

DON GRAY

CAPITAL TOWNSHIP CLERK

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MINUTES

CAPITAL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

JANUARY 10, 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 the roll call: Joe Aiello, Richard Berning, Brad Carlson, Tammie Rockford and Bernadette Gordon. Mark Crawford and Dave MacDonna were also present. Justin Reichert 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 Carlson, seconded by Trustee Berning, to approve payment of the Township Clerk/Township Assessor’s Administration Expenditures, in the amount of \$147.68. Upon a roll call vote, there were 5 Yeas – 0 Nays.

SUPERVISOR’S UPDATE

Supervisor Aiello stated that Dave MacDonna with Community Resources is present to give updates regarding assistance with utilities, rent, and other programs they provide. Dave was also available to discuss the merger of the General Assistance Office with Community Resources to better serve the community.

Trustee Gordon notified Supervisor Aiello that she would be running late. A motion was made by Trustee Berning, seconded by Trustee Carlson to recess the meeting until Trustee Gordon is present, a voice vote was unanimous.

A motion was made by Trustee Berning, seconded Trustee Carlson, to reconvene the meeting upon Trustee Gordon's arrival, a voice vote was unanimous.

Supervisor Aiello asked Dave MacDonna to come forward and make his presentation.

Mr. MacDonna stated that Capital Township does have an intergovernmental agreement to work with Community Resources. It has been very beneficial for them since COVID has hit the township office. He has been able to send employees over to help cover the office. They offer similar services and work together daily as far as referrals for Sangamon County residents. If someone is coming for utility or rent assistance, they go to the General Assistance Office and then can be referred over to Community Resources for assistance. In the past year, Community Resources has put \$7.5 million back to Sangamon County through utility assistance, rent assistance, and other benefits they offer the clients. On just their LiHeap program, since September 1st, they have put almost \$3.5 million back into the county. He thinks that is just amazing for the staff to be able to work that hard. They are 100% caught up. He recently was on the news reminding residents to apply for assistance. Once they go through their allotted funds, the state will give them more money. Last year they were the number two county in the state with turning applications in for benefits, so they turn to them a lot. They are pulling money from other counties and giving to them to spread out here in Sangamon County. He thinks that is a tremendous compliment to the staff regarding the hard work they do. They hope to combine the two offices and bring the township office into the Community Resources office. It makes it easier for the clients and for them.

Mr. MacDonna asked if anyone has any questions. Trustee Carlson asked how many staff members they have. Mr. MacDonna stated he has 18 employees counting the three in the township office. They have been hiring temporary employees for their LiHeap services since it runs from September 1 to the end of May and is closed during the summer. Last summer the state had extra funds so they kept the program open, so they contacted CWLP and Ameren and were able to pay the utility bills for everyone on the disconnect list. They sent an extra \$2 million out last June to both utility companies. They also received an extra \$750,000 extra from the state from another county that was not giving the funds out as fast. The state has already contacted them to see how much money they may need this year. With COVID, they can see clients in the office, but they also have a system set up where people can complete an application and they do not have to meet with them one on one.

Mr. MacDonna explained that the residents do not have to be behind in their bills to apply for assistance. If they meet the income guidelines then they will pay their bill for that month. They are 100% federally funded. He encouraged them to tell people about this program. A single person making less than \$24,000 per year would qualify. A family of four could make up to \$55,000 a year and still qualify. The income table is on their website. They have tried to simplify the application as well. They will also help with paying mortgages. The County worked with them last year and gave them an extra \$400,000 that they used to help pay the landlords who couldn't receive any funding.

They assisted around 250 tenants by paying up to three months back rent. Landlords were hit the hardest. Some tenants were living in their homes and not paying anything, and some were even causing damage to the properties, so this funding was a big help to the local landlords.

Supervisor Aiello asked if the entire amount of a monthly mortgage payment would be paid if it was for principal, interest, taxes and insurance. Mr. MacDonna stated they do pay it all. They also pay water bills and propane. He asked the board members to spread the word regarding these programs.

Trustee Rockford asked how often someone could apply. Mr. MacDonna stated they could apply once a year for utilities and once every two years for rent or mortgage.

Town Clerk Gray asked if there are still funds available. Mr. MacDonna stated there is still some funds available. They are going to contact the senior centers and senior housing to see if they can set up a booth for a day and help people to apply.

Mr. MacDonna stated he would be willing to come to their meetings any time and give them any type of updates. If they need any type of information from him, they can contact Mr. Aiello to contact him. They do report at their oversight committee which is the 4th Tuesday of each month, and he has an advisory committee that meets four times per year.

Upon review of the agenda items, Trustee Gordon voted yea on the minutes, Supervisor Expenditures and the Township Clerk Expenditures.

ADJOURN

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

Don Gray
Town Clerk