

## **Dundee Township Trustees**

### **Regular Meeting**

**Wednesday, July 21, 2021 @ 7:00 p.m.**

**611 E. Main St., Ste. #201, East Dundee, IL 60118**

The July Regular Meeting for the Dundee Township Board of Trustees was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Supervisor Thrower.

**Roll Call:** Supervisor Thrower, Trustees Romano, Ahrens, Harney, and Schaffer were all present. No Trustees were absent.

**Pledge of Allegiance** was led by Trustee Harney

### **Reports:**

Trustees – Trustee Romano provided an update on the most recent 708 Board meeting. They continued planning & approved by-laws.

Highway Department – Commissioner Schulz provided a hard copy of his report and mentioned that people have been dumping debris along Duncan Avenue.

Assessor – Final filing date for assessment appeals are due August 16<sup>th</sup> and posted notice accordingly in Daily Herald. Completed field work for Salamander Springs.

Attorney – Received deed from Sleepy Hollow for Jelke Creek Assessments Appeal.

Open Space – Kirby Dowait, the Natural Areas Foreman, presented and discussed a hard copy of his report to the Board.

Office Manager – Audit group is remote so it's a slow process as Office Manager Block has to scan in and send over; hopefully will wrap it up soon.

Trustee Harney – Two (2) memorial trees were purchased through Foundation for tax deduction. Trustee Harney has brass plates but inquired as to who would be making the bases. Open Spaces Foreman Dowait stated that he has some at the barn. The Cemetery has a form which Mr. Keebler used to make. Trustee Harney will get plaques to Kirby and will forward the bill to Supervisor Thrower. Trustee Harney explained that the Township buys tree on behalf of the donor then plants it. A brass marker gets made (which has to be paid for) then the cement base is poured by Foreman Dowait.

Kane County Board – Chris Kious, Kane County Board District 23 & President of Forest Preserve – Mentioned that the Forest Preserve offers a memorial bench instead of trees as they've had issues with trees dying and then the issue is who is responsible for paying for removal and disposal of the trees. Informed the Board that they had the Bee Blitz last month – lots of bees but not a lot of people at Dixie so they will work on improving promotions of the event next year. Completed parking lot project at Raceway Woods on Rt 31. They had a little washout but fixed it in-house.

Rental Assistance program \$15M + \$12M closed last Saturday and is now being processed. No current figures.

Vaccinations – Batavia is open 1 day/week with Spring Hill open 1 day/week as well. More localized, focusing on underserved districts.

Kane County mapping working on re-districting mapping. Gearing up ARP recovery project working on format for applications to apply for that – has been provided to county but not townships.

**Public Comment:**

Mike Tennis, Sleepy Hollow – Summit Square space. Sharing meetings from previous meeting minutes in June 18, 2018. Village of East Dundee meeting for space in clothing where Trish Glee was in attendance. Annual depreciation payback scale for utilities.

**New Business:**

Salamander Springs – Assessor Bielak stated that the property was re-assessed (house and land) at market rates. Many years back it was farmland and assessed as farmland which lowered the taxes. Township can't farm it because it's classified as Open Space. Split into separate parcels to allow for separate exemptions – improved and unimproved. \$10K/acre for re-assessment. County is willing to separate parcels. Possibly recommends separating and filing for exemption. Needs to file for Open Space or Exemption but too late to file exemption as Open Space expired June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Trustee Ahrens mentioned the bats living in the barn and asked if it can be saved. Trustee Harney stated that she doesn't know if bats are rare bats. Open Space Foreman Dowait added that the barn contains asbestos and Trustee Harney stated that this would increase the costs of demolition. Mentioned that there is an onsite caretaker living there who we need to take into consideration. Discussed needing to obtain new bids on estimates to demo the barn and/or house. Need to get clarification on the State Grant and how those funds can be used to ensure they are being utilized properly. Rehab and use for exempt purposes can qualify for exemptions. Attorney Asprooth stated that they have fought the exemptions.

Trustee Schaffer inquired if it could be zoned as timber reserve agricultural and the Township plant the required number of trees.

Supervisor Thrower suggested applying for partial exemption, parceling it out, and get quotes on demo for barn and house. Trustee Harney mentioned that there are also two (2) wells on the property which need to be taken into account as well – an active and an inactive well.

Trustee Harney suggested possibly raising the rent modestly and to give up the electrical and septic.

**Illinois Grant Funds:** Supervisor Thrower will be talking with State Representative Anna Moeller's office regarding funds. Talked with some from Hanover Township to get some ideas. Trustee Harney has Bike Path-related projects. Cemetery Roads – Office Manager Block commented on repaving roads which are old & some people had mentioned to the Township about the safety of children while attending funerals as there's no fencing along Rt 25. Stated that funds cannot be used for staffing.

Trustee Harney asked if it can be used for 1st phase construction or planning projects.

Trustee Schaffer – additional funds may have been thrown in and specifications

Trustee Harney – pave parking lot at Raceway

Supervisor Thrower – question is will the project last 25-30 years

Trustee Harney – the road up to the track is a constant issue for maintenance issues. Creating entrance at Helm so it's not a problem for Open Space. Whole street flows down into Open Space area. Dixie & Jelke needs ADA park. Library Springs - . Salamander has improved trails but

Trustee Schaffer to Office Manager Block for Cemetery for water access as it has been shut off for some time. Office Manager Block said the galvanized pipes are bad but they use a tank to bring in water.

**Summit Square:** Supervisor Thrower stated that the HOA will have Rooms 1-4 back by July 30<sup>th</sup>. Would like to buy/get Rooms 1 & 2. Village of East Dundee owns Rooms 1-8 on Floors 1 & 2. Have no other interest or broker involved. Rooms are in bad shape.

Trustee Schaffer doesn't think they can use the grant money to purchase the rooms.

Trustee Harney stated that the vision of previous Supervisor was to purchase and utilize all rooms but there was opposition. Foundation will request direct agreement at next East Dundee Board Meeting August 2nd. Recommends meeting with Foundation and Trustees to see if we can mutually work something out as we are both interested. Foundation open to moving all or some of operations to 1<sup>st</sup> floor. Have put a lot of sweat equity into the rooms and Steve Whitecotton who is a laborer. Asked about cost of improvements to Supervisor Thrower.

Supervisor Thrower did have some estimates for costs. Costs of electricity to run refrigerators which Township is paying for and wear and tear on elevator and building of running up and down stairs for Food Pantry. How much can the Foundation afford for their share of utilities?

Trustee Harney suggested pushing out 2 weeks so we have time to sit down with Foundation to find a mutual ground to make it work and satisfy all needs. Asked Sue about her thoughts. Sue said there is a lot of common ground as they are here to serve the community.

Supervisor Thrower just wants to get the agreement corrected in the appropriate manner.

Trustee Schaffer has had issues with it as there were Township officials who went out and did pro bono work. A lot of confusion about the relationship and would like to create a clear division as the public is confused. Needs to be a separate entity with a different mission. Misappropriation of funds.

Supervisor Thrower asked for thoughts about trying to get Rooms 1 & 2.

Trustee Schaffer sees it being extended. Would like the rooms back by August 15<sup>th</sup>

Trustee Ahrens \$10K used for a room. Supervisor Thrower said it was for a room which we don't even use. Non-budgeted item used by funds from COVID and located in an area where there is no A/C or heat.

Trustee Ahrens agrees with Schaffer regarding August 15<sup>th</sup> and would like to get the rooms if it will benefit the Township.

Trustee Romano needs to sort out sweat equity and what Township put in. Logistically, it makes sense for the Foundation to move to 1<sup>st</sup> floor. If we have the funds without taking too much from others, she thinks it would be a good idea. Cemetery project should be one of our priorities.

Supervisor Thrower would like July 30<sup>th</sup> Rooms 1 & 2 back then figure out an agreeable date for Rooms 3 & 4.

Trustee Harney wait until after the East Dundee meeting. Should talk to Foundation before the East Dundee meeting. Go to meeting together so both parties know what the other parties would like and try to work together in the best interests of both parties.

Supervisor Thrower asked for trustee who can attend East Dundee meeting. Trustee Romano volunteered but doesn't know a lot about the background and asked if someone else can attend with her.

Supervisor Thrower don't spend money on rooms unless we own it. Set up meeting with Foundation next week.

Trustee Schaffer might be able to attend but won't know until he receives his work schedule at month end. Says that East Dundee states that there is no Certificate of Occupancy for the building. Office Manager Block said that the inspector walked through and approved everything but doesn't have a paper on file.

Re-appointment of Dave Bartlett & Kenneth Gullickson to Cemetery Board – Trustee Schaffer made the motion; Trustee Romano seconded. Motion passed with all in favor, none opposed.

#### **Old Business:**

Presentation/Review of Breakdown of FY 2021 Expenses – Office Manager Block presented print outs of the slides for review. There were no questions from the Board.

#### **Audit/Approve Bills:**

Motion to Approve Bills as Audited – Office Manager Block presented bills for Board review. Trustee Schaffer made a motion to approve; Trustee Ahrens seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with roll call vote: Trustee Ahrens – aye, Trustee Romano – aye, Trustee Harney – aye, Supervisor Thrower – aye, Trustee Schaffer – aye.

Motion to Approve Budget Transfer #1 (Illinois Funds) – Trustee Harney made a motion to approve; Trustee Ahrens seconded. Motion passed unanimously with roll call: Trustee Ahrens – aye, Trustee Romano – aye, Trustee Harney – aye, Supervisor Thrower – aye, Trustee Schaffer – aye.

#### **Executive Session:**

Trustee Harney made a motion to enter into Executive Session; Trustee Ahrens seconded. Motion passed unopposed at 8:28pm.

Motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss pending litigation & review Closed Session Minutes at 8:31pm

Motion to Return to Open Session was made by Trustee Schaffer; seconded by Trustee Romano. Motion passed unopposed at 9:22pm.

#### **Motion to Adjourn:**

Trustee Schaffer made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Trustee Ahrens. Motion passed unopposed at 9:22pm.