

**MINUTES OF THE
APRIL 12, 2022 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, Jerry Elliott, Marion Bond, Jon Bobbe, Bill Collins, Debbie DeBoer, Lewis Medina, Ken Johnson, Nelda Karas, Melissa Joseph, Patti Kleckner, Bonnie Wilcox, Barbara Salg, Ellen Svehla, and Clerk Phil Silagi.

ELECTION OF MODERATOR: Clerk Silagi read the purpose of the Moderator and called for nominations. Jon Bobbe nominated, and Bill Collins 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: Jon Bobbe motioned, seconded by Jerry Elliott 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 13, 2021: Moderator Bond asked if there were any comments or questions regarding the meeting minutes as presented. After review, Jerry Elliott motioned, seconded by Doug Musser to approve the Meeting Minutes of The Annual Town Meeting of April 13, 2021 as presented. The motion was then unanimously approved by voice vote of the electors. Motion carried.

ANNUAL 2021/2022 FINANCIAL REPORTS: Moderator Bond 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, 2021 of \$759,724, Revenue of \$577,070, Expenditures and Compensation of \$568,368, and an ending fund balance on March 31, 2022 of \$768,426.

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, 2021 of \$1,555,106, Revenue of \$1,290,559, Expenditures and Compensation of \$1,320,880, and an ending fund balance on March 31, 2022 of \$1,524,785.

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, 2021 of \$173,594, Revenue of \$2,015, Expenditures & Compensation of \$1,005, and an ending fund balance on March 31, 2022 of \$174,604.

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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, 2021 of \$471,777, Revenue of \$169,608, Expenditures & Compensation of \$93,275 and an ending fund balance on March 31, 2022 of \$548,110.

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, 2021 of \$0.00, Revenue of \$126,058, Expenditures of \$126,058, and an ending fund balance on March 31, 2022 of \$0.

Patti Kleckner motioned, and Lewis Medina seconded the motion to Approve the Annual Treasurer's Report for All Funds for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2022. 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 Supervisor Tow Rowe to summarize the current leases. Rowe explained that leases of property are required to be approved by electors at the Annual Town Meeting. The lease for the upstairs office currently leased by Jada Hudson for a counseling service will be transferred to Melissa Joseph who will operate a similar service. Rowe introduced Joseph who talked about her background in counseling and informed electors that she would be seeing many of the same clients Jada Hudson was serving. Those clients were mostly first responders, however, Joseph also planned to see teens, and others suffering from anxiety and PTSD. Rowe noted that the lease terms for both the upstairs and downstairs spaces would stay the same with the upstairs rent at \$525 per month. The downstairs lease is to Ellen Violet who currently uses the space for sewing instruction. Rent for the downstairs will remain at \$315 per month. Both are one-year leases beginning June 1, 2022 and ending May 31, 2023. The Township is responsible for all maintenance and repairs and most of the utilities. Tenants are responsible for interior space cleaning and internet service. Ellen Svehla addressed the electors and thanked them for the opportunity to lease this space. Jon Bobbe motioned, and Jerry Elliott seconded the motion to Approve the One Year Bliss House Leases for Melissa Joseph 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 has worked in the department for 24 years. He is assigned to Kaneville, Big Rock, and Sugar Grove Townships. There are 16 townships in Kane County and Sugar Grove is the 3rd slowest in terms of police activity. There were 1016 calls for service for Sugar Grove Township from April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022. The top 10 calls for service were, 98 traffic stops, 80 paper services, 40 assists of other agencies, 28 motorist assists, 25 assists of citizens which could be vin checks or someone locked out of their house or car, 23 burglar alarms, 19 calls for suspicious circumstances, 17 calls for welfare, Home Visits for people on probation, 15 calls for community policing. None of these calls involved criminal activity. During the year we had 4 burglaries to a motor vehicle, and 5 domestics, no shootings

or stabbings or anything violent. Deputy Johnson and his wife who is also an employee of the Sheriff's Department are Township residents living in Prestbury.

COMMUNITY BUILDING: Debbie DeBoer reported on the Community Building. Debbie reported on several staffing changes and the following maintenance upgrades: Parking lot resurfacing, led lighting, security cameras, faucet replacements, cloths closet ADA compliance upgrade, water feature changed to garden, repaired fresh air intake for boilers, boiler repairs, new compressor for fire suppression system. DeBoer also commented that the Village turned over three parcels of land to the Community Building tax exempt. Lastly DeBoer talked about recent rentals in the building.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT: Commissioner Musser reported that the Road District overlay projects for the year include Findley Rd, Dugan Rd., Ash Rd., Wildwood Subdivision, Merrill Rd. at Old Oaks and if we can complete the culvert project at the railroad crossing on Barnes we can complete the quiet zone there. On Merrill and Ash Rds. the Road District is going to replace major culverts. Another project scheduled for this year is the replacement of guardrails on the Hanks Rd bridge over Rte. 56. Sealing of the bridge deck on Prairie is also scheduled for this year. Musser pointed out that they will be replacing two mower decks this year and a 6500 Chevy one-ton truck.

SUPERVISOR: Supervisor Rowe listed these highlights for Fiscal Year April 1, 2021 – March 31, 2022:

1. The Illinois indoor mask mandate requirement has ended. During the peak of the pandemic some Township staff worked remotely for a short time, while Road District staff were considered essential and worked onsite throughout the pandemic. All township operations have returned to normal.
2. The Senior Lunch program returned indoors to the Community Building in June of 2021 with an average of 75 lunches served each month free of charge. The program is co-sponsored by the Sugar Grove Park District and Sugar Grove Community Building.
3. Senior and disabled transportation program has returned to pre-pandemic levels and has provided 2,340 rides since September of 2018 for 100 registered clients in Sugar Grove Township. Rides are provided by our contractor Freedom First.
4. SG Township provided \$10,000 in social service funding in 2021. \$5000 was awarded to the Association for Individual Development to fund transportation for disabled resident and \$5,009 to Kane County CASA to support abused and neglected children.
5. The Township Board approved no increase in the Township and Road District tax levies for the 9th consecutive year.
6. General Assistance – the Township Board approved an inter-agency agreement with Conley Outreach Community services to administer general assistance and emergency assistance to residents of Sugar Grove Township.
7. Groovin in the Grove returned in the summer of 2021 with three outdoor concerts at the Sugar Grove Library. The concerts are a partnership with the Village, SG Park District, and the SG Library. Three concerts are booked for 2022.

8. SG Township completed its third season of the Senior Lawn Mowing program. 10 households qualified for the program and had their lawns mowed once per week from May through October free of charge.
9. Senior Snow Removal – the Township started a new snow removal program this winter, 8 senior households qualified for the program and had their driveways cleared free of charge after a snow fall of 2 inches or more.
10. Blackberry Creek Pedestrian Bridge – an \$800,000 grant was awarded by the State for Phase 3 construction of this million-dollar project. The remaining \$200,000 will be funded equally between the Township, Village, Park District, and KC Forest Preserve.
11. Community Newsletter – the Sugar Grove Township and Community Building issued its first combined newsletter in June of 2021. The newsletter highlighted township programs and plans are in the works for the 2022 township newsletter later this spring.

ASSESSOR’S REPORT: Assessor Karas distributed a handout on assessments and began his presentation by introducing his staff and thanking them for their help in preparing the presentation. Karas discussed the composition of property in Sugar Grove Township and stated that as a result most of our funding comes from residential property. Karas then talked about the allocation of taxes collected. Karas explained that anyone could search the Kane County Assessor database for property history by pin number or address. Karas then explained the difference between fair cash value and assessed value. Karas went into a detailed explanation of the various exemptions available to residents. Karas then talked about how property taxes increase. Karas lastly explained the process for disputing or appealing their property tax bill. He urged anyone with questions or problems about their assessment to contact his office. Karas then quizzed the residents on his presentation and awarded those who answered correctly.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Jerry Elliott commented that the Kaneland School District does not respect taxpayers and cited several examples of expenditures he felt were unnecessary given falling enrollment. Elliott also detailed bond and interest expenditures that he felt cost the taxpayers money unnecessarily talked about an upcoming referendum.

2023 TOWN MEETING DATE: 2023 Annual Town Meeting Date per TOI (second Tuesday in April) is hereby set for April 11, 2023 at 7:00pm.

ADJOURNMENT: Jon Bobbe motioned, Tom Rowe seconded, and the electors unanimously approved adjourning the 2022 Sugar Grove Town Meeting at 8:21pm.