC program, immunization clinics, Community Resources, Public Health, and LiHeap, which is part of Community Resources. Supervisor Aiello stated during COVID, they were able to rely on Community Resources for additional funds and resources such as rent and utility assistance.

Trustee Gordon asked how much of the resource money is going to Sangamon County and how much is going to the City of Springfield. Supervisor Aiello stated Capital Township pays \$12,500 per month to Sangamon County for salaries, utilities, paper, copiers, insurance benefits, and taxes. All resource and assistance money goes to Capital Township residents.

Trustee Gordon asked what the population is they surveyed for this to know how much is going to the east side and how much to the west side. Supervisor Aiello stated they could do a study that shows zip codes and where the services go. They look at applications based on needs, salary, and level of poverty. They do not profile addresses or zip codes, but what their need is.

Trustee Gordon asked if they would be able to have a town hall meeting so the community could know more about the merger, how it will affect them, and to get their feedback. Supervisor Aiello stated he would send her information including the intergovernmental agreement and information on services they provide. They can then sit down with Dave MacDonna from Community Resources and try to coordinate a town meeting to accomplish what she is looking for.

Trustee Berning pointed out the idea of this was to provide more cross training and for them to all be under one roof. Supervisor Aiello agreed. He stated they have operated more efficiently under one roof, and have worked with various other townships regarding general assistance including rent, utility, and transportation assistance. There may have been a question on the ballot concerning this four years ago regarding a consolidation. He thinks that passed 75/25. Mark Crawford stated there was a question, not specifically about general assistance, but asked if they should merge with the County.

Supervisor Aiello stated he would get all this information to her, and they will have a meeting with Dave, and can take a tour of the building.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bill Houlihan, residing at 2409 Country Club Drive, Springfield, addressed the board. He asked if anyone would lose their job or be laid off with the merger. Supervisor Aiello stated they would not. Mr. Houlihan asked if the \$12,500 they pay shows any savings to the township. Supervisor Aiello stated this significantly reduces their financial obligation. They rented out the 11th Street building, which took away that financial obligation by working with Community Resources. It has allowed them to rent out the 11th Street building to the Veteran's Assistance office, so they don't have that financial burden with regards to utilities and other things. Mr. Houlihan asked what he thinks the savings would be. Supervisor Aiello stated he would get that information to him. Mr. Houlihan asked if the referendum question had been worded "Should

the township merge with either the City of Springfield or with the County?” do you think the results would have been different? Supervisor Aiello stated he could not speak for that. He can say Capital Township is a very efficient operation and the County is a very efficient operation. It is not something the City has done. They would probably have to learn how to do this. It probably is more efficient here at the County. Mr. Houlihan stated they have one-stop shopping for people in the City of Springfield, and Capital Township is supposed to be coterminous with the City of Springfield, but with the annexations, it is not coterminous anymore. It would be everyone in the corporate limits of the City of Springfield in Capital Township doing business at the City. Supervisor Aiello stated the operation is a smooth operation and they have been able to operate efficiently.

Trustee Carlson asked how long the merger has been in place. Supervisor Aiello stated it has been at least two years, closer to three years. Trustee Carlson asked where they are with tax bill now. Supervisor Aiello stated the taxes went down 8% the first year, then 12% the second year, and then 15% the third year. Mark Crawford stated the total levy in the past was roughly \$2.1 to \$2.5 million. The levy they approved moving forward is \$800,000. That is how much the property tax levy has dropped over time since moving administration costs. Trustee Carlson summarized that there was a referendum on the ballot to consolidate with the County, they did not lose any jobs, and they saved money and lowered their levy. Supervisor Aiello stated that is correct.

Supervisor Aiello stated they have been able to identify some efficiencies through consolidation. More importantly, they did what the voters asked them to do when 75% of the voters asked us to consolidate with the County. They realized some significant savings, expanded their services, provided more money for the homeless, and provided more support for our community. They now have a \$250,000 line item for homeless initiatives. During the pandemic, the first people to step forward and do anything was Capital Township. He can put this all together in a report.

Uniquika Boyd, residing at 1905 Holly Drive, Springfield, addressed the board. She asked what jobs can be established in the future for people who are still looking for jobs. Supervisor Aiello stated the jobs at Community Resources and General Assistance are caseworker jobs and are few and far between. There is a County web page you can look at for jobs. If she wants to leave her name and number, he would be glad to talk with her some more about her question. They are not creating jobs at the township, but they are working with the community through workfare. They take people who are not necessarily unemployable, but people who need to be repurposed, and they try to teach them new skills. They have a transitional program where they provide them money each month if they qualify. They have to fill out an application, see a doctor, and prove that they have a need. This is also for people who are in the process of applying for social security/disability. We provide them a monthly stipend/grant, and if they get approved for social security/disability later on, then the social security administration will reimburse them for the money they paid out to the individual. For the workfare program, they have worked with hotels, landscaping companies, and mobile home park owners. The strongest resource they work with is the computer bank here in Springfield. They take people who need to

be repurposed and teach them a new skill set. They also get them working at different local manufacturing facilities where they can be taught to do things like operating a forklift. He stated he could give her more information on the workfare program. They also do have a County website where jobs are posted. Trustee Carlson followed up by saying that is the one thing they can be most proud of. The focus is on the individual and trying to get them steady employment and back on their feet. Supervisor Aiello agreed, with some of the workfare clients, they had good success and others continue to be challenged by alcoholism and substance abuse. One thing they try to do with this group of clients is teach them some skills to get them back into the workforce so they are productive citizens.

ADJOURN

A motion was made by Trustee Berning, seconded by Trustee Carlson, to adjourn the meeting to March 14, 2022 at 12:00 p.m. Upon a roll call vote, there were 5 Yeas – 0 Nays.

Don Gray
Town Clerk