

MINUTES
VERNON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING MARCH 14, 2018

STATE OF ILLINOIS,)
)
 Lake County,) ss.
)
 Town of VERNON ,)
)
) THE BOARD OF TOWN TRUSTEES met at the
 office of the Town Clerk at 7:00 P.M. on March 14, 2018
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PRESENT:- <u>Daniel Didech,</u>	Township Supervisor
<u>Barbara Barnabee,</u>	Township Clerk
<u>Roger Addelson, Jonathan Altenberg</u>	Township Trustee
<u>Roger Broad, Philip Hirsh,</u>	Township Trustee
<u>Gary Raupp,</u>	Township Assessor
<u>Michael Lofstrom,</u>	Township Highway Commissioner
<u>Ms Williams,</u>	Attorney

Supervisor Didech acting as Chairman and Mrs. Barnabee as clerk
 the following business was conducted:

PUBLIC COMMENTS
 Chuck Coburn of Vernon Hills, received a copy of the harassment
 report which he obtained by a FOIA. He is very unclear about the
 report produced by Assessor Raupp's attorneys. Many issues were
 not addressed completely in the report. His concern is taxpayer
 money being used for this incomplete report.

Jacqueline Skup, a Vernon Hills resident, addressed the Board as
 to what exactly did the gentlemen say to the women in the office.
 Supervisor Didech assured her it was harassment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 It was moved by Trustee Altenberg and seconded by Trustee Hirsh
 to approve the minutes of the February 14, 2018 regular meeting
 as presented. All voted aye. No nays. Motion carried.

Assessor's Report - Gary Raupp
 Assessor Raupp reported:
 1. His department is working on senior freeze and disability
 assessment applications.
 2. He is working on assessing the division of properties in the
 township.
 3. Supervisor Didech questioned Mr Raupp as to his harassment
 policy and drug testing policy for his employees. Mr Raupp
 is working on both. He assured the Board that no one is
 using the township vehicle until they are drug tested.

Supervisor Didech asked the representatives from the law firm of
 Ancel Glink to address the Board with a review of the report of
 the harassment complaint. The Ancel Glink attorneys failed to
 answer many of the board's questions. The Board concluded that
 the Ancel Glink report was not a real investigation, but was a

cover-up of misconduct in the Assessor's office.

ANSEL GLINK PRESENTATION

Margaret Kostopulos and Donald Anderson attorneys for Ancel Glink reviewed the investigation report that they prepared for charges of unlawful distribution of a controlled substance, harassment, bullying and the creation of a hostile work environment by Joshua Cohen and Phillip Raupp, two employees of the Assessor's Office. The attorneys were questioned as to the whole report.

Several key items of the discussion include:

- . The Board feels the report is a Red Herring. The substance of the report did not substantiate anything.
- . The attorneys feel this is not sexual harassment. If it is harassment there is no legal definition for harassment.
- . The employees signed a harassment policy.
- . The harassment policy not for all employees the Assessor Office should have their own policy
- . Why is the billing combined with Attorney Keith Hunt's billing
- . Legal action taken against the Board could be harassment
- . Signed harassment policy was not mentioned in the report
- . The employees signed the policy because they thought it was required for employment.
- . If assessor agreed to the harassment policy than supervisor has authority to investigate the complaint.
- . Assessor claims he has right to hire counsel to investigate incident.
- . If you do not have all facts how can there be a conclusion.
- . One board member said the report was not worth the paper it was written on.
- . The women in the office would not be part of the investigation
- . Civility is another whole legal issue.
- . Private conversations on government computers have different state and federal laws
- . Government computers are not same as public computers
- . Supervisor Didech ended the discussion with thanking them for their time

GRANT REQUESTS

The following agencies approached the Board with their agency mission and grant request from the FY2019.

YOUTH & FAMILY COUNSELING

Janelle Moravek reviewed the programs for Youth & Family Counseling. They are requesting \$10,000.00 from the FY 2019 budget.

Supervisor Didech thanked Ms Moravek for her presentation. The final decisions will be forthcoming in April.

SKUNK CONTROL

Trustee Altenberg introduced ABC Humane Wildlife control & prevention, Inc. representative to give an overview of the skunk population and ways to control it. The cost to the township would be \$65.00 per trapping. A form would be submitted by the resident for each trapping for reimbursement. A policy should be in effect with funding not to exceed an amount and that if a

resident was reimbursed by Vernon Hills, as they have a skunk control program, they cannot be reimbursed by township also. Supervisor Didech suggested amending the budget to include a line item for skunk control at \$15,000.00.

REPORTS

Supervisor's report - Dan Didech

No report

Clerk report - Barbara Barnabee

No report

HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER'S REPORT - MICHAEL LOFSTROM

Commissioner Lofstrom reported:

1. His final budget is reflective of the 10% decrease in the levy.
2. He attended a Commissioner's meeting in Libertyville in which IDOT gave a presentation and there was a good exchange of information between the participating commissioners.
3. His concern with consolidation of the highway department would be the lack of response to individual problems efficiently. Contracting the work out would not have the same response time. He feels it is a mistake to eliminate the position of Highway Commissioner.
4. West Deerfield is asking Vernon to help with culvert, trimming, etc. for the coming summer work. He will be consulting with them to finalize a plan and a cost.
5. Krisview Subdivision families thanked the township for diligence in helping with the cut through traffic.
6. The trustees complimented Commissioner Lofstrom on his diligence in improving the highway department.

Trustees

Trustee Addelson -

May 19th is the date for the Mental Health Fair being held at the Community Service building. It will be a quality fair.

Trustee Altenberg - no report

Trustee Broad

Trustee Broad read a report of his goal of transparency and accounting of the township spending with emphasis on the Metra fund. He foresees the township as a test model for implementing a state of the art online system for fiscal reform in Illinois government. Supervisor Didech agreed that he should look further into this and that the township might be able to take action in the summer upon due diligence.

Trustee Hirsh - no report

DIRECTOR OF CONSTITUENT AFFAIRS - Holly Kim

Director Kim reported:

1. She was supportive of the increase of the taxi coupon line item.
2. At the transportation meeting she attended she volunteered

the township to be a test pilot for the transportation program similar to an Uber/Lyft program.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - none

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF BILLS

TOWN FUND BILLS

It was moved by Trustee Addelson and seconded by Trustee Altenberg to approve the Town Fund bills in the amount \$223,667.52 for payment. Roll call vote: Aye, Addelson, Altenberg, Broad, Hirsh, Didech. No nays. Motion carried.

The original town fund bills were \$224,331.52 but after consideration of a \$664.00 expense submitted by Joshua Cohen for an assessment class it was deleted from the payments.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE FUND BILLS

It was moved by Trustee Hirsh and seconded by Trustee Broad to approve the General Assistance Fund bills in the amount of \$1,701.55 for payment. Roll call vote: Aye, Addelson, Altenberg, road, Hirsh, Didech. No nays. Motion carried.

CEMETERY FUND BILLS

It was moved by Trustee Altenberg and seconded by Trustee Broad to approve the Cemetery Fund bills in the amount of \$700.00 for payment. Roll call vote: Aye, Addelson, Altenberg, Broad, Hirsh, Didech. No nays. Motion carried.

PARK FUND BILLS

It was moved by Trustee Hirsh and seconded by Trustee Addelson to approve the Park Fund bills in the amount of \$4,005.95 for payment. Roll call vote: Aye, Addelson, Altenberg, Broad, Hirsh, Didech. No nays. Motion carried.

ROAD FUND BILLS

It was moved by Trustee Hirsh and seconded by Trustee Broad to approve the Road Fund bills in the amount of \$31,964.54 for payment. Roll call vote: Aye, Addelson, Altenberg, Broad, Hirsh, Didech. No nays. Motion carried.

PERMANENT ROAD FUND BILLS

It was moved by Trustee Altenberg and seconded by Trustee Addelson to approve the PERMANENT ROAD FUND bills in the amount of \$44,433.02 for payment. Roll call vote: Aye, Addelson, Altenberg, Broad, Hirsh, Didech. No nays. Motion carried.

STATION FUND BILLS

It was moved by Trustee Addelson and seconded by Trustee Hirsh to approve the Station Fund bills in the amount of \$2,626.85 for payment. Roll call vote: Aye, Addelson, Altenberg, Broad, Hirsh, Didech. No nays. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

11a.A RESOLUTION PLEDGING TO MAINTAIN A HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT IF THE VOTERS OF VERNON TOWNSHIP DECIDE TO ABOLISH THE VERNON TOWNSHIP ROAD DISTRICT FOR VERNON TOWNSHIP, LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

Will prepare for next meeting.

11b. Discussion and possible action regarding skunk control

Discussed previously

11c. RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING THE VILLAGE BOARD OF BUFFALO GROVE TO RE-CONSIDER AND REJECT THE PROPOSED LINK CROSSING DEVELOPMENT

After a brief discussion as to the verbiage of the resolution (copy on file)

It was moved by Trustee Altenberg and seconded by Supervisor Didech to approve the resolution as amended to strike the word "reject" from the resolution. Voting aye, Addelson, Altenberg, Broad, Didech. Voting nay, Hirsh. Motion carried.

11d. APPROVAL OF FY19 TOWN BUDGET

Supervisor Didech reviewed the town fund budget (copy on file) with the trustees. After a brief discussion:

It was moved by Trustee Addelson and seconded by Trustee Hirsh to approve the budget as amended to include a line item of \$15,000.00 for skunk control. Voting aye, Addelson, Altenberg, Broad, Hirsh, Didech.

No nays. Motion carried.

11e. APPROVAL OF FY19 ROAD DISTRICT BUDGET

Commissioner Lofstrom reviewed the road budget (copy on file) with the trustees. After a brief discussion:

It was moved by Trustee Hirsh and seconded by Trustee Broad to approve the Road Fund and Permanent Road Fund budgets as presented. Voting aye, Addelson, Altenberg, Broad, Hirsh, Didech. No nays. Motion carried.

11f. APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR 2018 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

It was moved by Trustee Hirsh and seconded by Trustee Broad to approve the amended Annual Town Meeting agenda to include the sale of personal property. Voting aye, Addelson, Altenberg, Broad, Hirsh, Didech. No nays. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

It was moved by Trustee Altenberg and seconded by Trustee Broad to go into executive session to:

- a. discuss appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity, held in executive session pursuant to 5 ILCS 120(2) (1).
- b. Discuss the selection of a person to fill a public office, as defined in the Open Meetings Act, including a vacancy in a public office, when the public body is given power to appoint under law or ordinance, or the discipline, performance or removal of the occupant of a public office, when the public body is given power to remove the occupant under law or ordinance, held in executive session pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c) (3).
- c. Discuss litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probably or imminent, in which case the basis for the find shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed

meeting, held in executive session pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11).

OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

It was moved by Trustee Altenberg and seconded by Trustee Hirsh to come out of executive session. All voted aye. No nays. Motion carried.

REGULAR SESSION

It was moved by Trustee Hirsh and seconded by Trustee Addelson to resume regular session. All voted aye. No nays. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Trustee Hirsh and seconded by Trustee Broad to adjourn meeting at 9:55 p.m. All voted aye. No nays. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Barnabee, Township Clerk