

Minutes - Board of Town Trustees

STATE OF ILLINOIS,
WILL County
Town of New Lenox



ss. REGULAR MEETING

THE BOARD OF TOWN TRUSTEES met at the office of the Town Clerk at 1100 South Cedar Road on November 11, 2010.

PRESENT: William McCollum Supervisor
Annette Boyd Clerk
Michael Hickey Trustee
Martin Boban Trustee

ABSENT: Larry Wennlund Trustee
Barbara Kaupas Trustee

The following official business was transacted:

I. CALL TO ORDER

The New Lenox Town Board of Trustees Meeting was called to order on November 11, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. by Supervisor McCollum.

II. ROLL CALL

Also present:

Dennis McPartlin, Highway Commissioner
Bonnie Hernandez, Township Assessor
Attorney Cass Wennlund
Marlene Batson, Executive Assistant

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Trustee Hickey noted that the acronym HSA for Health Savings Accounts was spelled HAS. Supervisor McCollum noted that the individual retiring from TRIAD was Mr. Barry Bonazzi. Attorney Wennlund noted a "t" was erroneously added to the name Wennlund in one of the comments. Motion by Trustee Boban, seconded by Trustee Hickey, to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2010, Regular Meeting as amended and corrected. No further discussion; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried.

IV. SPECIAL GUESTS

None.

V. BOARD ISSUES – ACTIONS

None.

VI. REPORT FROM TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS

A. SUPERVISOR

1. FY 2010 Town Levy Review

Supervisor McCollum presented the Township Levy for the Board to review and recommended that the Township hold the levy to the previous year levy amount. Supervisor McCollum noted that the Township could meet all the obligations along with funding requirements at this sustained level.

Trustee Hickey noted that, while there was very little new growth, this figure would be forgoing some of the funding on those new growth figures.

Assessor Hernandez reminded the board that the General Homestead exemption had increased from ~~\$6,000~~ \$5,500 to ~~\$6,500~~ \$6,000 this year and that in order to hold the levy amount, the rate would need to increase just to hold the levy amount at a static figure.

Assessor Hernandez also noted for the board that approximately 12% of the Township's total property was comprised of commercial and industrial properties.

Motion by Trustee Boban, seconded by Trustee Hickey, to agree to levy the same dollar amount as the 2009 levy. No further discussion; Trustee Hickey, Trustee Boban, Supervisor McCollum in favor; none opposed; motion carried.

2. Life Safety Program, Building Upgrades:

Supervisor McCollum reported that most of the upgrades are up to date. The new "smart lock" mechanism on the rear door will allow the door to remain locked to enhance the security in the building. The front administrative office will be receiving replacement furniture to increase space.

Supervisor McCollum suggested next year that the Board could take up the Master Land Use Plan sometime in January.

Supervisor McCollum noted that the presentations at the Township Official's of Illinois conference (TOI) regarding cemeteries were outstanding. Discussions regarding cremains and repatriation would be subject for policy discussions for next month's agenda.

B. TRUSTEES

1. Trustee Hickey

Trustee Hickey noted that there wasn't a meeting between himself, the Highway Commissioner and the Assessor regarding benefits, but noted that a meeting needed to be scheduled. Trustee Hickey wanted an opportunity for further discussion regarding the HSA and HMO plans being offered.

Supervisor McCollum noted the Township is looking at a cost figure per employee under the circumstances where if the employee opts not to take the insurance.

The HSA would entail a package whereby the Township should put something towards the plan which would be pretax.

Trustee Boban inquired as to whether those contributions would expire. Attorney Wennlund explained that no, this contribution would not expire. So the employee, expending these funds, would be able to comparison shop for these services and compare prices. Attorney Wennlund further explained that debit cards are used against an HSA account.

Trustee Hickey also explained that premium costs are lower, while trying to also offer more options to the employees. Also under consideration would be the policy that future increases would probably be the employees' responsibility.

Trustee Boban noted that in the private sector, even under some of the most generous plans, employees in many cases were paying 20% of the costs of their plans.

Trustee Hickey noted that the Township was still in the process of investigating the options available that would have the least or minimal impact for employees while helping to control the rising costs.

Trustee Hickey suggested a meeting date of the 17th to Highway Commissioner and Assessor Hernandez.

2. Trustee Boban

Trustee Boban took the opportunity to extend thanks to all the Veterans and was looking forward to the new Township website as it is expected to be easier for people to interact with.

Trustee Boban also reported that the students from the assisted vocational program appeared to be grasping the tasks they were given. Trustee Boban also noticed the students were wearing the Township t-shirts they were given.

The Fall Leaf Sticker program had not yet yielded many sales.

Trustee Boban also spoke about the TOI and noted a recommendation was that the Township adopt a set of rules to help guide the Township for public commenting sessions.

Attorney Wennlund noted that the Township could adopt what they already have in place which is a 5 minute limit, and a request that individuals don't repeat what someone has already said. Trustee Boban added that if a public comment period ran longer than anticipated, they could always request that they be put on the agenda for the following meeting.

Trustee Boban reported that at the TOI conference, he was under the impression that the circumstances under which an Assessor is to provide policy guideline requirements were not expressly stated.

Attorney Wennlund informed Trustee Boban that the guidelines for requirements were, in fact, "set in stone." The statutes clearly state that the Assessor must provide written personnel guidelines for 5 employees or more, however, the statute does not distinguish between whether those 5 employees are full time or part time. But the statute is clear. If the Assessor has 5 employees or more, only then is the Assessor required to have a written personnel policy in place.

Trustee Boban also reported on sessions from the TOI which covered interdepartmental cooperation such as how the Highway Commissioner and Trustee Boban are working together regarding the recycling project. Supervisor McCollum reminded Trustee Boban that the \$2,000 grant from Walmart could go toward the costs of having a Will County Waste Management event. Trustee Boban also noted that the funds could go toward offsetting the increased costs of the Township's Annual Clean Up Day.

C. CLERK

Clerk Boyd reported that voting turnouts in the Township were mostly in the 50-60% range, with numerous precincts in the 60-70% turnout rate, and 1 precinct actually having a 70-80% turnout. Early voting continues to be growing in popularity.

D. HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER

Highway Commissioner McPartlin reported that the Will County tire recycling event was very, very busy. Highway Commissioner gave the opinion that the TOI conference this year was very informative. Of particular note, the Prevailing Wage Ordinance is changing again.

E. ASSESSOR

Assessor Hernandez noted she had already contributed her information during the levy discussion.

VII. REPORT FROM ATTORNEY

None.

VIII. APPROVAL OF BILLS

Motion by Trustee Boban, seconded by Trustee Hickey, to accept all bills and late bills as presented and approve for payment (\$27,267.29 for the Township General Fund, \$663.79 for General Assistance Home Relief, \$36,252.84 for the Road District General Fund). No further discussion; Trustee Hickey, Trustee Boban, and Supervisor McCollum in favor; none opposed; motion carried.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

Trustee Boban inquired as to the general guidelines surrounding the Township making contributions to various organizations.

Attorney Wennlund advised that unless you are performing a statutory obligation, a governing body must perform within the guidelines of those statutes. Trustee Wennlund informed the board that he has considerable research into this subject, and there are numerous cases of non-home rule entities going beyond their statutory guidelines, even under the best of intentions. For instance, the Township contributes the amount that it costs to deliver the meals for the "Meals on Wheels" program to the seniors.

Trustee Boban inquired into a scenario where a service is failing for lack of funds. Would the Township be able to contribute funds to help a failing service?

Attorney Wennlund noted the Township is to serve the constituency, and helping a service is fine, as long as that service is within the Township's scope of authority.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Motion by Trustee Hickey, seconded by Trustee Boban, to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 p.m. No further discussion; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried.

Respectively submitted,

Annette Boyd