

## **PECATONICA TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING**

### **MINUTES**

**Meeting date: October 18, 2016 – 6:00 PM**

- 1. Call to order / Pledge of Allegiance** – Joe Musso called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited
- 2. Roll call** – all board members were present, as well as Road Commissioner Bruce Lizer and Attorney Rodney Kimes. In from the community were:
  - a. Attorney Leigh Clark stayed till adjournment at 7:37 PM
  - b. Paula Hackmeister from Pecatonica Village Board (left at 6:12 PM)
  - c. Nancy Peistrup and Valerie Olson from Westlake Village (left at 6:19PM)
  - d. Mayor Dan Barber sat in on the meeting from 6:10 to 6:12 PM
  - e. Pec/Sew Multi-Township Tax Assessor Scott Hamilton sat in from 6:55 to 7:10 PM.
- 3. Correction of agenda item 5. Adoption of township and road budgets** – Jason Newell motioned to remove the item from the agenda, Vern Sarver 2nded the motion, all were in favor, motion carried.
- 4. Community Voices** – normally, this item is placed after "Trustee's Report". However, due to the time consuming setting of wages it was moved up.
  - a. Paula Hackmeister from Pecatonica Village Board addressed the board about the according to her "terrible" condition of the shrubs and grasses along the Prairie Path due to haphazard maintenance by untrained random volunteers. Paula's goal is to gather the efforts of the Pecatonica Village, the township and the park district board to take over the maintenance of Pecatonica's portion of the Prairie Path in an appropriate manner due to a prairie path. After a brief discussion, it was decided to see about forming a committee made up of representatives of each of the boards. Paula will keep working on the issue. The next Prairie Path Board meeting will be December 9 in the morning. Paula will call with the exact time.
  - b. Nancy Peistrup and Valerie Olson addressed the board about the need for a reduced speed limit on Smith Road between Hoisington and Winnebago Roads. Road Commissioner Bruce Lizer suggested

contacting the head of Winnebago County Highway Department, Joe Vanderwerff about the issue because it falls under county jurisdiction. Trustee Jason Newell said he would check with the police department about enforcing the speed limit. A brief discussion followed ending with Valerie stating she will contact Joe Vanderwerff.

**5. Approval of prior meeting's minutes** – Vern Sarver motioned to accept the minutes as presented, Jason Newell 2nded the motion, all were in favor, motion carried.

**6. Treasurer's report and approval of bills** – Vern Sarver motioned to accept the bills as presented, Jim Dunn 2nded the motion, all were in favor, motion carried.

**7. Reports –**

**a. Supervisor's report –**

- i. Joe informed the board the township received \$3,716.00 and the road district \$3,000.25 from the comptroller's office.
- ii. Joe proposed to set the wages for the next incoming slate of township officials, an item which had been tabled at the prior township meeting to give all board members a chance to vote. Wages for the next slate are to be set by November 17.
- iii. Based on comparables, Joe suggested:
  - i. To raise **trustees'** from \$100.00 to \$125.00 or \$150.00 per meeting
  - ii. **Clerk** from \$4,500.00 to \$5,000.00 annually
  - iii. **Supervisor** from \$8,500.00 to \$10,000.00 annually
- iv. **Road Commissioner** – Bruce suggested bringing the Road Commissioner's salary from \$37,500.00 to \$45,000.00.

**Setting of wage for the next slate of township official –**

**Supervisor:** Jason Newell motioned to discuss setting the salary at \$10,000.00, Vern Sarver 2nded the motion; all were in favor, discussion followed. Trustees Jason Newell and Dick Zimmerman voiced concern over the current wages of incumbents being at 80% in comparison to same-sized townships. Especially

considering that township board meetings take place "after hours"; both suggested raising the wages to make the positions more attractive for people to consider running for office. Trustee Jim Dunn voiced concern "appearing as though we are giving ourselves a raise" and suggested "spending the money elsewhere where it's more needed." To this, Jim was informed by Attorney Kimes that the money budgeted for wage has to be spent in that category and cannot be used in other categories such as General Assistance, for example. Further, it was said that whatever money is not used will go back to the county. It will not "act" as a savings account might. In addition, the duties/responsibilities of the supervisor were discussed.

Jason Newell motioned to set the supervisor's salary at \$10,000.00, Dick Zimmerman 2nded the motion. Supervisor Joe Musso, Trustees Vern Sarver, Jason Newell and Dick Zimmerman voted "Yes"; Trustee Jim Dunn voted "No"; Motion carried.

**Road Commissioner:** Vern Sarver motioned to discuss setting the salary at \$45,000.00, Jim Dunn 2nded the motion; all were in favor, discussion followed. The board asked Bruce how much he thought the next road commissioner should make. Bruce said his current salary is \$37,000.00 and suggested raising it to \$45,000.00.

Jason Newell motioned to set the Road Commissioner's salary at \$45,000.00 plus an extra \$1,000.00 per year in order to bring it up to comparables, Vern Sarver 2nded the motion. Supervisor Joe Musso, Trustees Dick Zimmerman, Jason Newell and Vern Sarver voted "Yes"; Trustee Jim Dunn voted "No". Motion carried.

**Clerk:** Jason Newell motioned to discuss setting the salary at \$5,000.00, Dick Zimmerman 2nded the motion; all were in favor, discussion followed. In addition to points made during the discussion about the road commissioner's and supervisor's salary, the incumbent clerk, Dorothee McAuliffe, was asked how many hours she spends in the office and comparisons to Secretary Colleen

Remmers were made. Dorothee answered the board saying "I don't keep track of the hours I spend in the office. The clerk's job is different from that of the secretary. The secretary is hired by and works for the supervisor. The clerk is elected and entrusted with keeping all township records, i.e. financial records and meeting minutes which the clerk takes and prepares.

Jason Newell motioned to set the clerk's salary at \$6,000.00; Dick Zimmerman 2nded the motion. Supervisor Joe Musso Trustees Vern Sarver, Dick Zimmerman and Jason Newell voted "Yes"; Trustee Jim Dunn voted "No". Motion carried.

**Trustees:** Jason Newell motioned to discuss setting the pay per meeting at \$125.00 or \$150.00, Jim Dunn 2nded the motion, discussion followed. Again, the "after hours" time of the monthly board meetings came up. Setting the pay at the same level with the comparables was thought to make running for the position of trustee more attractive. Trustee Jim Dunn stayed with the opinion of not wanting to appear to the constituencies as giving ourselves a raise. This, the other board members agreed, is not the case because it is unknown who the next incumbents will be until after the election.

Jim Dunn motioned to freeze the trustees' pay per meeting at \$100.00; no one seconded the motion; motion failed.

Jason Newell motioned to set the trustees' pay per meeting at \$125.00; Dick Zimmerman 2nded the motion. Supervisor Joe Musso, Trustees Vern Sarver, Jason Newell and Dick Zimmerman voted "Yes"; Trustee Jim Dunn voted "No". Motion carried.

**b. Road Commissioner's report –**

- i. Nothing to report

**c. Clerk's Report –**

- i. Dorothee informed the board that for some reason the April board meeting was not held at Westlake Community Center and

Town of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

At the \_\_\_\_\_ Town Meeting,  
held in said Town and County in the State of Illinois at \_\_\_\_\_ on  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ the meeting was called to order by \_\_\_\_\_,  
(Year)  
Town Clerk. The following official business was transacted:

neither could this October meeting be held there since the center was already booked. To keep with 2 meetings a year at Westlake, plans were made to have November's township board meeting at Westlake's Community Center. Due to the supervisor's being out of town the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of November, the meeting will be held Thursday, November 17 @ 6:00 PM.

**d. Trustees' report –**

- i. Jim Dunn questioned whether it will be common practice now, to have the middle door between the tax assessor's office and the township office locked when no supervisor or clerk is in the office. Supervisor Joe Musso answered "yes". A brief discussion took place about the pros and cons of the office not being accessible without supervisor or clerk present. Joe and Dorothee stated, that, in order to keep records safe, the door will be locked when neither of them is present.

**8. Adjournment** – Jason Newell motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 PM, Jim Dunn 2nded the motion, all were in favor, meeting adjourned at 7:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dorothee McAuliffe, Township Clerk.