

**Minutes of The
March 5, 2024 Regular Meeting
Of Sugar Grove Township
Kane County, Illinois**

CALL TO ORDER: Supervisor Rowe called the meeting to order at 6:01pm 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 by Zoom, Assessor Curt Karas, Road Commissioner Musser and Clerk Marion Bond.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Jerry Elliott read a letter dated February 26 which he had read at the Kaneland School Board meeting regarding discussion of a \$57 million dollar referendum proposed by the school board. He stated the district owes \$107 million in past bond debt, on which they will miss \$785,000 in payment this year which they have moved to next year and plan to do so again for the next two years. His latter stated the district is in financial trouble and the district's Statement of Net Position is negative \$20 million. He states the district is broke by accounting standards and asks why they are considering the addition of \$57 million to the debt.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Supervisor Rowe asked for a motion to review and approve the Township Regular Meeting Minutes from February 6, 2023. Motion by Trustee Medina, second by Trustee Elliott. Trustees Bobbe, Elliott, Medina, Silagi and Supervisor Rowe voted aye to approve the minutes as corrected 0 nay. Motion Carried.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:

TOWNSHIP: Trustee Medina motioned and Trustee Bobbe seconded the motion to review and approve the February Town accounts payables. Trustee Elliott asked about Ck# 19316 to Antenna Installation in the amount of \$1250.00. Supervisor Rowe explained that was for the security cameras at Bliss House. Trustee Elliott asked about Ck# 19326 to Liberty Mutual in the of \$500.00. Supervisor Rowe explained that is for the Bond required for the Township Clerk. 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 Medina seconded the motion to review and approve the February Road and Bridge accounts payable. Trustee Elliott asked for clarification on Ck#12813 to K-Tech Specialty Co. in the amount of \$8556.99. Commissioner Musser said that was for Beet Juice. Trustee Elliott then asked about Ck#12825 to Apple Siders in the amount of \$1064.00. Commissioner Musser explained is for Gutters for the Salt Shed. Supervisor Rowe called for vote. Trustees Bobbe, Elliott, Medina, Silagi and Supervisor Rowe voted aye. 0 nay. Motion Carried.

PAYROLL REPORT: For Pay Period February 1 through February 29, 2024 was reviewed.

PROFIT & LOSS REPORTS: Through February 29, 2024. There were no questions.

CORRESPONDENCE: Supervisor Rowe said he had received a thank-you letter from Lurie Children's Hospital for our donation on behalf of John Curt Karas. He then reviewed the invitation to the 2024 State of the Village breakfast with a presentation by Village President Jennifer Konen on March 20th and asked that anyone interested let him know. He then shared a letter from TOIRMA regarding the dividends of \$3,103 for Township and \$5,283 for Road and Bridge.

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 **2/29/24**
 - A total of **76** rides were given in the month of February
 - A Total of **4630** rides have been taken from 9/1/18 thru 2/29/24
2. Senior Lunch Update – the monthly senior lunch was held on February 27 at the Community Building. Cheese Tortellini was served to approximately 60 seniors and volunteers.
3. State of the Village – the Sugar Grove Economic Development Corporation State of the Village event is scheduled for Wednesday, March 20th at Waubensee College. All Sugar Grove Township elected officials have been invited but pre-registration is required. Please let me (Tom Rowe) know if you would like to attend and I will send in registrations.
4. TOIRMA UPDATE – we will be receiving our dividend from TOIRMA in early March to be split between the township and road district. This will be the 6th consecutive year we have received a dividend. See March TOIRMA letter for totals.
5. Community Newsletter – the last two years we partnered with the SG Community Building on a community newsletter. If the Board concurs, I will seek quotes for a 4-page color newsletter to include production, printing and mailing to all township residents. The cost would be split 75/25 between the Township and the Community Building and included in the 2024/2025 tentative budget.
6. 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 he attended a Zoning meeting regarding Solar Panels south of the airport and west of the Library. The site is currently assessed as Agriculture which is low whereas the solar field would be assessed per megawatt for 35 years and depreciate over 25 years. Pilots at the meeting mentioned potential danger from glare as planes landed or took off. The Zoning was approved pending FAA approval.

Road & Bridge: Commissioner Doug Musser reported that the Road District still has 68 tons of salt to get. They have cleaned tree limbs and done brush runs since the tornado and will be using MFT funds to do road striping. Commissioner Musser also spoke against HB 5050 which is a bill that would give County Boards or the County Executive to unilaterally dissolve a Township Road District and assume all duties and responsibilities of a road district without giving the Township Board any input in the matter. He encouraged all of us to contact our legislators to vote against the bill.

Trustee Reports:

Mental Health – Trustee Silagi Reported that the President of 708 and the Inc. Board, Tina Wilson who is also on the Waubensee College Board had to resign from 798 & Inc. He said she was the one who prepared service statistics for the township and it is unclear whether that will be done in the future.

Community Building – Trustee Bobbe reported that the building had a few hiccups with the front door repair but it is working now. The Board wants to double the outdoor basketball hoops and is looking into that. They have found people smoking or vaping inside the bathrooms and will either deny rentals to those people or fine them.

Airport – Trustee Medina reported that a letter will be sent to the Mayor of Aurora regarding the Airport sign. He toured the Airport on February 29th and met with RevAir.

Water Authority - Trustee Elliott reported that Blackberry Creek is flowing at 41,000 Gal/min. All monitoring wells are at normal levels but recent rain of 1.4 inches should raise them slightly at the Northwest Water Planning Alliance, Technical Advisory Committee meeting of February 27th, ISWS personnel Dan Hadley and Cecila Cullen presented the final report of SGWA study of Sugar Grove Township Shallow Aquifer Water Levels and Water Quality. The report was well received and announced that this study and data will continue as incorporated in the Ongoing Kane County Shallow Groundwater Sustainability Study. The Kane County study is assembling all the community water use and water level information for input into our groundwater flow models. Once flow models are assembled, remaining data gaps in water use/water levels/water quality that may show up will be addressed. Final edition will the capability to predict water demand vs. water supply of shallow aquifers in Kane County. Dan Hadley has been appointed Interim Director of ISWS Water Division with the retirement of Walton Kelly.

Clerk – No report

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a. Between Friends Food Panty Update – Supervisor Rowe spoke with Pete Wallers of EEI and told him that the Township can contribute \$50,000 to the to the Food Pantry cause.
- b. Review of Bike Bridge– Village Engineer sent an email letter stating all trees have been cut down and the remaing stumps ant and limb debris will be addressed by the contractor (Pessina Tree) and the project is still targeting the April letting pendting formal IDOT approval.

- c. Hanks Road Bridge Update – Sugar Grove Village administrator, Scott Koeppel, has sent a letter to Lori Brown, P.E. of the Illinois Department of Transportation District I, Bureau of programming which outlines the Village’s position that the bridge is owned by the state and the state has the obligation to maintain the bridge unless it enters into a maintenance agreement with another entity. While the Village is not willing to take ownership of the roadway, it is open to discussions to determine whether a mutually agreeable arrangement can be reached that will maximize the benefits that the imminent replacement of the bridge will have to the area it serves and will justify the expenditure of funds levied against the residents of the local government entities who might join in the efforts and expense of maintaining it. Please let the Village know how it might participate in such discussion.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Review of Sugar Grove Township 2024-25 Preliminary Budget – Supervisor Rowe presented a three year P&L spreadsheet showing the FY2024-25 budget items with commentary. He noted that the budget for Freedom First senior transportation has been increased to 85,000 as the billing averages \$6-7,000 per month. He also noted the \$25,000 budgeted for repair of the south side porch on Bliss House. Trustee Elliott questioned the \$10,700 for Teddy’s Landscaping and Supervisor Rowe explained that includes sealcoating for both Township and Community Building parking lots and all mowing and snow removal for both buildings and Bliss House.
- b. Review of Sugar Grove Road District 2024-25 Preliminary Budget – Trustee Elliott asked about item 599 for \$60,000 for the Barnes Road Culvert and Commissioner Musser said there has still been no movement from the railroad but he needs to keep it in the budget until the work can be done.
- c. Consideration & Potential Approval of 2024 Annual Town Meeting Agenda
The Agenda for the April 9th 2024 Town Meeting was presented. The Clerk asked who would be willing to be Moderator. Jon Bobbe volunteered and the Clerk will nominate him at the meeting. Trustee Silagi motioned and Trustee Bobbe seconded. Supervisor Rowe called for a vote. Trustees Bobbe, Elliott, Medina, Silagi and Supervisor Rowe voted aye. 0 nay. Motion Carried.
- d. Consideration & Potential Approval of Conley Outreach GA Contract Renewal -
Supervisor Rowe stated that last year when we worked with Conley they oversaw the first application and funding for a GA recipient here in the township. After review of the contract, Supervisor Rowe asked for a vote. Trustee Bobbe motioned and Trustee Silagi seconded.
Trustees Bobbe, Elliott, Medina, Silagi and Supervisor Rowe voted aye. 0 nay. Motion Carried.

Next Meeting: Tuesday April 2, 2024 at 6:00 pm.

Adjournment: Trustee Bobbe motioned, Trustee Elliott seconded, voice vote carried. Meeting Adjourned at 7:27 pm.