

**MINUTES OF THE
OCTOBER 3, 2017 REGULAR MEETING
OF THE TOWN OF SUGAR GROVE
KANE COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

CALL TO ORDER: Supervisor Rowe called the meeting to order at 6:00pm followed by the pledge of allegiance.

ROLL CALL was taken. Present were: Trustees Lee Drendel, James Baker, and Jerry Elliott, Supervisor Tom Rowe, and Clerk Phil Silagi.

ALSO PRESENT: Lee Thompson, Karen McCannon, Jeff Humm, Alison Squires, Curt Karas, Doug Musser, and Sean Michels.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Supervisor Rowe asked candidates for the vacant Trustee position to make a brief presentation to the Board. He will allow candidates to address the Board in the order in which he received letters of interest, starting with Mr. Jeff Humm. Supervisor Rowe explained that after the candidate's remarks he will proceed with the regular meeting and that the Board will consider the candidates and possibly make a choice later in the meeting. Mr. Jeff Humm then addressed the Board. Mr. Humm stated that he has been a resident of Sugar Grove Township for twenty-two years and has served on the Elburn Village Board for six years, and the Sugar Grove Village Board for two years. Mr. Humm then cited his employment experience which included the City of Aurora Engineering Dept., Eight years as Director of Public Works for the Village of Oswego, and serving as engineering supervisor for the Fox Metro Water Reclamation District where he retired in 2013. Mr. Humm then stated that he would like the opportunity to serve Sugar Grove Township utilizing his experience and background. Karen McCannon was the next candidate to address the Board. Karen cited her volunteer work and projects she initiated which include the lighting and decorating of the community Christmas Tree, and the Fourth of July bike parade. She mentioned that she does face painting at the Corn Boil and attends the monthly Senior Luncheon to stay in touch with area seniors. Ms. McCannon concluded her remarks by stating that she would like to be on the Township Board to make a difference. Alison Squires was the last candidate and began her remarks by stating that she was a stem educator, math tutor, and currently is teaching a robotics engineering course to children. She then mentioned that in 2016 she was an elected delegate to the Democratic National Convention for Sen. Bernie Sanders, she has been active in politics and most recently ran for Sugar Grove Village Trustee. She stated that she ran for that position because she cares about the community and she feels that younger people should run for elected office so that they are better represented in government. She concluded by saying she was seeking this position because it was an opportunity to serve the community. Supervisor Rowe began the questioning by asking Squires and McCannon if they were still under consideration for the vacant Village Trustee position since they both ran in the recent election. Squires responded by saying that she submitted a resume and letter of interest over a month ago, and has not been contacted by anyone from the Village. McCannon stated that she has heard that the Village Board is not interested in appointing women Trustees. She further stated that she has taken her name out of consideration for that position. Supervisor Rowe followed up by asking if either Squires or McCannon planned to run for a Village Trustee position in 2019. Both responded no. Supervisor Rowe then asked Mr. Humm why he thought he was the best qualified candidate

for this position. Mr. Humm responded that he was the most qualified in terms of experience in local government as both an elected or appointed Trustee and as an employee of local government. He further stated that he feels he has the best interests of Sugar Grove Township at heart and that he has family in the Township and is willing to serve. Trustee Elliott then asked Mr. Humm given his experience on the Village Board, whether he could divorce himself from Village issues and act in the best interests of the Township. Mr. Humm responded that rather than divorce, he felt he could be a liaison and help mend fences between the Village and Township. Ms. McCannon commented that when her husband was on the Village Board there seem to be a lot more cooperation between the Village and Township. Supervisor Rowe then asked Squires and McCannon, given what went down in the last election, if they would have any issues cooperating with the Village on issues of mutual interest that might come up. Squires answered that she believes in compromise and that the Village Board might have taken her the wrong way and that she understands that her views won't necessarily be the majority view on some issues. McCannon responded by saying she would listen and evaluate each issue and decide based on the best interests of the Township. Lastly Supervisor Rowe pointed out that the person who is appointed will likely be asked to serve as liaison to the Mental Health Board which would require them to attend three or four additional evening meetings and asked the candidates if that would be a problem for them. Each candidate responded that it would not present any problems.

Assessor Elect Karas' comments to be recorded under Assessor's Report.

SEPTEMBER 5, 2017 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES: Trustee Drendel motioned, and Trustee Baker seconded the motion to review and approve the September 5, 2017 Meeting Minutes. After review, Trustees Baker, Drendel and Elliott, and Supervisor Rowe voted aye. 0 nays. Motion carried.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:

TOWNSHIP: Trustee Elliott made a motion, seconded by Trustee Drendel to review and approve September Township Accounts Payable. After review and discussion, Trustees Baker, Drendel, and Elliott, and Supervisor Rowe voted aye. 0 nays. Motion carried. The balance in the Town Fund checking accounts as of September 28, 2017 is \$458,447.63.

ROAD & BRIDGE: Trustee Elliott made a motion, seconded by Trustee Drendel to review and approve the September Road and Bridge Accounts Payable. After review, Trustees Baker, Drendel, and Elliott, and Supervisor Rowe voted aye. 0 nay. Motion carried. The balance in the Road & Bridge checking account as of September 28, 2017 is \$837,628.08.

PAYROLL REPORT: 8/28/17-9/24/17

PROFIT & LOSS REPORTS: Trustee Elliott questioned why line item 561 Dues, in the Road District report was \$825 over budget. Supervisor Rowe will meet with Commissioner Huggins and get back to the Board with an explanation.

QUARTERLY TREASURER'S REPORT: Trustee Baker motioned, seconded by Trustee Elliott to review and approve the Quarterly Treasurer's Report for the period ending Sept. 30, 2017. After review, Trustees Baker, Drendel, and Elliott and Supervisor Rowe voted aye. 0 nays. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: Supervisor Rowe provided the Board with correspondence from Ancel Glink informing the Township of HB 1896 which was enacted and effective September 8, 2017 that specifies that townships may not accumulate funds that exceed 2.5 times the township's annual expenditures from the previous three fiscal years excluding capital funds. Supervisor Rowe asked the auditor to look at the Townships funds to determine which ones would be above the 2.5 amount and they replied that the Community Building and General Assistance would be the only ones affected. Supervisor Rowe then questioned Ancel Glink as to possible remedies and they said, regarding the Community Building, their Board could adopt a resolution moving the excess funds to a capital account. Regarding General Assistance their recommendation would be to not levy for 2018 and then if additional funds become necessary, they could be transferred from the Township Fund.

REPORTS:

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT: Supervisor Rowe submitted a written report and highlighted the following: The Chamber is hosting a "No Tricks Just Treats" Event – 10/21/17 from 9am-Noon. Supervisor Rowe provided an updated copy of the time off report for Road District employees including vacation and sick hours accrued and used per auditor's recommendation. A copy of The TOI Legislative Survey is part of the Board packet for any members who wish to respond. The first draft of the SG Community Fall Newsletter is available for the Board to review. In this issue the Township is featuring INC 708 Board Services. The TOI Kane County Annual Banquet will be held Wed. Oct. 25th and so far four Board members have expressed an interest in attending. Lastly Supervisor Rowe provided a Thank You letter from the Fox Valley Special Recreation Foundation for our contribution in memory of Kasia Kreitz.

ASSESSOR: Assessor Ross – No Report. Assessor-Elect Karas reported that he attended a two day seminar on reviewing appraisals that was very informative. He also reported that he will not be receiving any additional orientation from the current Assessor.

ROAD & BRIDGE: Doug Musser gave the following report. Tree trimming will begin shortly and will include the removal of 9 trees. Overlays and patching have been completed and preparations for the winter snow season are underway.

CLERKS REPORT: No report.

TRUSTEES REPORT: Trustee Drendel reported that he will be providing the Board with a usage report for rooms at the Community House. He further reported that the building is almost completely booked up until the first of the year. Lastly he informed the Board that Community House Board members Murphy and Baum have sent a letter to Willie King asking for his resignation due to his failure to attend Board meetings. Trustee Drendel then noted that Mr. King has had some health issues. Trustee Baker had no report for the Airport Authority since they did not meet, however, reported that he visited the SG Historical Society and visited with staff for about an hour and a half. Staff was appreciative of his visit and his visit was very informative. Trustee Elliott reported that equipment was installed at the 2nd well monitoring site at the Aurora Airport. The Prairie St. site has documented the increased shallow well use by the City of Aurora due to a river algae bloom which decreased river water usage from 53% down to 30%. The level

of the Prairie St. well decreased 6ft. during that period. The Water Authority has also agreed to sponsor, for \$2,000, the Metropolitan Planning Council Water Supply which places our Water Authority on their webpage which has over 97,000 visits annually and should lead to more visits to our site increasing community awareness.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Consideration & Potential Approval of 2017 Holiday in the Grove Sponsorship: Supervisor Rowe presented the Board with this sponsorship opportunity mentioned by Trustee Baker last month and noted that we sponsored this group at the \$250 level last year. Trustee Drendel motioned, seconded by Trustee Elliott to Sponsor Holiday in the Grove for 2017 at the \$250 level. Trustees Drendel, and Elliott, and Supervisor Rowe voted aye. 0 nays. Trustee Baker abstained. Motion carried.
2. Consideration & Potential Approval of Kaneland Fire & Safety Foundation Sponsorship: Supervisor Rowe presented this request to the Board. Trustee Drendel motioned, seconded by Trustee Baker to sponsor the Kaneland Fire & Safety Foundation at the Bronze or \$75 level. Trustees Baker, Drendel, and Elliott, and Supervisor Rowe voted aye. 0 nays. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Consideration & Potential Approval of Shared Phase 1 Engineering Study for Pedestrian/Bicycle Bridge Crossing Blackberry Creek to Virgil Gilman Trail: Sean Michels, Sugar Grove Village President, explained that he was requesting a partnership between the Village, Township, Park District, and the Kane County Forest Preserve to initially contribute \$25,000 each to Phase I engineering to design and identify a location for a pedestrian bridge over Blackberry Creek. Since there is no path connection between the Virgil Gilman Trail and the area south of Blackberry Creek, bicyclists and pedestrians are forced to travel on Bliss Road to get to this area. Bliss Road is not set up to accommodate bicyclists and pedestrians, and since it currently averages 8,850 vehicles per day, it presents a serious safety concern for pedestrians and bicyclists. Michels went on to explain that Phase I engineering would enable us to apply for a CMAP grant that if approved, would fund 80% of the project cost. This would allow local units of government to complete a \$500,000 project using only about \$100,000 in local funds. Since this bridge would connect the Gilman Trail with neighborhood paths and trails it will certainly be utilized and would no doubt save lives in the future. Currently the Village and Park District have made commitments for Phase I engineering. The time frame for this project is for engineering to be completed next spring so that the grant could be submitted next June. The Township contribution, if approved would come out of next year's budget. After discussion Supervisor Rowe made a motion, seconded by Trustee Elliott to commit to provide \$25,000 as Sugar Grove Township's share of funding for a Phase I Engineering Study for a Pedestrian/Bicycle Bridge Crossing Blackberry Creek to Virgil Gilman Trail. Trustees Baker, Drendel, and Elliott, and Supervisor Rowe vote aye. 0 nays. Motion carried.

2. IDOT Phase 1 Study for Improvement of Rt. 30 from IL 47 to IL 31: Supervisor Rowe presented the Board with correspondence from IDOT outlining the above project. As a proposed part of the project, a separate sidewalk accommodating bicyclist and pedestrians would be included subject to local participation. The Township share would be 20% of the construction cost plus a 15% engineering fee, the total estimated to be \$36,225. Since this is part of a road project, Road District funds would have to be used and authorized by the Road District Commissioner. Additionally, the Road District would be responsible for any maintenance to this improvement once constructed. Supervisor Rowe would like the Board to take this project under consideration for discussion at next month's meeting where Commissioner Huggins would be available to provide his input. A response in the form of a resolution will need to be provided to IDOT indicating non-participation if the Township chooses not to participate.
3. Consideration & Approval of Appointment for SG Township Trustee Vacancy

EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 7:40pm, Trustee Drendel motioned, seconded by Trustee Baker, to convene into executive session to consider the appointment of a person to fill a public office or vacancy in a public office.

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION: Trustee Baker motioned, and Trustee Elliott seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved adjourning the Executive Session and returning to the Regular Meeting at 8:05pm.

NEW BUSINESS (continued):

3. Consideration & Approval of Appointment for SG Township Trustee Vacancy: Supervisor Rowe thanked the candidates for their efforts and interest in serving. Trustee Drendel motioned, and Trustee Baker seconded the motion to Appoint Alison Squires to the position of Sugar Grove Township Board Trustee. Trustees Baker, Drendel, and Elliott, and Supervisor Rowe voted aye. 0 nays. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT: Trustee Drendel moved, Trustee Baker seconded, and the Board unanimously approved adjourning the regular meeting at 8:10pm.