

**MINUTES OF THE
APRIL 8, 2014 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
OF THE TOWN OF SUGAR GROVE
KANE COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

CALL TO ORDER: Clerk Silagi called the meeting to order at 7:00pm followed by the pledge of allegiance.

ELECTED OFFICIALS AND OTHER ELECTORS PRESENT: Laurene Geary, Kevin Geary, Tom Rowe, Scott Hester, Lee Drendel, Greg Huggins, Jerry Elliot, Jerry Murphy, Sean Michels, Scott Jesman, Sheri Baum, Dan Nagel, Charene Nagel, Renee Dee, and Joe Wolf.

ELECTION OF MODERATOR: Clerk Silagi read the purpose of the Moderator and called for nominations. Lee Drendel motioned, seconded by Tom Rowe that Laurene Geary be nominated moderator. There being no other nominations, or objections. Motion carried.

COMPENSATION OF MODERATOR: Clerk Silagi entertained a motion that the Moderator be paid the sum of \$50.00 or waive compensation as Moderator. Laurene Geary motioned, seconded by Greg Huggins to waive her compensation as moderator. Motion carried.

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING APRIL 16, 2013 MINUTES: Moderator Geary read the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting April 16, 2013 after which she asked for a motion to approve. Greg Huggins motioned seconded by Dan Nagel to approve the Minutes of the April 16, 2013 Annual Town Meeting. Motion carried.

ANNUAL 2013/2014 FINANCIAL REPORTS: Moderator Geary directed Clerk Silagi to present for approval the following financial reports.

TOWN FUND: Clerk Silagi read the Annual Financial Report relative to the Town Fund. Clerk Silagi reported a beginning fund balance on April 1, 2013 of \$490,910. Revenue of \$530,733, Expenditures of \$409,847, and an ending fund balance on March 31, 2014 of \$611,796. Clerk Silagi asked for a motion to approve. Tom Rowe motioned, seconded by Scott Hester to Approve the Annual Financial Report Relative to the Town Fund. Motion carried by voice vote.

ROAD & BRIDGE FUND: Clerk Silagi read the Annual Financial Report relative to the Road & Bridge Fund. Clerk Silagi reported a beginning fund balance on April 1, 2013 of \$2,357,830, Revenue of \$882,730, Expenditures of \$881,036, and an ending fund balance on March 31, 2014 of \$2,359,524. Clerk Silagi asked for a motion to approve. Laurene Geary motioned, seconded by Jerry Elliot to Approve the Annual Financial Report Relative to the Road & Bridge Fund. Motion carried by voice vote.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE FUND: Clerk Silagi read the Annual Financial Report relative to the General Assistance Fund. Clerk Silagi reported a beginning fund balance on April 1, 2013 of \$115,982, Revenue of \$12,174, Expenditures of \$2,865, and an ending fund balance on March 31, 2014 of \$125,291. Clerk Silagi asked for a motion to approve. Dan Nagel motioned, seconded by Sheri Baum to Approve the Annual Financial Report Relative to the General Assistance Fund. Motion carried by voice vote.

COMMUNITY BUILDING FUND: Clerk Silagi read to Annual Financial Report relative to the Community Building Fund. Clerk Silagi reported a beginning fund balance on April 1, 2013 of \$270,588, Revenue of \$172,990, Expenditures of 113,498, and an ending fund balance on March 31, 2014 of \$324,333. Clerk Silagi asked for a motion to approve. Greg Huggins motioned, seconded by Lee Drendel to Approve the Annual Financial Report Relative to the Community Building Fund. Motion carried by voice vote.

MENTAL HEALTH FUND: Clerk Silagi read the Annual Financial Report relative to the Mental Health Fund. Clerk Silagi reported a beginning fund balance on April 1, 2013 of \$100, Revenue of \$101,308, Expenditures of \$101,308, and an ending fund balance on March 31, 2014 of \$100. Clerk Silagi asked for a motion to approve. Greg Huggins motioned, seconded by Sheri Baum to Approve the Annual Financial Report Relative to the Mental Health Fund. Motion carried by voice vote.

REPORTS:

COMMUNITY BUILDING: Jerry Murphy reported the following improvements made last year including interior repainting, carpeting, and ceiling tile replacement. Mr Murphy stated that these improvements help to make the Community Building an attractive venue to host community events for residents. Mr. Murphy also pointed out that they will be evaluating roof and foundation systems for possible major repairs which could lead to major capital expenditures. He stated that funding for these kinds of major capital expenditures indicate the need for adequate fund balances.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT: Commissioner Huggins reported that the Prairie St. bridge was completed during the last year. He also commented on projects planned for this year including the resurfacing of Prairie St. from Rte. 47 to Dugan using a new cold reclamation process and engineering work for the Densmore bridge. He explained that these types of projects are very expensive and provide justification for the large fund balances.

ASSESSOR: Assessor Ross arrived late, but offered the following comments in addition to a written report after public comments were concluded: Last year SG Township had an overall increase of 2% in EAV, this year's projection is for a 2% decrease in market value which should be the last year we will see decreased valuations as a result of the downturn. Ross noted that her budget is flat for this year, but will see an increase next year due to additional staffing requirements as a result of the quad year assessment. Kevin Geary asked if they take into consideration vacancy rates for commercial property and if there has been any decrease in the most recent year. Assessor Ross stated that they did factor in vacancy rates and that they have gone from 15% to around 10% as a result of lower square foot rental rates. Mr. Geary then asked if the 2% increase in revenue was due to new construction or less vacancies. Ross stated that it was a little of both and noted about \$3 million in new construction. Lee Drendel questioned Assessor Ross' statement that her budget was cut, when it was actually held to the previous year's level and Drendel noted that it actually came in 10% under budget. Ross agreed that she was under budget for last year and stated that we will see if we are able to stay within budget this year. She said she will do her best to stay within budget this year but that that \$249,000 will not cut it in the quad year next year.

SUPERVISOR: Supervisor Rowe reported on the following accomplishments of the new Board since taking office last May: Contracted with Swanson's Quality Services to implement Quick Books accounting for Township bookkeeping and payroll. Revised the IGA with the Park

District and Community Building to provide monthly free senior lunches with the possible goal expanding the program to two days a month. Conducted our annual audit with a qualified auditor Knutte & Associates. Contracted with NIU Center for Governmental Studies to develop a Strategic Plan. Froze the Township tax levy and reduced the Road District levy for tax year 2013. Contracted with Computer Network Management for IT services including installation of a server and other computer equipment for the Township and Road District. Joined 1375 other townships in Illinois by enrolling in Township of Ill. Risk Management Assoc. for property, auto, general liability, public official liability and workers comp. coverage for 2014-15. Worked with PACE and Aurora Township to bring transportation services to SG Township senior and disabled residents for medical appointments.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Sheri Baum commented that she would like the Township to devote more resources to senior programs.

Renee Dee commented that she has reviewed the Township Mission Statement which states that the Township will help support seniors as well as youth. She stated that she has lived in the Township for 12 years and hasn't seen where the youth part of the mission statement is reflected in budgeting. Supervisor Rowe explained that the mission statement was a result of the recently completed Strategic Plan Initiative. He further stated that the Township doesn't want to duplicate services provided by other agencies, but feels that the Township should partner with the Park District, Library, and Village to support youth and senior services. He also explained that while the current Board is in the first year of their term, youth and senior services is certainly a goal going forward. Supervisor Rowe was asked if additional funds were budgeted for these services for next year and he responded that the proposed budget has funds allocated for Strategic Plan Initiatives as well as a senior transportation program. Renee Dee then asked if any of the SPI funds were going toward Community Building programs. Supervisor Rowe explained that unlike most townships, Sugar Grove has separate elected boards for the Township and Community Building and that the Township participates in partnerships with the Community Building. Renee Dee then stated that she often takes groups of kids to the Elburn Community Center for activities since the Elburn Center provides equipment for activities that are not available at our Community Building. She then offered to serve on a committee or other group that could be formed to look into the possibility of acquiring equipment for youth activities to be used at the Community Building. An extended discussion then took place to explore partnerships to provide equipment, facilities, and coordination for an open rec youth program. Sean Michels then mentioned that he was working with Fairel Rank on a community newsletter.

2016 TOWN MEETING DATE: Moderator Geary stated that the 2016 Town Meeting Date per TOI (second Tuesday in April) will be April 14, 2016

ADJOURNMENT: Tom Rowe motioned, seconded by Greg Huggins to adjourn the 2015 Sugar Grove Town Meeting at 7:49pm.