

**Minutes of Sugar Grove Township
Annual Town Meeting
Tuesday, April 11, 2023**

Call to Order: Clerk Bond called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Elected Officials and Other Electors Present: Tom Rowe, Marion Bond, Jon Bobbe, Jerry Elliott, Lewis Medina, Phil Silagi, Curt Karas, Bill Collins, Doug Musser, Jen Konen, Clarice Dillard.

Election of Moderator: Jon Bobbe motioned and Lewis Medina seconded the election of Phil Silagi as Moderator. The motion was unanimously approved. The clerk administered the Oath of Moderator to Mr. Silagi.

Set Moderator's Salary: The clerk entertained a motion to set the Moderator's salary: Jon Bobbe motioned and Jerry Elliott seconded that the Moderator be paid \$50.00 as compensation. Motion passed by voice vote.

Approval of Annual Town Meeting 2022 Minutes: Moderator Silagi asked if there were any questions or comments regarding the meeting minutes as presented. Tom Rowe motioned and Jerry Elliott seconded that the minutes of the previous Annual Town Meeting be approved as read. Motion unanimously carried by voice vote of electors.

Annual 2022/2023 Financial Reports: Moderator Silagi directed Clerk Bond to present for approval the following financial reports:

Town Fund: Clerk Bond read the Annual Financial Report relative to the Town Fund. Clerk Bond reported a beginning fund balance on April 1, 2022 of \$901,966, Revenue of \$593,287, Expenditures & Compensation of \$666,877 and an ending fund balance on March 31, 2023 of \$828,376

Road & Bridge Fund: Clerk Bond read the Annual Financial Report relative to the Road & Bridge Fund. Clerk Bond reported a beginning fund balance on April 1, 2022 of \$1,383,365, Revenue of \$1,184,583, Expenditures & Compensation of \$1,298,157 and an ending fund balance on March 31, 2023 of \$1,269,791.

General Assistance Fund: Clerk Bond read the Annual Financial Report relative to the General Assistance Fund. Clerk Bond reported a beginning fund balance on April 1, 2022 of \$174,015, Revenue of \$1,539, Expenditures & Compensation of \$5505 and an ending fund balance on March 31, 2023 of \$170,049.

Community Building Fund: Clerk Bond read the Annual Financial Report relative to the Community Building Fund. Clerk Bond reported a beginning fund balance on April 1, 2022 of \$549,432, Revenue of \$173,887, Expenditures & Compensation of \$109,336 and an ending fund balance on March 31, 2023 of \$613,983.

Mental Health Fund: Clerk Bond read the Annual Financial Report relative to the Town Fund. Clerk Bond reported a beginning fund balance of \$0, Revenue of \$127,288, Expenditures & Compensation of \$127,288 and an ending fund balance on March 31, 2023 of \$0.

Moderator Silagi asked for a motion to approve the financials reports. Motion by Jerry Elliott, second by Jon Bobbe.

Consideration & Potential Approval of Bliss House Leases: Moderator Silagi explained that the Bliss House has offices behind the Historical Society and asked Supervisor Rowe to summarize the current leases. Rowe explained that the leases of property required to be approved by electors at the Annual Town Meeting. The lease for the upstairs office is to Melissa Joseph who provides counseling to those suffering from anxiety and PTSD. The downstairs lease is to Ellen Violet Svehla of Ellen Violet Designs. The upstairs space leases for \$525/mo. And the downstairs space leases for \$315/mo. Both are one-year leases beginning June 1, 2023 and ending May 31, 2024. Moderator Silagi asked for a motion to approve the leases for 2023-2024. Lewis Medina motioned and Jerry Elliott seconded approval of both leases, motion carried.

Reports:

Kane County Sheriff's Report: Deputy Friedrich of KCSO, a floater township deputy reported that from Jan. 1st to present there have been 186 traffic stops, 94 order of protection calls, 23 COP activities, 18 property damage calls, 8 accidents with injuries, 16 suspicious circumstances, 10 welfare checks, 8 suspicious vehicles, 2 canine responses. He also explained that a vehicle was stolen in Prestbury and warned that a group from Chicago was targeting more complacent areas and looking for vehicles with keys or valuables in the car. Deputy Quinn mentioned a road rage incident at the gas station by Waubensee. Mr. Elliott asked for clarification regarding welfare calls and was told that those check on personal wellness.

Community Building: No report.

Road & Bridge: Commissioner Musser reported that the highway department received new 2022 Freightliner and a new Silverado 1-ton 6500; updated and remodeled office ceiling tile and floor and lighting; roads overlaid included Old Oaks, Finley, Ash, Merrill and Wildwood; put a bike lane in Prestbury on Merrill New and put signs up; got all striping and shouldering done; bought two mower decks; and started tree trimming on Winthrop New; will do guard rails on Hankes. No word on culvert on Barnes from the railroad.

Supervisor's Report: Supervisor Rowe reported that the township continued the Senior Lunch program average about 60 seniors each month, co-sponsored by Community Building and Park District; Transportation program continues to grow and have given over 3600 rides with 124 residents registered; township provided \$10,000 in social service funding: \$5,000 to A.I.D. and \$5,000 to Kane County CASA. Tenth year of no increase in Township or Road & Bridge tax levy; completed first year of partnership with Conley Outreach to administer township General Assistance fund which helped one resident qualify for rental assistance; continue to sponsor Groovin' in the Grove at Library with concerts in June, July, & August. Completed 4th season of Senior Mowing for 12 households, and 2nd season of snow removal also for 12 households. The Township, Village, Park District and Kane County Forest Preserve completed an intergovernmental agreement for pedestrian bridge over Blackberry Creek to connect with Gilman Trail with Park Avenue. Worked with Community Building and Park District to set up Ice Rink behind the Community Building, and working with Community Building to publish a four-page newsletter to be mailed to all households and businesses within the Township.

Assessor's Report: Assessor Karas reported that the Township Assessor assesses property in the township and sends those assessments to the Kane County Supervisor of Assessments who make any adjustments needed and approves the assessments. Then forwards the assessments to the County Clerk who then creates tax rates. Karas then distributed a handout reviewing property taxes and conducted a quiz. There are 9300 parcels in Sugar Grove Township with assessed value of \$8.6 million dollars.

Assessed value is 1/3 of fair cash value, that means \$2.6 billion dollars fair cash value in the Township.

State of Village Report by Jen Konen, Village President: Ms. Konen stated that her State of the Village report from February is online and there is also a powerpoint that can be downloaded. She said very happy to partner with other governing bodies. She reported on the Bike Bridge saying that it is an IDOT grant which disqualified EEI Engineering because they used subcontractors, so HR Green will be phase 2 engineer. There were some things not included in the proposal so cost went up \$29,000 which the village will pick up to keep project moving. Population in Sugar Grove 9278 in incorporated Sugar Grove and account for 2000 residents in Prestbury. She discussed TIF districts that the village has surplused 1.2 million in TIF funds that in turn are shared with the township. She discussed the need for police building, and that the village sold several buildings. She is looking forward to a new Village Hall that could house more departments. Scott Koepel has been hired as Village Administrator, and Michael Cassa as new Economic Development Director and also an Engineer. She noted the new Burnt Barrel restaurant on Waubonsee Drive to open near end of April. Police body cams in 2022 ahead of mandate. Crown 760 acres at tollway, is working with village and wants to be part of water system. It may be a mixed use development.

Public Comment: None

Date of Next Town Meeting:

Next Annual Town meeting April 9, 2024

Motion to Adjourn; Doug Musser motioned, Lewis Medina seconded, voice vote unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.