

**Minutes of Sugar Grove Township
Annual Town Meeting
Tuesday, April 8, 2025**

Call to Order: Clerk Bond called the meeting to order at 7:00 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, Debbie DeBoer, Doug Musser, Clarice Dillard, Steve Benson and Arnold Schramel.

Election of Moderator: Tom Rowe motioned the election of Jon Bobbe as Moderator and Elector Jerry Elliott seconded. The Clerk asked if there were further nominations, there being none Clerk called for a vote. The motion was unanimously approved. The clerk administered the Oath of Moderator to Mr. Bobbe. Tom Rowe suggested that we go around the room and introduce ourselves.

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

Approval of Annual Town Meeting 2024 Minutes: Moderator Bobbe asked for a motion to approve the April 9, 2024 minutes. Curt Karas motioned and Clarice Dillard seconded that the minutes of the previous Annual Town Meeting be approved as read. Motion unanimously carried by voice vote of electors.

Annual 2024/2025 Financial Reports: Moderator Bobbe 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 Total Revenue of \$569,328.83. Expenditures & Compensation of \$824,669.45 and an ending fund balance on March 31, 2025 of \$489,532.38.

Road & Bridge Fund: Clerk Bond read the Annual Financial Report relative to the Road & Bridge Fund. Clerk Bond reported Revenue of \$1,277,527.68, Expenditures & Compensation of \$1,270,001.13 and an ending fund balance on March 31, 2025 of \$1,221,882.55.

General Assistance Fund: Clerk Bond read the Annual Financial Report relative to the General Assistance Fund. Clerk Bond reported Revenue of \$5000.48, Expenditures & Compensation of \$55,018.49 and an ending fund balance on March 31, 2025 of \$121,935.99.

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 \$145,425.03, Expenditures & Compensation of \$145,425.03 and an ending fund balance on March 31, 2025 of \$0.

Community Building Fund: Clerk Bond read the Annual Financial Report relative to the Community Building Fund. Clerk Bond reported Revenue of \$182,001.35, Expenditures & Compensation of \$120,227.78 and an ending fund balance on March 31, 2025 of \$722,292.73.

Moderator Bobbe asked for a motion to approve the financials reports. Motion by Phil Silagi, second by Clarice Dillard. Motion unanimously carried by voice vote of electors.

Sheriff Office Report: Deputy Steve Benson said the majority of what they see in Sugar Grove Township and the Village of Sugar Grove are traffic violations and isolated domestic incidents. They did stop a vehicle at Finley & Rt. 47 that resulted in two individuals being charged with gun offenses. Benson said they did not live in Sugar Grove, but came from the Tollway in an attempt to thwart the detective chasing them. There have been no fatal car crashes, but there have been some that are car vs. deer. The midnight shift is currently focusing on McCarron by Prairie as they get street racers over there. Also on Scott and 47, Speed limit goes from 45 to 25 in the residential area. He complimented the Township Road District for keeping the roads clear of snow and downed trees in case of tornado damage. Montalto asked if there was any chance there would be a Sheriff's car show but Benson said he hasn't heard anything about it. Trustee Medina said that there is a lot of speeding on Prairie west of Orchard. Deputy Benson said they would put that on their list, he wasn't aware of it so thanks Medina for alerting them. Clarice Dillard asked about the speed trailers that show how fast people are driving. Benson said they have four speed trailers in inventory and they are in high demand. There is a long list throughout the county on who wants them. When they are deployed they try to leave them in one spot for a month or two in order to get substantial data. This gives them a good idea of the timing of speed trends.

Key Note Speaker: The Moderator asked Arnold Schramel of Progressive Business Solutions to give the Keynote address. He said his company helps 1200 government and commercial customers with the Liquid Natural Gas & electric. He said there was a big spike in electric costs in 2022, it has since come down but not below the 2018 cost. He expects it to go up in the future. Prices now are 85% higher than the all-time low. This is for to supply. He spoke about natural gas peaker plants in Aurora and Elgin. The peaker plants are paid for with capacity payments on the electric bills. They

are paid just to be online. They were being paid \$39 per megawatt, but the price has just gone up to \$269 per megawatt. The price has gone up because we have fewer power plants than before, this is because the coal plants have been closed. The Clean Energy Jobs Act states that by 2030 most of the natural gas power plants should be shut down. Montalto asked if all of the current power is taken offline, what will replace it. Schramel said that would be Solar and Wind. He recommended that if you have a good roof consider putting solar on it. Around the year 2000 the growth in electricity has gone down due to more efficient appliances and lighting. He said the growth in Data Centers is the next great demand on energy. The four data centers being built in Aurora will use 1.2 billion kilowatt hours of energy. All of the homes, apartments and businesses in Aurora now use 480 million kilowatt hours per year. He next spoke about oil and asked if anyone knew what country produced the most oil. The United States produces 40% more than Saudi Arabia's and doubles Russia's output. Canada imports 3.6 million barrels a day to US. The oil from Canada is low quality. Natural Gas – The US produces about 105 BCF a day twice the amount that Russia produces. We export about 15 BCF/day, 70% to Europe, 30% to Asia. It is used to create electric. Illinois is behind schedule to implement the Clean Energy Act passed in 2021. Solar has outperformed wind. Data Centers use an inordinate amount of energy and water, but pay a lot in property taxes. In Plano, the school district will receive about 50 million in tax revenue, and the City of Plano will receive 8 million.

Reports:

Community Building: Debbie reported that the Community Building had 234 rentals, 70 were scout meetings the rest were Voting, Senior Lunch, Senior Game day, Clothes Closet, Dining Room Rentals, 4 week-long Park District day camps, Free Fun Fair the first night of Corn Boil, a Make 2024 Magical Event, Christmas Tree lighting, Holiday in the Grove, Halloween Event and HOA meetings. They have replaced both front door mechanical closures. Switched the elevator land line to Metronet, re-sealed and striped the parking lot, including the Basketball lines. Every year they sand and sealcoat the gym floor. They installed a new 2-head ductless spit unit in the parlor which also cools Debbie's office. Replaced the camera that shows the Gazebo and ice rink with a zoom lens and also installed a new camera that shows the front of the bus barn, and is nice for the food pantry Purchased a new AED machine. New blinds on the entire main floor. Are ordering a new refrigerator. Had their first ever Community Halloween event. This year will be the 3rd free fun fair on the first night of Corn Boil, for kids 10 and under. Rick Montalto mentioned that they will be doing the Kiwanis Car Show at the Community Building in June.

Road & Bridge: Commissioner Musser reported that the highway department did annual road maintenance including striping, painting and brush pick up and shouldering. Did 5 rounds of mowing. Truck, equipment and building maintenance, road sign maintenance has been done. They have a camera system in the southwest where people take down chevrons which cost about \$3

They paved McCannon Road to Midfield Dr. and Star Lane, worked with Village and did their portion of Merrill New. Some major tree trimming with the big storms that came through.

Got a new John Deere End loader 544P. Used 600 tons of salt and are now Conservative Salt Certified. Had ordered 1200 tons. Sided the salt shed and put in oversized gutters. Major tree trimming and removal due to two major storms and tornados. Maintained the bioswale in Prestbury. Participated in Sugar Grove Water Authority monitoring program. Participated in NEPDS state & federal program.

Assessor's Report: Assessor Karas presented a handout of Brighton Ridge and Settler's Ridge. And the Fire Training area. He stated that there will be Starbucks and a Jiffy Lube up by the Jewel Store.

Supervisor's Report: Supervisor Rowe reported that the township continued the Senior Lunch program with 60-70 seniors each month, co-sponsored by Community Building and Park District. Senior and disabled transportation program continues to grow and have given over 5500 since September of 2018 for 160 township residents. Rides are available through Freedom First for medical, employment and shopping. SG Township provided \$10,000 in social service funding: \$5,000 to A.I.D. and \$5,000 to Kane County CASA. The Township Board approved no increase in the Township and Road District tax levies for the 12th consecutive year. Groovin' in the Grove continued at Library with three outdoor concerts. GITG has been a partnership with the Village of SG, SG Park District and SG Library for the past 7 years. The Sugar Grove Chamber is taking over administration of GITG and Food Truck Fridays for the 2025 season. Senior Mow Lawn mowing – the Township is beginning its 7th season of senior lawn mowing and is accepting 15 households free of charge. The Township completed its 4th season of senior snow removal free of charge for 15 households when snow accumulated to more than 2".

Exciting progress is underway on the new pedestrian bridge connecting the Gilman Trail to different parts of the community. The bridge project is a cooperative effort between the Township, Village, Park District and Kane County Forest Preserve and will open this spring or summer.

The Sugar Grove Township, Community Building, Sugar Grove Park District and Sugar Grove Fire District renewed an intergovernmental agreement to maintain the ice skating rink at Snow Park.

Between Friends Food Pantry opened its doors in the newly remodeled bus barn on Feb. 20th. The \$150,00+ project was partially funded with a \$50,000 contribution from Sugar Grove Township. The pantry is open every Thursday from 5:30 -7:00 pm.

Review and Potential Approval of Bliss House Leases

Copies of Leases are available for review. Moderator asked for a motion, Motion by Jerry Elliott, second by Lewis Medina. The Clerk stated that the first lease is to Melissa Joseph who runs a wellness clinic and her rent is \$525/mo. and the lease runs from June 1st of 2025 to May 31, 2026.

The second lease is to Ellen Violet Designs and her rent is \$1315/mo. and the lease runs from June 1st of 2025 to May 31, 2026. Leases have both been approved by legal. Voice vote carried.

Public Comments:

Marion Bond said she has a comment on state legislation that would eradicate Township governments. Senate Bill 2504, Senate Bill 2217 and House Bill 2515 introduced in the 104th General Assembly asking for the consolidation of Township Government, which essentially means giving it to the County. She read the resolution. Motion by Elliott, second by Medina. Moderator asked for a voice vote, unanimously approved.

Moderator asked for other questions. Clarice Dillard asked how much is in our funds to help poor people. Tom Rowe asked to answer. He said that much of is mandated by the state, what and how much we can give. He pointed out that we did put \$50,000 into the Food Pantry. We have levied \$5,000 to General Assistance. He said that was on the advice of our attorney who said we don't to levy \$0 because if we did that we'd eventually lose it.

Jerry Elliott said he wanted to talk about water. All the projections, including the NW Water Authority, say we have sufficient water in Sugar Grove through 2050.

Date of Next Town Meeting:

Moderator asked for a Motion to set the date of Next Annual Town meeting as April 14, 2026.

Motion to Adjourn; Clarice Dillard motioned, Phil Silagi seconded. Voice vote unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 8:07 pm.