

**MINUTES OF THE  
APRIL 9, 2019 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, Doug Musser, Curt Karas, James Baker, Diana Baker, Alison Squires, Lee Drendel, Jerry Elliott, Ellen Svehla, Willie Molitor, Steve Kowalczyk, and Clara Dillard. Non-voting attendee Lyndon Squires.

**ELECTION OF MODERATOR:** Clerk Silagi read the purpose of the Moderator and called for nominations. Tom Rowe nominated and Lee Drendel seconded the nomination of Jim Baker for the position of Moderator of the Annual Town Meeting. Clerk Silagi called for a voice vote on the nomination of Jim Baker who was then elected unanimously. Clerk Silagi then administered the Oath of Moderator to Jim Baker

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

**APPROVAL OF ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES APRIL 10, 2018:** Moderator Baker asked if there were any comments or questions regarding the meeting minutes as presented. After review, Diana Baker motioned, seconded by Jerry Elliott to approve the Meeting Minutes of The Annual Town Meeting April 10, 2018 as presented. The motion was then unanimously approved by voice vote of the electors. Motion carried.

**ANNUAL 2018/2019 FINANCIAL REPORTS:** Moderator Baker 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, 2018 of \$896,403; Revenue of \$549,504; Expenditures and Compensation of \$493,746, and an ending fund balance on March 31, 2019 of \$952,161. Moderator Baker asked for a motion to approve. Lee Drendel motioned, seconded by Alison Squires 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, 2018 of \$2,087,130; Revenue of \$1,011,981; Expenditures and Compensation of \$1,222,379, and an ending fund balance on March 31, 2019 of \$1,876,732. Clara Dillard asked why the fund had such a large balance yet they are unwilling or unable to correct the dangerous 90 degree curve at Norris and Denny Roads where accident occur frequently. Highway Commissioner Musser noted the many signage changes to alert drivers and stated that he would be in contact with the property owner and the County to explore the possibility a straightening the curve. Moderator Baker asked

for a motion to approve. Diana Baker 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, 2018 of \$169,915, Revenue of \$110, Expenditures & Compensation of \$448, and an ending fund balance on March 31, 2019 of \$169,577. Moderator Baker asked for a motion to approve. Jerry Elliott motioned, seconded by Clara Dillard 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, 2018 of \$414,090; Revenue of \$178,999; Expenditures & Compensation of \$137,259, and an ending fund balance on March 31, 2019 of \$455,830. Moderator Baker asked for a motion to approve. Tom Rowe motioned, seconded by Diana Baker 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, 2018 of \$0.00; Revenue of \$115,382; Expenditures of \$115,355, and an ending fund balance on March 31, 2019 of \$27.00. Moderator Baker asked for a motion to approve. Lee Drendel 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:** Community Building Board Manager Steve Kowalczyk reported that their Board appointed a new member, Aaron Rybski and they have a new part-time building maintenance supervisor, Dennis Fitzpatrick. Kowalczyk also reported that they have added HVAC to offices in the building as well as upgrades to the elevator. Building usage has remained stable.

**HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT:** Commissioner Musser reported on the Road District's overlay project in Prestbury and informed the electors that they were currently in the process of switching from winter to summer operations. Musser also addressed concerns about drainage problems at Denny and Norris Rds. An elector asked about the condition of the Hanks Rd. bridge and Musser informed them of IDOT's plan for bridge repairs.

**ASSESSOR:** Assessor Karas explained that the Assessor assesses all township properties with the exception of farm land and land owned by railroads. The assessment is one third of fair market value which is adjusted each year based on sales of real estate. Their assessments are then reviewed by the County which applies a factor to be used in coming up with the final property tax bill. Karas then explained the role of the assessor in the budget and levy process for units of local government and how development and a larger tax base can potentially decrease residential tax bills when levies remain flat.

**SUPERVISOR:** Supervisor Rowe commented that he is most proud of the fact that the Township Board is the only unit of local government that has kept its levy flat over the last six years. This is with the exception of the mental health division of the Township which has seen very small increases in order to maintain levels of service for their very important work. Other highlights include:

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 has contracted with Freedom 1<sup>st</sup> to provide expanded senior and disabled transportation for Township residents.
3. Launched a new program for senior lawn mowing. Residents meeting certain qualifications can have their lawn mowed for free every week or as needed during the season. We have limited the program to 10 senior residents who qualify based on income.
4. The Sugar Grove Township Board approved sharing sponsorship of the “Groovin in the Grove” summer concert series along with the Village, Library, and Park District.

**WATER AUTHORITY REPORT:** Jerry Elliott introduced himself as treasurer of the Sugar Grove Water Authority which consists of three members, himself, Dan Nagel (President of the Board), and Jeff Babich. Elliott then gave a financial report, the beginning fund balance 1/1/18 was \$72,284, with tax revenues, funds available during the year were \$98,975, there were expenditures of \$29,812 leaving a fund balance 12/31/18 of \$69,162. Elliott pointed out that annual tax revenue received by the Water Authority is about \$13,000. The Water Authority’s share of the tax bill for the owner of a \$300,000 house is about \$3.80, so for that small amount, Township residents receive a public service that monitors and protects this vital natural resource. Elliott then noted that the SG Water Authority is one of 17 in Illinois and the only one north of I-80. The Water Authority provides protection of water resources from encroachment by neighboring water users. Elliott then talked about development and the draw down in deep water aquifers that is leading to water shortages. Next Elliott explained the SG Water Authority’s well monitoring program which consists of 5 wells in the Township that are equipped with water level monitors that report water levels hourly in real time. This information is available to governmental agencies as well as residents and allows us to track changes in levels and allows us to better manage this valuable resource. Elliott then talked about the City of Aurora well at Blackberry Farm which when in use pumps about 900,000 gallons per day and influences water levels in other wells within a mile and a half radius. Elliott’s own well water level drops about 6ft. when the Aurora well is pumping even though he is 4,000 feet away from it. The water level usually recovers within 3 days after pumping stops. Elliott then noted that the Blackberry Creek watershed is the largest in Kane County and produces about 46 billion gallons of water in a typical year and is probably the principal reason for the abundant water resources in SG Township. The Water Authority monitors ground water levels, rainfall, and water levels in Blackberry Creek. Lastly, Elliott noted that planners are predicting a 34% increase in water usage in NE Illinois by 2050 which will aggravate the already serious water shortages in parts of this area.

**KANE COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT:** Moderator Baker noted that Deputy Demeter was not present or unable to attend this meeting. Baker noted that the Deputy was present at a number of the Board meetings and that he reported on a number of small burglaries in the area. Demeter urged residents to take some common sense precautions such as not leaving valuables in cars, locking car doors, and making sure garage doors are closed. Tom Rowe also commented that the new Sheriff Ron Hain has made some positive changes including having Deputies attend Township Board meetings and making more patrols on rural roads which have improved conditions.

**CONSIDERATION & POTENTIAL APPROVAL OF BLISS HOUSE LEASES :** Moderator Baker explained that the Bliss House has office space behind the Historical Society as well as basement space that are currently being leased out. The upstairs office space is currently leased by Jada Hudson for a counseling service, rent was increased from \$500 to \$525 last year. The proposed lease renewal would keep rent at \$525 per month. The downstairs proposed lease is to Ellen Violet who currently uses the space for sewing instruction. Rent for the downstairs was increased last year from \$300 per month to \$315 per month. The proposed lease for the downstairs space would keep rent at \$315 per month. Both are one year leases beginning June 1, 2019 and ending May 31, 2020. The Township is responsible for all maintenance and repairs and most of the utilities. Tenants are responsible for interior space cleaning and internet service. Moderator Baker asked for a motion to review and approve the lease for Jada Hudson. Clara Dillard motioned, seconded by Diana 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. Moderator Baker then asked for a motion to review and approve the lease for Ellen Violet. Diana Baker motioned, seconded by Lee Drendel 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:** Ellen Svehla wanted to thank the Township for allowing her to occupy the Bliss House space for her business and for the help and cooperation they have provided as landlords.

**2020 TOWN MEETING DATE:** Moderator Baker asked for a motion to set the 2020 Annual Town Meeting Date per TOI (second Tuesday in April) on April 14, 2020 at 7:00pm. Lee Drendel motioned, and Clara Dillard seconded the motion to set the 2020 Annual Town Meeting Date of April 14, 2020 at 7:00pm. Motion carried by voice vote.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Diana Baker motioned, Clara Dillard seconded, and the electors unanimously approved adjourning the 2019 Sugar Grove Town Meeting at 8:30pm.