

Dundee Township Board of Trustees – Regular Meeting
October 17, 2018

Supervisor Glees called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 7:04 PM at the Dundee Township Meeting Room, 611 East Main Street, Suite #201, East Dundee, IL.

Present at roll call: Supervisor Glees and Trustees Ahrens, Harney, Johnson and Schaffer were present at the roll call.

Trustee George Johnson led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda:

Trustee Harney made the motion to approve the agenda as presented with a second by Trustee Ahrens. Supervisor Glees called the motion and all present voted “aye” - motion carried.

Minutes/Treasurer’s Report:

Trustee Harney moved to dispense with the reading and approve the minutes of the September 19, 2018 Board of Trustees regular meeting as presented. Supervisor Glees seconded the motion. During discussion, Trustee Johnson asked about the need to complete the management letter for the recent audit. He stated the letter should stress the major influences on why funds were allocated for certain expenditures. Staff will work to develop the management letter. Supervisor Glees called the motion to approve the minutes and upon voice vote – all present voted “aye” – motion carried.

Trustee Schaffer moved to accept the September 30, 2018 Treasurer’s Report and Financial Reports through October 16, 2018 as presented subject to audit – motion was seconded by Trustee Johnson. Upon voice vote, Supervisor Glees and Trustees Harney, Johnson, Ahrens and Schaffer voted “aye” – motion carried.

Reports:

Highway Commissioner: Highway Commissioner Sinnett reviewed his written report. He noted the difficulty the staff had in replacing a large culvert on Binnie Road as there is water/ponds on both sides of the road. He reported that the area for the new Salt Barn has been staked out by Heinz Engineering and work should be starting shortly.

The Board questioned Mr. Sinnett about the recent personnel move that converted a part-time employee to full-time status.

Mr. Sinnett reviewed the work his staff had done to assist with the cleanup of the Open Space parking lot across from the Bonnie Dundee golf course. It appeared that a large amount of landscape waste and other debris had been dumped on the property. The Board asked if there was an agreement with the Park District about their assisting in keeping the parking lot clean. Trustee Harney noted that the agreement was a verbal agreement and that no formal IGA was ever drafted. The Board discussed the matter including the possibility of blocking access to the lot during times when the golf course is closed and the possibility of revisiting the assistance of the Park District to keep the lot clean.

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Trustee Ahrens asked Mr. Sinnett about the purchase of a personal voltage detector. Mr. Sinnett explained the usage of this device to protect workers from electrical shock when they are dealing with downed trees. He also stated he is investigating free training from ComEd on dealing with downed wires.

Assessor: Assessor Bielak reported that today was the final day of the commercial appeals. Appeals had been filed on several commercial properties. His department is busy preparing for the quadrennial updates – pulling building permits and reviewing sales data. He noted that there is limited new construction in the area. Major construction is the new Speedway truck stop and some residential. He is currently working on the assessment for the new Springs of Canterfield development.

Mr. Bielak was asked about the impact of the expiration of TIFF #5 on revenue. He responded that it would depend on the exact tax year that the TIFF expired. Trustee Schaffer asked about the District 300 lawsuit against Sears and whether they could expect to get any payments now that Sear’s has filed bankruptcy. Mr. Bielak replied that no matter what the outcome of that lawsuit, it would not result in any additional income for the Township. Finally, he reviewed the new apartment complex being built on the adjacent lot.

Open Space – Kirby Dowiat, Natural Areas Manager: Mr. Dowiat’s monthly report for October highlighted that the staff is continuing work to control various invasive species before the onset of winter. Also, the staff has been completing seed collection, trail maintenance and general property cleanup. He noted that the staff will complete prescribed burns during the first week of November. The Board asked about the cleanup at Helm and if the neighbors had responded to Supervisor Glees’ letter. Supervisor Glees reported that a landscaper who had been parking his equipment at Helm asked for a 2-week extension to find a new location – he has subsequently moved all of his equipment. Several other homeowners have responded that they did not understand the reasoning for the request but after a discussion are satisfied and will comply.

Open Space Coordinator-Katie Meyer: Ms. Meyer’s written report was presented. Her report noted the Township’s participation in a number of local activities including the East Dundee Octoberfest Scarecrow contest; the upcoming “Trunk or Treat” event in West Dundee and the Dundee Township Rotary Halloween party for children with special needs.

The Dundee Township Cares Community Closet Grand Opening is tentatively scheduled for November 1st.

Cemetery: Clerk Block presented the Cemetery report which noted that the work on the West Cemetery maintenance building was completed and we have received positive complements from neighbors. Also, work is continuing on the cancellation of the maintenance contract for the Columbaria Garden. We are owed approximately 635 plants. During the last Cemetery Board meeting, the Cemetery Trustees voted to update the Cemetery price list. Overall, increases range between \$25 - \$50 for most services. Burial statistics for the 3rd quarter were including with the report. It was noted that the Cemetery had made several personnel changes. The Board discussed the matter of personnel changes/additions and reiterated their request to be notified of these changes in advance and to be involved in the overall decision.

Clerk: Clerk Block upcoming key dates including the approval of the 2018 levy by the end of December and the approval of the FY 2019-20 budget by February 2019. The schedule for the upcoming Early Voting at the Township office for the General Election was reviewed.

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Trustees: Trustee Harney reported on a new initiative by **Chicago Wilderness**, the longtime, consortium of Illinois conservation organizations and public agencies. They are leading the **Oak Ecosystem Recovery Plan**, a coordinated recovery effort to preserve, restore, and expand oak ecosystems across the region. Oak trees are a keystone species in our region supporting 537 species of moths and butterflies and hundreds of other species of insects, animals, plants and microorganisms during various stages of their life cycles. Only 17% of our original oak ecosystems remain and 70% of those are on private land. Preserving and expanding these ecosystems is critical to air quality, flood control and biodiversity in the Chicago area region.

Supervisor: Supervisor Glees presented her written report which included an initial view of the new Township website design. She also noted that the Ride in Kane program has been dealing with problems due to the wide spread road construction in the area. Also, Ride in Kane uses taxis to provide many the rides and there has been a large number of late pickups/no-shows recently. Pace is trying to resolve this issue. Supervisor Glees reviewed the new outreach program in which she and the staff are visiting senior residences in the Township such as Village Green and Gardiner Place to tell seniors about available services and to sign residents up for the Ride in Kane program.

Public Comments: Approximately thirty members of the Public were in attendance. Mr. Mike Angus, CAMBr President addressed the Board regarding the issue of biking at the Raceway Woods property. He noted that CAMBr got involved with the Raceway property in 2011. At that time, the trails were in poor condition. Today the trails are safe and have a great topography. They have added over 5 miles of trails on the Kane County Forest Preserve side. The association has worked to remove trash and their work has greatly increased site attendance by at least 40%. The trails attract other users to the site. He stated CAMBr agrees that Snuffy's Prairie should not be open to biking and should be designated as hiking only. The map on the website should be updated.

Dave Tanner of Kimball Farms in Carpentersville stated his opposition to the banning of biking at Raceway. He said that bikers use the trails at the Dundee Township site to get to the Forest Preserve side and the mountain bike trails. If they were prohibited from the Township trails, bikers would have to ride on Huntley Road or load their bikes onto their cars to get to the Route 31 entrance. The use of a car seems to be not ecology friendly. He noted that the estimated increase to the local economy from the biking at Raceway is \$3 million.

Ben Gray of Sleepy Hollow thanked the Board of Trustees for the current Open Space locations. He said that Raceway is an incredible site which is used by many people from Illinois as well as out-of-state. For bikers, it is very important to use natural trails. Need to hear all of the community's voices. Need to reach a thoughtful compromise. He would like to have the opportunity to meet with those who oppose biking.

Leonard Besinger whose family conveyed the Raceway property to the Township stated that the intent was to allow everyone access to the property. The current trails have been there forever, and the entire site is a great benefit to the community.

No other members of the public desired to speak and the public comment period was closed.

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Old Business:

Review/Approval of “No Biking Permitted Areas at the Raceway Woods Site:

Supervisor Glee stated that per the report by Mr. Steve Byers from the Illinois Natural Preserves Commission, this Board cannot deny or permit access to the Raceway site. Previously, the Township has allowed biking, hiking and equestrians on the site. ADA uses are permitted. The Township is also governed by the IDNR regulations. The overall Raceway property is owned by three parties – a private owner, the Kane County Forest Preserve and Dundee Township.

Trustee Harney said she would be in favor of establishing a committee to review the entire matter. She noted that the use of grant money from the IDNR and other easements by the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission make changes difficult. She stated that the creation of new trails on the property would be hard, however, receiving the approval for existing trail use may be possible.

Mike Angus noted that mountain bikers like to ride established trails and do not want to create new routes. He reconfirmed CAMBr’s request to simply use existing trails at the site and the asphalt track. Trustee Harney reiterated the need to compromise. Mr. Angus stated that it should be possible to channel riders to approved trails.

Trustee Johnson expressed his agreement with Trustee Harney’s comments. Supervisor Glee questioned Dave Tanner how he reaches the Raceway site. He reviewed the route he takes which goes through Snuffy’s Prairie. He noted there is no signage at the site that says this path is prohibited. He walks his bike through Snuffy’s.

CAMBr noted that the current trail maps on the Township website show that biking is permitted on all trails. The Board discussed this issue and noted that the maps in question had errors. Supervisor Glee instructed the Clerk to remove the maps in question from the website.

The discussion concluded with the formation of a committee to review these issues. The committee members will include Supervisor Glee, Trustee Harney, Trustee Johnson and Mike Angus of CAMBr. The matter was tabled until a future meeting.

Update on Elgin land donation: Supervisor Glee reported that this item is still ongoing. Our counsel has reviewed the draft agreement and returned the amended documents to the owner’s attorney for review/approval.

New Business:

Review/Discussion of Draft Levy for the 2018 Property Taxes Payable 2019: Clerk Block presented a draft levy spreadsheet to the Board which showed the history of the levy amounts requested, the levy as amended by PTELL limitations, and the actual dollars received. The estimated levies for the Township and the Highway Department for tax year 2018 payable in 2019 were reviewed. The draft of the actual levy ordinances will be presented at the November meeting. No action was taken on the levy.

Review/Approval of Resolution 2018-004 regarding the implementation of Public Act 100-0983 regarding the need for the Township Clerk to verify/co-sign all checks: Supervisor Glee reviewed this matter and noted that our counsel has developed an alternative method for compliance with the Act. Therefore, no further action is required.

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Audit/Approve Bills and Payrolls:

Audit Bills – Pending Town Fund Bills \$44,480.26; Pre-Paid Town Bills \$1,240.64; Payrolls \$32,856.28 & \$33,684.43; Prior Month's General Assistance Costs \$8,368.05; Pending General Assistance Bills \$518.97; General Assistance Payrolls - \$406.36 & \$346.89; Pending Cemetery Fund Bills \$5,561.30; Pre-Paid Cemetery Bills \$578.46; Payrolls \$10,058.31 & \$8,711.99; Pending Road & Bridge Fund Bills \$27,885.61; Pre-Paid Road & Bridge Bills \$950.08; Payrolls \$14,669.09 & \$14,277.55; Road IMRF/FICA Payrolls of \$2,276.46 & \$2,207.93; Pending Road & Bridge Equipment/Building Bills \$6,572.49.

Trustee Johnson made the motion to approve the bills as audited with a second by Trustee Harney. Upon roll call vote, Supervisor Glees and Trustees Ahrens, Johnson, Schaffer and Harney voted "aye" – Motion Carried.

Budget Transfers: Budget Transfers # 4 & 5 were presented. Trustee Harney made the motion to approve Budget Transfers 4 & 5 as presented with a second by Trustee Johnson. Upon roll call vote, Supervisor Glees and Trustees Ahrens, Johnson, Schaffer and Harney voted "aye" – Motion Carried.

Executive Session:

No Executive Session was called at this meeting.

Trustee Harney made the motion to adjourn with a second by Trustee Johnson. Upon voice vote, all present voted "aye" – motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:08 PM.



Robert Block
Dundee Township Clerk