

**MINUTES OF THE
APRIL 13, 2021 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
OF THE TOWN OF SUGAR GROVE
KANE COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

CALL TO ORDER: Clerk Silagi called the meeting to order at 7:04pm followed by the pledge of allegiance.

ELECTED OFFICIALS AND OTHER ELECTORS PRESENT: Tom Rowe, Doug Musser, Curt Karas, James Baker, Jerry Elliott, Marion Bond, Jon Bobbe, Bill Collins, Debbie DeBoer, Sherri Baum, Lewis Medina, Scott Stalcup, Ken Johnson, and Phil Silagi.

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

COMPENSATION OF MODERATOR: Jerry Elliott motioned, seconded by Doug Musser to set the compensation of the moderator at the sum of \$50.00. Motion passed by voice vote.

APPROVAL OF ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES APRIL 9, 2019: Moderator Bond asked if there were any comments or questions regarding the meeting minutes as presented. Sherri Baum commented that the minutes stated that the Community Building replaced a boiler which is incorrect, Clerk Silagi will make that correction in the minutes. After review, Jon Bobbe motioned, seconded by Jim Baker to approve the Meeting Minutes of The Annual Town Meeting of April 9, 2019 as presented and corrected. The motion was then unanimously approved by voice vote of the electors. Motion carried.

ANNUAL 2019/2020 & 2020/2021 FINANCIAL REPORTS: Moderator Bond directed Clerk Silagi to present for approval the following financial reports. NOTE: Beginning balances reflect audited amounts for 2019//2020 and unaudited amounts for 2020/2021. Clerk Silagi recommended for the purposes of this meeting since we are approving two years of financial reports, that a single motion, second, and voice vote be taken for all funds for each year.

2019/2020:

TOWN FUND: Clerk Silagi read the Annual Financial Report relative to the Town Fund. Clerk Silagi reported a beginning fund balance on April 1, 2019 of \$936,975, Revenue of \$560,338, Expenditures and Compensation of \$555,205, and an ending fund balance on March 31, 2020 of \$942,407.

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, 2019 of \$1,881,088, Revenue of \$1,105,862, Expenditures and Compensation of \$1,166,972, and an ending fund balance on March 31, 2020 of \$1,819,977.

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, 2019 of \$170,218, Revenue of \$2,204, Expenditures & Compensation of \$564, and an ending fund balance on March 31, 2020 of \$171,858.

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, 2019 of \$453,058, Revenue of \$176,596, Expenditures & Compensation of \$122,419, and an ending fund balance on March 31, 2020 of \$507,235.

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, 2019 of \$0.00, Revenue of \$118,109, Expenditures of \$118,109, and an ending fund balance on March 31, 2020 of \$0.

Tom Rowe motioned, and Jerry Elliott seconded the motion to Approve the Annual Treasurer's Report for All Funds for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2020. The motion passed by voice vote.

2020/2021:

TOWN FUND: Clerk Silagi read the Annual Treasurer's Report relative to the Town Fund. Clerk Silagi reported a beginning fund balance on April 1, 2020 of \$942,406, Revenue of \$560,045, Expenditures & Compensation of \$742,727, and an ending fund balance on March 31, 2021 of \$759,724.

ROAD & BRIDGE FUND: Clerk Silagi read the Annual Treasurer's Report relative to the Road & Bridge Fund. Clerk Silagi reported a beginning fund balance on April 1, 2020 of \$1,819,977, Revenue of \$1,124,600, Expenditures & Compensation of \$1,389,471, and an ending fund balance on March 31, 2021 of \$1,555,106.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE FUND: Clerk Silagi read the Annual Treasurer's Report relative to the General Assistance Fund. Clerk Silagi reported a beginning fund balance on April 1, 2020 of \$171,858, Revenue of \$2,015, Expenditures & Compensation of \$279 and an ending fund balance on March 31, 2021 of \$173,594.

COMMUNITY BUILDING FUND: Clerk Silagi read the Annual Treasurer's Report relative to the Community Building Fund. Clerk Silagi reported a beginning fund balance on April 1, 2020 of \$507,235, Revenue of \$221,985, Expenditures & Compensation of \$257,443, and an ending fund balance on March 31, 2021 of \$471,777.

MENTAL HEALTH FUND: Clerk Silagi read the Annual Treasurer's Report relative to the Mental Health Fund. Clerk Silagi reported a beginning fund balance on April 1, 2020 of \$0, Revenue of \$121,035, Expenditures & Compensation of \$121,035, and an ending fund balance on March 31, 2021 of \$0.

Jerry Elliott motioned, and Marion Bond seconded the motion to Approve the Annual Treasurer's Report for All Funds for the Fiscal Year Ended March 31, 2021. The motion passed by voice vote.

CONSIDERATION & POTENTIAL APPROVAL OF BLISS HOUSE LEASES : Moderator Bond explained that the Bliss House has office space behind the Historical Society and asked that Supervisor Tow Rowe summarize the current leases. Rowe explained that the Township Board at the direction of our attorneys set the rents for the tenants at the Bliss House during the last year in the absence of the Annual Town Meeting due to the Covid Pandemic. The upstairs office space is currently leased by Jada Hudson for a counseling service, rent was \$525 last year. The proposed lease renewal would keep rent at \$525 per month. The downstairs lease is to Ellen Violet who currently uses the space for sewing instruction. Rent for the downstairs was \$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, 2021 and ending May 31, 2022. The Township is responsible for all maintenance and repairs and most of the utilities. Tenants are responsible for interior space cleaning and internet service. Jim Baker motioned, and Jon Bobbe seconded the motion to Approve the One Year Bliss House Leases for Jada Hudson Clinical Counseling for \$525 per Month & Ellen Violet Designs for \$315 per Month. The motion passed by voice vote.

REPORTS:

KANE COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT: Kane County Sheriff's Deputy Ken Johnson introduced himself and stated that he is a resident of Sugar Grove Township and lives in Prestbury. Sheriff Hain began a program of assigning Township deputies and Johnson requested to be assigned to Sugar Grove Township so he could live and work in the same community and be familiar with residents and local issues. In 2020 there were 1000 calls for service which includes traffic stops, burglaries, domestics, and all other calls for service. Deputy Johnson reported that there were 103 accidents in the Township last year. Burglaries, especially car burglaries were a problem with teenagers looking for unlocked cars. He cautioned those in attendance to keep their cars in the garage or make sure they are locked. He also reported a significant increase domestic calls due to people staying home during the pandemic. Johnson reported on some of Sheriff Hain's initiatives which include the hiring of two new social workers, inmate programs, expanded electronic inmate monitoring, senior programs, and implementing the mandated body cam program.

COMMUNITY BUILDING: Community Building Board Member Shari Baum began her report by explaining that the Community Building was constructed in 1929 for the purpose of serving Sugar Grove Township residents. The elected Board of Managers recognizes the historic significance of the building and works to restore and maintain the building. Baum noted that they have not increased their levy over the past 8 years. While the building has been closed to the public due to the pandemic, they have continued capital projects and maintenance activities including: resurfacing of the parking lot, LED lighting upgrades, Covid deep cleaning, removal of the water feature and replacement with a garden space, and installation of a new security camera system. In November of 2020 a new part-time administrator position was created and

filled. Baum noted that the Community Building follows all CDC and State guidelines and looks forward to reopening the building to the public when it is safe to do so.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT: Commissioner Musser reported that the Road District never missed a day during the Covid Pandemic. They have recently purchased two new tractors for mowing with a sickle bar and have a new truck on order. Last year they completed the overlay and improvements for N. Buckingham in Prestbury. This year's overlays include Hanks Rd from 56 to Deerpath, Deerpath to the Aurora line, Denny Rd., Norris to the Village line, North Norris, Westridge, and North Barnes Rd. Improvements to the 90 degrees curve on Denny Rd include pavement markings, chevrons, signage, flashing lights, and improving sight lines. Musser then discussed routine maintenance activities and negotiations with the BNSF railroad for the replacement of the culvert at the Barnes Rd railroad crossing.

ASSESSOR: Assessor Karas reported that his office was only shut down for one week during the pandemic and that was under orders from the Governor. Karas then began a presentation on the different property classes in Sugar Grove Township. He explained that almost 43% of the Township is farmland without buildings which he does not assess, another 21% are exempt properties which are not assessed or taxed, and 38% is railroad property which is also not assessed or taxed. This leaves 35% of the land in Sugar Grove Township to shoulder the burden of the taxing bodies. Karas then pointed out that while farm land without buildings makes up 43% of the land in Sugar Grove Township, it only accounts for 1% of the assessed value. Karas then directed everyone to look at a handout from Kane County on property taxes and went on to explain the relationship between tax levies, tax rates, assessed values, and tax bills. Afterward Karas quizzed residents and took questions.

SUPERVISOR: Supervisor Rowe listed these highlights for Fiscal Years April 1, 2019 – March 31, 2021:

1. Covid 19 continues to have an impact on our Township. Initially Board meeting were held via Zoom and room usage by the public was suspended. Now that we have moved to Phase 4 and more residents are vaccinated, we are slowly returning to normal.
2. Due to Covid 19, the Senior Lunch program transitioned to a drive-thru event beginning in April of 2020. An average of 100 lunches per month were served free of charge.
3. Senior and disabled transportation program expanded in the fall of 2018. For the period of September 2018 thru March 2021, Freedom 1st Transportation has provided 1,675 rides for 70 registered clients in Sugar Grove Township. Rides were expanded from 2 to 5 days per week for medical, employment, and shopping purposes with some limitations.
4. SG Township provided an additional \$5,000 in social service funding to the Association for Individual Development for the 3rd straight year to fund additional transportation services for disabled residents in Sugar Grove Township.
5. The Township Board approved no increase in the Township and Road District tax levies for the 8th consecutive year.
6. Repairs were completed at the Bliss House including replacement of broken asphalt and concrete as well as interior and exterior painting.
7. Continued partnership with the Village, Park District, and Library for the "Groovin in the Grove" Summer Concert Series. The concerts were cancelled last summer due to the pandemic, but we are hopeful the series can resume this year.

8. SG Township completed its second season of the Senior Lawn Mowing program. 10 households qualified for the program and had their lawns mowed once per week from May thru October free of charge. We will be offering senior snow removal this winter.
9. Blackberry Creek Pedestrian Bridge – The Township, Village, Park District, and County have partnered to complete Phase I engineering for this project. These bodies have submitted a grant proposal for Phase 2 engineering and construction which would fund 80% of the project. The remaining 20% approximately \$200,000, would need to be funded by the 4 taxing bodies.
10. MetroNet – Sugar Grove Township completed conversion of its telephone and internet services to MetroNet in April of 2020. The conversion saves the Township approximately 33% of the cost of the previous service providers in addition to providing us with a new phone system.

WATER AUTHORITY REPORT: Jerry Elliott representing the Water Authority explained that the purpose of the Water Authority is to maintain the availability of water to the residents of Sugar Grove Township. The Water Authority addresses ground and surface water and its availability into the future. Elliott then discussed the Water Authority's partnership with the Illinois State Water Survey and their assistance in the well monitoring program. Elliott then shared a presentation from the Illinois State Water Survey that discussed the depletion of the deep-water aquifers. He also highlighted the relationship of rainfall to water levels in the wells being monitored in Sugar Grove Township. As a result of the well monitoring program the Water Authority was able to document the recovery of water levels in wells after drawdowns due to the City of Aurora well 101 which typically pumps 700,000 gallons per day when in use. Typically, the drawdown was about 4 feet in a well less than a mile away and recovery was within 24 hours after pumping stopped. Elliott attributed this recovery to the Blackberry Creek Watershed. Elliott then began a discussion of the water sourcing negotiations taking place for Montgomery, Oswego, and Yorkville and their decision to use Lake Michigan Water. Elliott talked about current water consumption levels for Sugar Grove, Aurora, and Montgomery, and noted that current projections indicated that Sugar Grove should have sufficient water capacity to sustain anticipated growth for the next 15 years. Elliott encouraged residents to look at the Township website and the Water Authority page with the real time and graphic information available on water levels. Lastly, Elliott informed residents with private wells of water quality testing kits available from the Water Authority.

2022 TOWN MEETING DATE: 2022 Annual Town Meeting Date per TOI (second Tuesday in April) is hereby set for April 12, 2022 at 7:00pm.

ADJOURNMENT: Jerry Elliott motioned, Jon Bobbe seconded, and the electors unanimously approved adjourning the 2021 Sugar Grove Town Meeting at 8:43pm.