

Minutes of The  
February 6, 2024 Regular Meeting  
Of Sugar Grove Township  
Kane County, Illinois

CALL TO ORDER: Supervisor Rowe called the meeting to order at 6:02pm followed by Roll Call and the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Present were Trustees Jon Bobbe, Jerry Elliott, Lewis Medina, Phil Silagi, Supervisor Tom Rowe, Assessor Curt Karas, Road Commissioner Musser and Clerk Marion Bond.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Trustee Elliott said that Rachel Rockwood was planning to be here but put it off until next month to discuss Cemetery Wreaths for Veterans. Supervisor Rowe said he spoke with her and explained the cemetery is private not owned by the Township. He put her in touch with the cemetery director. Trustee Elliott asked if people had been skating. Supervisor Rowe said the fire department re-flooded it but between the old ice and new ice a pocket formed that made the ice unsafe to walk on.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Supervisor Rowe asked for a motion to review and approve the Township Regular Meeting Minutes from January 2nd, 2023. Motion by Trustee Medina, second by Trustee Silagi. Trustees Bobbe, Elliott, Medina, Silagi and Supervisor Rowe voted aye to approve the minutes as corrected 0 nay. Motion Carried.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:

TOWNSHIP: Trustee Bobbe motioned and Trustee Elliott seconded the motion to review and approve the December Town accounts payables. Trustee Elliott asked about Ck# 19299 to Metronet in the amount of \$873.95 if it was a monthly charge. Supervisor Rowe confirmed that is the monthly charge but it covers everything including the Township, Assessor's office and General Welfare and is still about half the price AT&T used to be. It is telephone and internet. Trustee Elliott asked about Ck# 19308 to Teddy's Landscaping in the of \$4182.00. Supervisor Rowe explained that it includes snow removal for the Township as well as for the Seniors. Trustee then asked about the balance discrepancies on the ending and beginning report. Supervisor Rowe said last month it was deposits from the county. Supervisor Rowe pointed out that the reconciliation report listed every transaction with items that have cleared the bank and items that have not. Some items may miss the register because of due dates. Assessor pointed out that Jim only works on

Tuesdays and Thursdays but runs the report on the last Thursday of the month which may not be month end. Discussion followed. Supervisor Rowe pointed out that wages for IMRF are reported the first of the month after wages have been paid, but payment to IMRF doesn't happen until the next month. Trustee Bobbe suggested that report should be printed to date of report. Supervisor Rowe said that if Jim runs report on date of meeting it could be printed for the meeting but not sent in advance for meeting notes. Supervisor Rowe said it shall be run for March 5<sup>th</sup> on the date of the meeting. Assessor Karas suggested printing a balance sheet that shows the existing bank account balance which should match the check register. Supervisor Rowe asked for a vote. Trustees Bobbe, Elliott, Medina, Silagi and Supervisor Rowe voted aye. 0 nay. Motion Carried.

ROAD & BRIDGE: Trustee Elliott motioned, and Trustee Silagi seconded the motion to review and approve the January Road and Bridge accounts payable.

Trustee Elliott asked for clarification on Ck#12779 & 12780 To Elan Financial asking what Elan Financial is for. Commissioner Musser said that is for the credit cards, one for Doug and one for Bill. Trustee Elliott then asked about Ck#12783 to AYD Corporation in the amount of \$492.42. Commissioner Musser explained That is for Janitorial Supplies. Elliott then asked about Ck# 12784 in the amount of \$300.92. Commissioner Musser said that is for Windshield washing fluid on trucks. Trustee Elliott asked about Ck# 12800 to Bonnell Industries in the amount of \$1336.00. Commissioner Musser said that is for a Hydraulic box that turns the salt on and off during spreading. It was replaced. Supervisor Rowe called for vote. Trustees Bobbe, Elliott, Medina, Silagi and Supervisor Rowe voted aye. 0 nay. Motion Carried.

PAYROLL REPORT: For Pay Period January 1 through January 31, 2024. Trustee Elliott asked if a new column would be added for the mandatory paid leave. Supervisor Rowe said that will be another category of time for the new paid time off law, but it won't appear until April because of the 90-day period when it can't be taken. It will appear on the April payroll report.

PROFIT & LOSS REPORTS: Through January 31, 2024. There were no questions. Supervisor Rowe pointed out it is ten months of the fiscal year. Trustee Elliott noted that Item 510 under Contractual Services was above budget. Supervisor Rowe said that was between mowing and snow removal and the estimate had been low. Next year budget will be upped for snow removal.

CORRESPONDENCE: Supervisor Rowe said he had received a thank-you letter from Kane County CASA in which they broke down some of their statistics on services. He also read a thank you note from Curt Karas regarding donations on his son's behalf.

#### REPORTS:

Supervisor's Report: Supervisor Rowe presented a written report of his activities for the last month:

**1. Senior/Disabled Transportation Update:**

- A total of **147** residents are registered for the transportation program as of **1/31/24**
- A total of **87** rides were given in the month of January
- A Total of **4,554** rides have been taken from 9/1/18 thru 1/31/24

**2. Senior Lunch Update** – the monthly senior lunch was held on January 30<sup>th</sup> at the Community Building. Sub sandwiches from the Sugar Grove Jimmy John's were served to approximately 70 seniors and volunteers.

**3. Neighbors of Sugar Grove** – a new publication is being released this spring for Sugar Grove residents called *Neighbors of Sugar Grove*. The monthly magazine is free but relies on paid ads to publish. I met with the editor and received the attached pricing options in case we are interested in any advertising.

**4. Village of Montgomery TIF Update** – the Road District received a \$108.48 and the Township received \$60.82 of TIF surplus from the Village of Montgomery.

5. **TOI Lobby Day** – TOI is sponsoring its 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Township Lobby Day in Springfield on April 17<sup>th</sup>. This annual event is a chance for all townships throughout the state to meet with their legislators to promote township government in Illinois. Registration is \$75 so please let me know if you would like to attend.
6. **Kiwanis Sips w/ Sweetheart Event** – the Kiwanis Club of Sugar Grove Township is sponsoring a new Valentine's event in the Pine Room at Bliss Creek on Wednesday, Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>. Tickets are \$20 and include whiskey cocktails & wine samples with light appetizers. All proceeds benefit the Kiwanis scholarship fund.
7. **Migrant Crisis Response** – in an effort to be proactive on the current migrant crisis in Illinois, I consulted our attorney on how townships can be affected if migrants are dropped off in Sugar Grove. Our attorney stated townships do not have the ability to adopt the busing prohibitions but suggested coordinating with the county on how migrants will be transferred to Chicago. Ancel Glink also published the attached legal brief highlighting their opinion on General Assistance eligibility for migrants.
8. **Statement of Economic Interest** – all elected and appointed township officials are required to file with the County Clerk by May 1, 2024. I have updated our list of filers so you will receive an email from Kane County providing a link to complete the form online.

Assessor: Assessor Karas reported that there were 5 new home permits issued in January and 10 homes transferred to owner. He pointed out that the senior exemption will go from \$5,000 to \$8,000 and the general Homestead exemption is raised from \$6,000 to \$8,000. This change will be on this year's tax bill. Senior Freeze must be applied for every year. He also spoke at the Senior luncheon about these changes. He received an application from a corporation that wants to put Solar Fields in the Township. Every megawatt produced is taxed at \$218,000.00 so it would increase tax but the fields do depreciate over time, reducing the tax.

Road & Bridge: Commissioner Doug Musser reported that the Road District did snow plowing, got 400 tons of salt in with still 200 to go. After snow was gone picked up garbage, have done maintenance around the shop, cleaning. Got the John Deere Loader on line, sold old loader to Blackberry township for \$58,000. Trying to get on list for last Freightliner in 2025. They only produced six and Bonnell puts them together. There are three roads to be overlaid; Midfield, Star Lane and McCannon. Star Lane will be milled down 1 ½ inches. They will tie in with Village of Sugar Grove on Merrill New will do overlay and 400 ft. of curb. Trustee Elliott asked about the search for property to replace the bus barn. Nothing has yet been settled, Commissioner Musser will continue to look for what is feasible.

#### Trustee Reports:

Mental Health – Trustee Silagi said meeting is Monday, February 12.

Community Building – Trustee Bobbe reported he was unable to attend the meeting due to travelling, did go to the Parks & Recreation Show where he spoke with a company that freezes artificial rinks and suggested them as a possible contact for the ice rink next year.

Airport – Trustee Medina said the next meeting is February 12.

Water Authority - Trustee Elliott distributed a report which reviewed the goals of the ISWS-Sugar Grove Contract. It covered land use, and the locations of monitored wells, including hydrographs of the wells. While there is a decline in water levels due to last few years being drier, it is not alarming at this time. Water levels decreasing at 2/3 of wells from 2018 to present. Arsenic in one location was outside USEPA Standard. Mr. Elliott explained that arsenic is a naturally occurring mineral in the soil. Chloride is highest in wells in urbanized areas.

Clerk – No activity in January. Next month will set Town meeting agenda and Clerk asked Supervisor Rowe to contact Sherriff Haines to present at Town meeting.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a. Between Friends Food Panty Update – Supervisor Rowe spoke with Pete Wallers of EEI who is working with an architect to either rework the bus barn or a separate stand alone building. Supervisor Rowe said he hopes we have those numbers for our next meeting as it will affect the budget. Wallers is also speaking with the Food Pantry to ask if there is a succession plan in place for the continuation of the Pantry.
- b. Review of Bike Bridge Final Engineering Plans – Village has secured all temporary and permanent easements for project. The trees are identified that need to be cut down and Village intends to begin construction this year.
- c. Hanks Road Bridge Update – Road Commissioner Musser had a Zoom call with IDOT who said it looked good and had inspected deck last November. Doug is filling potholes. Bridge is state owned so we can not overlay. Supervisor Rowe is encouraging Prestbury residents to call IDOT with complaints. All we have is IGA to plow and fill potholes. IDOT has no plans for bridge until 2026-27.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Consideration and Potential Approval of Contract Extension for Teddy's Landscaping – Current contract allows a 2<sup>nd</sup> one-year extension before going out for bid again. Teddy would be eligible for a 2% increase. Supervisor Rowe recommends the extension. Motion by Trustee Elliott, second by Medina. Supervisor Rowe called for vote. Trustees Bobbe, Elliott, Medina, Silagi and Supervisor Rowe voted aye. 0 nay. Motion Carried.
- b. Consideration & Potential Approval of Pest Control for Bliss House – There is now a mice problem. Supervisor Rowe met with D.O.A Pest Control from Yorkville. Quote is for \$450, and less than Terminix; Supervisor Rowe asked for motion. Trustee Bobbe motioned, Trustee Silagi seconded. Supervisor Rowe called for vote. Trustees Bobbe, Elliott, Medina, Silagi and Supervisor Rowe voted aye. 0 nay. Motion Carried.
- c. Review of Assessor 2024-25 Preliminary Budget – Curt Karas said that budget shows an increase of \$4034.78 for a 1.33% increase over last year. One employee spouse will be dropping off insurance. Karas reviewed employee wage increases. Supervisor Rowe said this will be incorporated into Township Budget next month.

Next Meeting: Tuesday March 5, 2024 at 6:00 pm.

Adjournment: Trustee Bobbe motioned, Trustee Medina seconded, voice vote carried. Meeting Adjourned at 7:32 pm.