

**MINUTES OF THE
APRIL 10, 2018 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: Tom Rowe, Greg Huggins, Jerry Murphy, Shari Baum, Doug Musser, Curt Karas, Nelda Karas, James Baker, Diana Baker, Alison Squires, and Lee Drendel.

ELECTION OF MODERATOR: Clerk Silagi read the purpose of the Moderator and called for nominations. Lee Drendel nominated Alison Squires and Tom Rowe nominated James Baker for the position of moderator. Clerk Silagi called for a vote on the nomination of Alison Squires. Alison Squires received 5 votes. Clerk Silagi then called for a vote on the nomination of James Baker. James Baker received 4 votes. Alison Squires receiving more votes, was elected Moderator of the Annual Town Meeting. Moderator Squires was then sworn in by Clerk Silagi.

COMPENSATION OF MODERATOR: Moderator Squires requested that the customary \$50 compensation be waived.

APPROVAL OF ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES APRIL 11, 2017: Moderator Squires asked if there were any comments or questions regarding the meeting minutes as presented. Tom Rowe noted that Sean Michels' request for financial reporting from the Water Authority would not be possible at this meeting due to Jerry Elliott's absence as he is recovering from a recent surgery. Elliott will provide financial reporting on the Water Authority upon his recovery. There being no other questions or comments, Lee Drendel motioned, seconded by James Baker to approve the Meeting Minutes of The Annual Town Meeting April 11, 2017 as presented. The motion was then unanimously approved by voice vote of the electors. Motion carried.

ANNUAL 2017/2018 FINANCIAL REPORTS: Moderator Squires directed Clerk Silagi to present for approval the following financial reports. NOTE: Beginning balances reflect unaudited amounts:

TOWN FUND: Clerk Silagi read the Annual Financial Report relative to the Town Fund. Clerk Silagi reported a beginning fund balance on April 1, 2017 of \$853,935; Revenue of \$534,318; Expenditures and Compensation of \$483,338, and an ending fund balance on March 31, 2018 of \$904,915. Moderator Squires asked for a motion to approve. Tom Rowe motioned, seconded by Greg Huggins 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, 2017 of \$2,002,218; Revenue of \$924,159; Expenditures and Compensation of \$824,583, and an ending fund balance on March 31, 2018 of \$2,101,794. Moderator Squires asked for a motion to approve.

Jerry Murphy motioned, seconded by Lee Drendel 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, 2017 of \$158,037; Revenue of \$12,340, Expenditures of \$427, and an ending fund balance on March 31, 2018 of \$169,950. Moderator Squires asked for a motion to approve. James Baker motioned, seconded by Diana Baker to Approve the Annual Financial Report Relative to the General Assistance Fund. Motion carried by voice vote.

COMMUNITY BUILDING FUND: Clerk Silagi read the Annual Financial Report relative to the Community Building Fund. Clerk Silagi reported a beginning fund balance on April 1, 2017 of \$407,730; Revenue of \$175,105; Expenditures of \$166,696, and an ending fund balance on March 31, 2018 of \$416,139. Moderator Squires asked for a motion to approve. Doug Musser 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, 2017 of \$0.00; Revenue of \$110,946; Expenditures of \$110,946, and an ending fund balance on March 31, 2018 of \$0.00. Moderator Squires asked for a motion to approve. Tom Rowe motioned, seconded by Alison Squires to Approve the Annual Financial Report Relative to the Mental Health Fund. Motion carried by voice vote.

REPORTS:

COMMUNITY BUILDING: Jerry Murphy reported that the major maintenance project completed last year was a complete tear off and reroof of the building. He also reported that they have added the part-time staff position of Maintenance Coordinator. Murphy reported building usage has not declined in spite of the restriction imposed last year that limits building usage to Sugar Grove Township residents and organizations. The Community Building staff keeps records on usage for anyone who might be interested. Building use is free to Township not for profit organizations, and rentals are available for fundraisers, businesses, and private parties. Lee Drendel reported that money has been budgeted this year for major upgrades to the heating system including new boilers and controls.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT: Commissioner Huggins reported that the major overlay project for this year will be Winthrop New Road in Prestbury. This project will include repairs to curbs and sidewalks for ADA compliance as well as storm sewer upgrades. Huggins then informed the group that in response to complaints from residents at last year's town meeting, he has received County Board approval for signage upgrades at Denny and Norris Roads to slow traffic at the sharp curve in the road. Huggins looked into the possibility of improving the curve, however engineering costs alone would be over \$300,000, so for the time being he will monitor the situation to determine if signage and pavement marking improve traffic safety. Lastly Huggins reported that he has been ordered to post weight limit restrictions on two Township bridges due to failing support beams. These bridges will have to be replaced in the near future which will significantly decrease capital projects funds.

ASSESSOR: Assessor Karas reported that his office is in the process of updating the assessment records for all properties in the Township by neighborhood. This involves comparing sales records to assessed values and making adjustments so that assessed values are as close to 1/3 of market value as possible. After they have updated assessments, they will go to the County for review and application of the equalization factor which will probably be 1.0475%. In other words, there being no other changes in assessment, the property tax bill will increase by 1.0475%. Lastly Karas reported that the senior freeze eligibility has increased from \$55,000 to \$65,000 per household.

SUPERVISOR: Supervisor Rowe reported that the Township had another good year and highlighted the following Board accomplishments:

1. Continued sponsorship with the Park District of the senior lunch program which provides a free lunch to Township residents on the last Tuesday of every month at the Community Building.
2. The Township Board is interested in expanding the Senior/Disabled Transportation Program and is looking for an alternative provider since our current provider, Aurora Township, is unable to provide additional service. We expect to have the expanded service available later this summer.
3. The Township Board froze the Township and Road District tax levy for the fifth consecutive year.
4. Continued to be a participating sponsor of the Sugar Grove Community Newsletter. The latest edition will feature articles by the Township Assessor and Road Commissioner.
5. The Sugar Grove Township Board approved an additional \$5,000 in social service funding to AID to fund additional transportation services. This brings our total to \$10,000 in contributions to A.I.D. over the past 15 months.
6. Repairs to the Bliss House in the summer of 2017 included a new porch roof, exterior painting, replacement of the front steps, and exterior lighting.
7. The SG Township is partnering with the Village, Park District and Kane County Forest Preserve on a phase 1 engineering study for a bike bridge over Blackberry Creek to provide a link from the Gilman Trail to Windsor Pointe Park behind Jewel.
8. The SG Township partnered with the Village, Park District, and Library on the formation of the Sugar Grove Arts & Entertainment Committee to sponsor the new "Groovin in the Grove" music series of summer outdoor concerts.

Supervisor Rowe then allowed Jerry Murphy to provide residents with a report on Mental Health Board services to the Township during the past year. Murphy noted that the Board has provided service to 718 SG Township residents in the past year, which is about 1 out of every 25 residents. Murphy provided attendees with a handout of service statistics and an INC Board brochure.

CONSIDERATION & POTENTIAL APPROVAL OF BLISS HOUSE LEASE: Supervisor Rowe explained that the Bliss House has office space behind the Historical Society as well as basement space that are currently being leased out. The Township attorney has informed us that leases of Township property must be approved by the electors at the Annual Town Meeting. The upstairs office space is currently leased by Jada Hudson for a counseling service, rent is \$500 per month. The proposed lease renewal increases rent to \$525 per month. The downstairs proposed lease is to Ellen Violet Svehla who currently uses the space for sewing instruction. Rent for the downstairs is currently \$300 per month with a proposed increase to \$315 per month. Both leases are one year leases beginning June 1, 2018 and ending May 31, 2019. The Township is responsible for all maintenance and repairs and most of the utilities. Tenants are responsible for interior space

cleaning and internet service. Supervisor Rowe asked for a motion to review and approve the lease for Jada Hudson. Lee Drendel motioned, seconded by James Baker to Approve the Bliss House One Year Lease to Jada Hudson Clinical Counseling for \$525 per Month. The motion was approved by voice vote.

Supervisor Rowe then asked for a motion to review and approve the lease for Ellen Violet. Shari Baum motioned, seconded by Diana Baker to Approve the Bliss House One Year Lease to Ellen Violet Designs for \$315 per Month. The motion was approved by voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Shari Baum commented on proposed legislation in Springfield that would allow for the dissolution of Townships with services to be provided by Counties. An extended discussion ensued with the consensus opinion that with the exception of Townships that have overlapping boundaries with municipalities, Township governments provide more responsive service to constituents at a lower cost and should therefore be retained.

2018 TOWN MEETING DATE: Clerk Silagi asked for a motion to set the 2019 Annual Town Meeting Date per TOI (second Tuesday in April) on April 9, 2019 at 7:00pm. Diana Baker motioned, and James Baker seconded the motion to set the 2019 Annual Town Meeting Date of April 9, 2019 at 7:00pm. Motion carried by voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT: James Baker motioned, Lee Drendel seconded, and the electors unanimously approved adjourning the 2018 Sugar Grove Town Meeting at 8:04pm.