

Dundee Township Board of Trustees – Regular Meeting
March 18, 2020

Supervisor Glees called the March Meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 7:02 PM at the Dundee Township Meeting Room, 611 East Main Street, Suite #201, East Dundee, IL.

Roll call: Supervisor Glees and Trustee Schaffer were physically present at the meeting. Trustees Harney, Johnson and Ahrens were participating in the meeting via remote access.

As provided in Governor Pritzker’s Executive Order 2020-07, Section 6, the provisions of the Open Meetings Act that limited the remote participation of members of public bodies has been suspended and the remote participation of board members is encouraged. In accordance with this Order, Trustee Schaffer made a motion to allow remote participation at this Board meeting. Supervisor Glees seconded the motion. The motion was called and all present voted “aye” – motion carried.

Supervisor Glees led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda:

Trustee Schaffer made the motion to approve the agenda as presented. Trustee Johnson seconded the motion. Supervisor Glees called the motion and with a voice vote - all present voted “aye” - motion carried.

Minutes/Treasurer’s Report:

Trustee Schaffer made the motion to dispense with the reading and approve the minutes of the February 19, 2020 Board of Trustees regular meeting. Trustee Harney seconded the motion. Supervisor Glees called the motion to approve minutes of the February 19, 2020 meeting as presented and upon voice vote – all present voted “aye” – motion carried.

Trustee Schaffer made the motion to accept the February 29, 2020 Treasurer’s Report and Financial Reports through March 17, 2020 as presented subject to audit – Trustee Ahrens seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, all present voted “aye” – motion carried.

Reports:

Assessor: Mr. Bielak reported that his office is closed to the public. He & his staff are working remotely from their homes. They are taking telephone calls, emails and the like. They are doing a mailer to the seniors regarding the Property Tax Freeze program. His department will not be working on these filings until May 15th at the earliest as Kane County has recently delayed the due date for filing until October 2020.

Highway Commissioner: No report.

Cemetery: No report.

Open Space: Mr. Dowiat’s written report for March 2020 was presented.

Supervisor: Supervisor Glees noted in her report that the 708 Mental Health Board referendum passed with a 62% yes vote! She will be sending out request for application for the seven-person board. She reported that she has worked out the methodology for Township staff to work remotely. Regarding the General Assistance program, she reported that with the Covid-19 emergency, the Kane County Sheriff’s Department will not be processing any eviction notices. Also, ComEd and Nicor and the local Villages will not be turning off utility services due to non-payment. She also reported that the referendum to abolish the West Dundee Fire Protection District and merge its’ operations with the Rutland-Dundee Fire Protection District passed.

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Public Comments: Supervisor Glees opened the Public Comment period at 7:17 PM.

Chris Kious – Kane County Board: Mr. Kious reported that the Kane County Board Chairman has suspended all county meetings for the next 7 days. The only activities will be emergency court and the Sheriff's Department.

No other attendees wished to make a comment and the comment period was closed at 7:18 PM

New Business:

Review/Approval of Resolution 2020-001 “A Resolution providing for and requiring the submission of the proposition for increasing the limiting rate for Township of Dundee, Kane County, Illinois, to the voters of Township of Dundee at the General Election on November 3, 2020”: Supervisor Glees presented Resolution 2020-001 and asked for a motion to approve the Resolution. Trustee Schaffer made the motion to approve the Resolution as presented with a second by Trustee Harney. Trustee Schaffer stated that he had made the request to have this Resolution on the Agenda. He noted his reasoning was that the Board has not made significant cuts to the Budget proposal and he feels the only way to get movement is if the Resolution fails it will force the Board to make Budget cuts. He feels the Township is trending to Bankruptcy in two years without the Resolution being passed and perhaps four years if the Resolution is approved by the voters.

Trustee Johnson stated that while he is generally in favor of the Resolution, he is not prepared to vote on the matter at this time. He would like one more month to review. He would like to know sooner than later if the voters approve the increase. He reviewed how the tax levy is shown and questioned how the increase is specified on page two of the Resolution. Counsel Asprooth replied that the form of the question is specified by statute and offers little leeway as far as modifications are concerned.

Supervisor Glees requested the issue be tabled until the next meeting. Trustee Johnson asked what the “drop-dead” date for the adoption of the Resolution would be. Supervisor Glees responded it would be August 1, 2020 so the latest meeting for approval would be the July 2020 meeting.

Review/Approval of Resolution 2020-002 “A Resolution providing for and requiring the submission of the proposition for to place the question to the voters of Township of Dundee at the General Election on November 3, 2020 regarding abolishing the Dundee Township Road District”: Supervisor Glees presented Resolution 2020-002. Trustee Schaffer made the motion to approve the Resolution as presented with a second by Trustee Harney. Trustee Schaffer commented that the Board has had discussions on this matter previously. In November 2020, the Board must establish the salaries for the Elected Officials for the period of 2021-2025. He has received comments from a number of individuals – we need to find out which direction we are going.

Trustee Harney commented that she believes having a manager instead of the elected Highway Commissioner is a more efficient way to run the department. The Board/Supervisor may not be in position to run the day to day operations of the department but if patterned after the Cemetery Manager is should work well. Trustee Johnson stated while he is initially in favor of the Resolution, he would like to see a white paper prepared with the pros & cons of this action.

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Trustee Ahrens stated he is firmly against the Resolution – if the consolidation happens, Township may lose County services and/or the cooperative purchasing which could result in higher prices for asphalt and salt.

Supervisor Glees asked Counsel Asprooth about the levy and if the County contracts would continue. Trustee Harney answered that the levy would stay in place and the Township would still be eligible for the county contracts. Trustee Ahrens stated he would like confirmation of these issues. Trustee Schaffer reiterated the call for a white paper on the issue.

Trustee Ahrens questioned the cost of having to hire a new manager for the department. Trustee Harney disagreed that it would be more costly and stated that per earlier research the Township should be able to hire a manager for less than the current salary.

Assessor Bielak commented that there was a non-binding survey on this matter at the last Annual Town Meeting – why is the Board now looking at moving forward with the Resolution? He also asked why Mr. Sinnett was not in attendance at tonight's meeting.

Trustee Ahrens again asked why are we considering this change? Supervisor Glees commented that in comparison to a Village, the Highway Commissioner is not equal to someone like the Village of Carpentersville Public Works Director. It would be more equivalent to a manager in that department. Trustee Harney stated that the need is for a higher level of accountability. Current Highway Commissioner is running his own business and reportedly only spending 1 – 1.5 hours a week at the Township which is a blatant waste of taxpayer's dollars.

Supervisor Glees noted that the foreman of the department has been fielding all of the calls for snow plowing. She also emphasized the need to think not about a specific person but rather the position. A manager would be more accountable to the Board and a better fit.

Trustee Harney volunteered to head the committee to prepare the White Paper. She noted everyone needs to be clear that the Road District levy does not go away.

Trustee Ahrens asked where we came up with the estimate that the Highway Commissioner is only in the office 1 – 1.5 hours per week? Trustee Johnson and Trustee Ahrens commented that Mr. Sinnett should tell us what he does.

Trustee Harney suggested to table the Resolution. Supervisor Glees formally appointed Trustee Harney to head up the committee writing the white paper. Supervisor Glees will also ask Highway Commissioner Sinnett to prepare a list of what he does. Trustee Johnson stated that the Board needs a job description and an organizational chart. Trustee Schaffer noted the duties of the Highway Commissioner are listed in the Township "Laws & Duties Handbook." He does not want to support a full-time position for a part-time job.

Supervisor Glees again asked Counsel Asprooth about the Road District levy. Counsel replied that the levy does not change. It falls to the Board of Trustees to establish the new levy. The Road District levy would still only be able to be used for Road District expenses. The matter was tabled until the April meeting.

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Review/Approve the Agenda for the Annual Town Meeting – April 14, 2020: The draft Agenda for the Annual Town Meeting was presented. Counsel noted that his office is attempting to get additional guidance from the Governor’s Office regarding the need to hold the meeting and if it can be postponed.

Trustee Johnson suggested adding a “Subject to Cancellation” phrase on the Agenda. Trustee Schaffer asked for a time limit on reports and suggested all reports should be less than 20 minutes.

Supervisor Glees called the motion and upon roll call vote, Supervisor Glees, and Trustees Ahrens, Harney, Schaffer & Johnson voted “aye” – Motion Carried.

Review/Approve Supervisor’s Financial Statements: The draft Financial Statements were presented. Supervisor Glees made the motion to approve the statements as presented with a second by Trustee Schaffer.

After a brief discussion, Supervisor Glees called the motion and upon roll call vote, Supervisor Glees, and Trustees Ahrens, Harney, Schaffer & Johnson voted “aye” – Motion Carried.

Old Business:

Review/Approval of Proposed Town Budget for the 2020 – 21 Fiscal Year: Version 4 of the proposed Town budget and Budget and Appropriation Ordinance 2020-01 was presented. Trustee Harney made the motion to approve the proposed Town budget and Ordinance as presented with a second by Supervisor Glees.

Trustee Schaffer expressed his ongoing concerns with the budget that has been presented especially the numerous transfers and reserve funds. He also reviewed the rate of spending and that the Township is continuing to outspend its revenues.

Trustee Johnson commented that we will sooner or later with the levy referendum. He projection is that after two years deep cuts in spending will be required. He requested that the title for the “Open Space Coordinator be changed to “Supervisor’s Assistant.”

Assessor Bielak noted that he has informed his staff that there will be no salary increases and there may be reductions.

The Board reviewed the expense items for Open Space salaries and their distribution between the Town Fund and the Open Space Fund. Trustee Harney noted that changes in this budget can still be made at the formal Budget Hearing.

Supervisor Glees called the motion and upon roll call vote, Supervisor Glees, and Trustees Ahrens, Harney, & Johnson voted “aye” – Trustee Schaffer voted “nay” - Motion Carried.

Review/Approval of Proposed Road District Budget for the 2020 – 21 Fiscal Year: The proposed Road District budget and Appropriation Ordinance 2020-02 was presented. Trustee Ahrens made the motion to approve the proposed Road District budget and Ordinance as presented with a second by Trustee Johnson.

After a brief review, Supervisor Glees called the motion and upon roll call vote, Supervisor Glees, and Trustees Ahrens, Harney, & Johnson voted “aye” – Trustee Schaffer voted “nay” - Motion Carried.

Review/Approval of State of Illinois Grant Money projects: Supervisor Glees moved to table this item as no further action has occurred.

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Audit/Approve Bills and Payrolls:

Audit Bills – Pending Town Fund Bills \$44,119.58; Pre-Paid Town Bills \$1,339.64; Payrolls \$34,466.34 & \$33,939.11; Prior Month's General Assistance Costs \$9,149.97; General Assistance Payrolls - \$585.62 & \$658.81; Pending Cemetery Fund Bills \$8,198.26; Pre-Paid Cemetery Bills \$160.45; Payrolls \$8,400.99 & \$7,893.63; Pending Road & Bridge Fund Bills \$14,529.94; Pre-Paid Road & Bridge Bills \$1,314.83; Payrolls \$16,289.62 & \$15,323.72; Road IMRF/FICA Payrolls of \$2,593.68 & \$2,422.22.

After a review of the bills, Trustee Johnson made the motion to approve the bills as audited with a second by Trustee Ahrens.

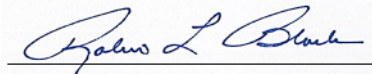
Supervisor Glee called the motion and upon roll call vote, Supervisor Glee, and Trustees Harney, Schaffer & Johnson voted "aye" – Motion Carried.

Budget Transfers: No Budget transfers were presented.

Executive Session:

The Board did not enter Executive Session.

Trustee Schaffer made the motion to adjourn with a second by Trustee Ahrens. Upon voice vote, all present voted "aye" – motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert L. Block", is written over a horizontal line.

Robert Block
Dundee Township Deputy Clerk