

# **DON GRAY**

## **CAPITAL TOWNSHIP CLERK**

200 SOUTH NINTH STREET – ROOM 101

SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62701

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### **MINUTES**

#### **CAPITAL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**SEPTEMBER 13, 2021**

Trustee Berning began the meeting by having Joe Aiello address the group with some findings.

Supervisor Aiello first apologized for not being there in person. He had a family commitment he could not get out of. He congratulated Lakeisha on her recent appointment to the Springfield City Council. He commented that she was going to bring energy to the City Council and will be a great addition. He also thanked her for her service on the Capital Township Board.

He brought up that there were some late developing questions with regard to compatibility of the two offices. From what has been determined, he stated she was not able to serve on both. He asked for clarification from Bruce Stratton, legal counsel.

Mr. Stratton responded that the question that was put to him in recent days was how to deal with Lakeisha's appointment to the City Council and whether that appointment to office is compatible with the Capital Township trustee position and if she can hold both at the same time.

Mr. Stratton did some research and found two opinions from the Attorney General's office that state that the two offices were incompatible. The appointment to the second position is a vacation from the election of the first position. He stated that the information was readily available at the Attorney General's office. It puts them in the position of having to advise Lakeisha that they believe it is a matter of law that she is no longer a trustee of Capital Township.

Ms. Purchase questioned if that was in writing from him as the township attorney or if he is looking at materials from the Attorney General's website and this is his interpretation. Mr. Stratton reiterated that conclusion is from looking at the Attorney General's opinions in connection with incompatibility of offices.

Ms. Purchase stated that she is also getting her own legal opinions that she is going to bring back forward to everyone. She brought up State Senator Doris Turner on accepting the position of State Senator and how she was still able to stay as alderwoman for at least one month so she could finish up some items during the budget time. This has caught her off-guard since she was sworn in last Tuesday and never received a phone call about this. She also knows of some legislators who also serve as Mayors in their respective communities. She wants to make sure that this is clarified – is this the opinion of the board or is this in black and white writing.

Mr. Stratton added that in Illinois there is something called the Tenure of Office Act which deals with these kinds of issues. That's why there are certain combinations of offices that are not incompatible and some that are. The statutes different for different offices. He believes that the law is pretty clear with respect to Township Trustee and City Council that they are incompatible which make the position of Township Trustee now vacant.

Ms. Purchase reiterated that this was very unfortunate that this was just brought to her the day of the meeting. She questioned whether there was something in writing that she could look at. Mark Crawford gave her copies of both Attorney General's opinions. Ms. Purchase inquired about speaking during the Public Comment as a member of the public. Mr. Stratton said there would be no issue with that. Mr. Stratton stated that the Township is a creation of the State as are cities and villages and park districts. As such, the township has only those powers and authorities that are given to it by the State Legislature. He believes the board could not empower her to remain in office for another month. Ms. Purchase then added that she would like to thank them for presenting this to her right before the meeting.

### **BUDGET HEARING ON FY 2021-2022 TOWNSHIP BUDGET**

Trustee Berning began with the Budget Hearing on FY 2021-2022 Township Budget. He called to order the Budget Hearing. They discussed the budget a month ago and made slight amendments to it. He asked for any more discussion on the budget which there was none. Trustee Berning then took a roll call vote on members present. All were there. A motion was made by Trustee Carlson and seconded by Trustee Rockford to adjourn the meeting.

### **CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

The Capital Township Board of Trustees met in the County Board Chambers and was called to order by Trustee Rich Berning who was leading the meeting for Supervisor Aiello.

The following members answered to roll call: Joe Aiello (by phone), Richard Berning, Brad Carlson (by phone), and Tammie Rockford. Mark Crawford, Bruce Stratton and Joe Roesch were also present.

A motion was made by Trustee Carlson, seconded by Trustee Rockford, to approve the minutes of the August 9, 2021 meeting. A voice vote was unanimous.

A motion was made by Trustee Rockford, seconded by Trustee Carlson, to approve payment of the Township Clerk/Township Assessor's Administration Expenditures in the amount of \$2541.83. A voice vote was unanimous.

### **ACTION TO APPROVE FY 2021-2022 BUDGET**

A motion was made by Trustee Carlson, seconded by Trustee Rockford to approve the fiscal year Budget 2021-2022. A roll call vote was unanimous.

### **REPORT FROM LEGAL COUNSEL**

Nothing to report from legal counsel.

### **SUPERVISOR UPDATE**

Supervisor Aiello stated that they are progressing on the website. Hoping to have up and running by next month. They've been looking at other sites and are finalizing the content.

Aiello also reported that the application process is being reviewed. They are looking at how other jurisdictions go about it. Have looked at a variety of different applications and programs and are studying the way other organizations and townships handle requests. Hoping to have something to look at in a month or two.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no Old Business.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

There was no New Business.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Lakeisha Purchase of 917 N. 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Springfield addressed the board. She said that it has been an honor to serve on the Capital Township Board up until this date. She reiterated that it was very unfortunate that the news was delivered right before they started the meeting. They have had over five days to share this information and when she asked to have something in writing, Mark had it right there to go and make copies. So that shows her that something was done before this meeting.

She appreciated Trustee Berning working with her when she had concerns. She brought up last month about having a line item for advertisement. Back then it was silent in the room when the discussion was brought up – it wasn't even acknowledged what she had brought forward. She really hopes that they can still work on that. She added that she will still be present at these meetings and bringing the community with her as well. It was shared with her from the community that until she gave her resignation letter that nothing could be discussed about the process when organizations may want to come in and receive funding from Capital Township. That was not addressed today and she was looking to hear something about that in the Supervisor's Report.

She wanted to say again that she was thankful for being there and this will not be the last time you hear her voice.

Trustee Berning thanked her and said they all appreciated her efforts on the Township Board. He added that he believes there is money that can be used for an Advertising line item and believes that will be worked into the budget.

Trustee Berning then added that he wished Ms. Purchase well and hopes they can continue to work together.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Trustee Rockford seconded by Trustee Carlson to adjourn the meeting to October 12, 2021 at 12:00 pm.

**DON GRAY**  
**CAPITAL TOWNSHIP CLERK**