

Dundee Township Board of Trustees – Regular Meeting
August 19, 2020

Supervisor Glees called the August 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. Supervisor Glees read the notice regarding the modifications to the IL Open Meetings Act as contained in SB 2135 which modified the procedures necessary to conduct a meeting via remote access. As required in the act, the meeting will be video recorded, and the recording will be made available to the public via the Township’s website.

Roll call: Supervisor Glees and Trustees Harney, Johnson, Schaffer and Ahrens were participating in the meeting via remote access. Office Manager Block was in attendance at the Township office.

Trustee Ken Schaffer led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda:

Trustee Schaffer made a motion to approve the agenda for the August 19, 2020 Board of Trustees meeting as presented with a second by Trustee Johnson. Supervisor Glees called the motion and with a roll call vote Supervisor Glees, and Trustees Harney, Johnson, Ahrens and Schaffer voted “aye”; the motion to approve the Agenda was approved.

Minutes/Treasurer’s Report:

Trustee Ahrens made the initial motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the July 15, 2020 Board of Trustees regular meeting and approve them as presented. Trustee Harney seconded the motion. Trustee Harney during the discussion of the motion presented a correction to the minutes regarding the report of her meeting with Mr. Paul Setze. After a brief discussion, Trustee Schaffer made the motion to approve the minutes of the July 15, 2020 Board of Trustees regular meeting as amended with a second by Trustee Harney. Supervisor Glees called the motion to approve minutes of the July 15, 2020 Board of Trustees meeting as amended and upon roll call vote Supervisor Glees and Trustees Harney, Ahrens, Johnson, and Schaffer voted “aye” – motion carried.

Trustee Johnson made the motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the July 29, 2020 Board of Trustees Special Budget Hearing and approve the minutes as presented. Trustee Harney seconded the motion. Supervisor Glees called the motion to approve minutes of the July 15, 2020 Board of Trustees Special Budget Hearing and upon roll call vote Supervisor Glees and Trustees Harney, Ahrens, Johnson, and Schaffer voted “aye” – motion carried.

Trustee Harney made the motion to accept the July 31, 2020 Treasurer’s Report and Financial Reports through August 17, 2020 as presented subject to audit – Trustee Johnson seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, Supervisor Glees and Trustees Harney, Ahrens, Johnson, and Schaffer voted “aye” – motion carried.

Reports:

Assessor: Assessor Bielak reported that his department is beginning to work on the appeals that have been filed. He stated that August 7th was the appeal deadline and they are prepping the files to defend their original assessments. This year there are approximately 200 property tax appeals for his office which is about 100 less than they saw last year. They have received approximately 152 commercial appeals but only two of them represent hotel properties. The staff is been out for training including attending several virtual online classes. The appeal hearings begin the first week of September. Mr. Bielak currently has classes scheduled for Southern Illinois however they may have to be canceled due to the current Covid-19 situation. The staff are continuing to stagger their attendance at the office and are working remotely the remainder of the time. Trustee Harney mentioned a postcard that she had received at her home which solicited the services of a firm to do a property tax appeal. She will forward the postcard to Assessor Bielak for his review.

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Highway Commissioner: Mr. Sinnett stated that the Highway Department is continuing to do their usual mowing and tree trimming in the right of ways. They had a crazy 6 to 7 days after the big storm came through the area as they were working to clean up downed branches, clean culverts, etc. The staff is also been working on the installation of new culverts.

Cemetery: No Report

Open Space: Supervisor Glees presented the Open Space report. She highlighted the normal activities and the staff's work dealing with plants of concern. The recent storm damaged several trees resulting in the need to clean up a number of the hiking trails. Salamander Springs lost power twice during the various storms. There is a tree on a property in Richardson subdivision (which the Township owns) that is leaning over neighbor's power lines. Supervisor Glees stated she is getting a quote for the removal or trimming of the tree and noted that TOIRMA is mandating that the Township resolve this issue. She also noted a large tree came down at the Wahoo woods site and the staff has cut the tree up and left it for kids to play on. The Staff has also worked to update the landscaping at the Township office. Supervisor Glees said she had recently done a walk-through at the Raceway woods site and noticed a number of bikers using the site. She will be working to make modifications to help direct bikers away from sensitive areas including the use of larger boulders to prohibit access to those areas. While she was there, she spoke with several bikers and they did not know about the limitations/use restrictions for the individual trails. She is working with CAMBr to correct this issue.

Supervisor Glees also noted that she is ordering additional PPE for the Township staff and she is working on an application to submit to Kane County for the Township's share of the \$92 million in Care Act funds that the County has received.

Trustee Harney noted that various trails at Jelke badly need repair as the landscape fabric is exposed and needs to be recovered.

Trustee Johnson reported he spoke with to individuals who were doing monitoring at the Dixie Briggs site for monarch butterflies. The work is being done as part of the monarch butterfly grant program and he is looking forward to seeing their report on the status of the project.

Trustee Harney asked how many individuals the Township currently has on general assistance and what the status is of the Township's emergency assistance program. Supervisor Glees noted that while East and West Dundee are continuing their moratorium on shutting off water for nonpayment of bills, the Village of Carpentersville has voted to begin disconnection for nonpayment on September 1 of this year. The Township's emergency assistance office will be open to handle residents EA claims for this type of service. Trustee Johnson asked about the new GA receiving area. Supervisor Glees noted that she has been working with the Village of East Dundee and they will not charge us for the use of the additional space on the lower floor. She is submitting the cost for the development of this area as part of the Township's application for the Cares Act funding.

Trustee Schaffer asked a question regarding the tree at the Richardson subdivision which is over the electric wires and wondered if that is instead ComEd's duty to remove the tree. Supervisor Glees reported that the lines in question are not on the roadway and are therefore considered a private service line similar to the situation the Township ran into at the Salamander Springs and therefore the Township must handle the removal of the tree.

Clerk-Office Manager: No Report

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Kane County Board Member Chris Kious: Mr. Kious updated the Board on recent County activity including an update on the distribution of the \$92 million the County received from the Cares Act. Under the current program, the Township Highway Department is not included in the potential agencies eligible for funds from this program. He suggested that the Highway Commissioner apply for assistance separately using the link that can be found on the County's website.

He reported that the County's Energy and Environmental Committee have recently released their draft solid waste 2020 plan which covers the disposal of solid waste and the ongoing recycling program. The committee will have a meeting on September 11, 2020 to receive public input on the draft plan. The public can also submit written comments during the period of September 11, 2020 through October 25, 2020.

Solarize Chicago is a program whereby residents can get solar power on their homes for a reduced rate - the County is working with the Citizens Utility Board on this program. Residents can get more information at solarizechicago.org.

Finally, he noted that the County's Transportation Committee has finalized an agreement on the toll collection for the Longmeadow bridge.

Dundee Township Cares Food Pantry: No Report

Public Comments: Supervisor Glees opened the Public Comment period.

No attendees wished to make a comment and the comment period was closed.

New Business:

Review/Approval the Renewal of the Dundee Township Electrical Aggregation Program:

Mr. Jim Belden of Belden Energy Solutions was introduced and he reviewed the general legislative guidelines involving the Township's ability to put an electrical aggregation program in place. He noted that the Township's current electrical aggregation program was ending this month. He has solicited new energy pricing from four potential vendors which compared to the upcoming ComEd rate of 7.13 cents per kilowatt hour that takes effect in October 2020. AEP and MC² came back with lower price quotes. AEP however indicated that their pricing was not executable at this time and therefore MC² appears to be the best opportunity. He noted that the last three weeks have seen a strengthening in the energy market and the energy rates. Mr. Belden recommend that the Township select the 6.75 cents per kilowatt hour proposal from MC².

Trustee Schaffer stated that the last time we did the electrical aggregation program, we were looking at the possibility of joining with either Kane County or one of the villages to get better pricing. Is there any news on ComEd and whether their pricing will be going down in the near future? Mr. Belden responded that there is no change in the ComEd pricing formulation. They now get contracts from the Illinois Power Agency which is a state agency for blocks of energy. ComEd is no longer a supplier of electricity and every May they get new pricing for the upcoming year. They also have a monthly energy adjustment that basically brings them to even on the cost of electricity. They make all of their profit on the delivery charges for the energy. He also noted that Kane County is under contract until August 2021. He also noted that residents in the unincorporated areas of the Township can join the program or they can purchase energy from any other supplier of their choice.

Trustee Ahrens asked a question about whether a resident should be joining the program if they have their own solar energy system. Mr. Belden recommended that those types of residents stay with ComEd due to the effect of net metering.

Trustee Johnson asked why the numbers are not more competitive. Mr. Belden stated that ComEd is now procuring power on short-term contracts versus their former policy of locking in long-term contracts. Therefore,

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there is less of a differential between their pricing and that being offered by alternative suppliers. Trustee Johnson asked if a 12-month contract was the shortest available and Mr. Belden replied yes.

Trustee Schaffer made the motion to approve the renewal of the Dundee Township electrical aggregation program for a 12-month period using the proposal submitted by MC² for 6.75 cents per kilowatt hour. Trustee Harney seconded the motion. Supervisor Glees called the motion and with a roll call vote Supervisor Glees, and Trustees Harney, Johnson, Ahrens and Schaffer voted “aye”; motion approved.

Old Business:

Presentation/Review of slides on the breakdown of expenses for FY 2021.

The pie charts showing the breakdown of the social service cost on a year-to-date basis were reviewed. Supervisor Glees explained the increase in cost for the new provider of the transportation service that is part of the Ride in Kane program. Due to a lack of proper notification to the Ride in Kane Sponsor Committee, Pace picked up the differences in cost for the program until March of this year. The cost for the program during Fiscal Year 21 should be lowered due to the Covid-19 pandemic which has reduced the number of riders. She also reviewed several problems participants are having with going to doctor’s offices.

Trustee Johnson stated that the costs appear to have doubled for the Ride in Kane program since 2013 and proposed that the Township Board start an initiative to find a way to cap the cost at approximately \$50,000 per year. Trustee Harney asked counsel for their opinion on whether rides could be limited on this program.

Trustee Johnson asked that the staff combine the social services on an annualized basis and compared those numbers with the cost associated with operating all of the other departments in the Township.

Audit/Approve Bills and Payrolls:

Audit Bills – Pending Town Fund Bills \$31,777.39; Pre-Paid Town Bills \$311.05; Payrolls \$31,909.60 & \$31,676.77; Pending General Assistance Bills \$516.74; Prior Month’s General Assistance Costs \$6,404.43; General Assistance Payrolls - \$594.77 & \$858.62; Pending Cemetery Fund Bills \$9,068.57; Pre-Paid Cemetery Bills 272.14; Payrolls \$9,693.08 & \$9,562.47; Pending Road & Bridge Fund Bills \$24,376.67; Pre-Paid Road & Bridge Bills \$436.13; Payrolls \$15,472.24 & \$15,394.16; Road IMRF/FICA Payrolls of \$2,448.59 & \$2,434.73.

Office Manager Block presented the bills that had been added to the payables since the packet was sent to the Trustees. The Board briefly reviewed the bills. Trustee Harney made a motion to approve the bills as audited with a second by Trustee Johnson. Supervisor Glees called the motion and upon roll call vote Trustees Harney, Ahrens and Johnson and Supervisor Glees voted “aye” - Trustee Schaffer voted “nay” - motion passed 4 – 1.

Budget Transfers: No Budget Transfers were presented.


Executive Session:

Trustee Schaffer made a motion for the Board to enter into executive session to discuss probable litigation (5ILCS 1202(c)(11)) with a second by Trustee Ahrens. Supervisor Glees called the motion and upon roll call vote Trustees Harney, Ahrens, Schaffer and Johnson and Supervisor Glees voted “aye” - motion carried. The Board entered executive session at 8:33 PM.

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At 9:30 PM, Trustee Schaffer made a motion for the Board to return to open session with a second by Trustee Johnson. Supervisor Glees called the motion and upon roll call vote Trustees Harney, Ahrens and Johnson and Supervisor Glees voted “aye” - motion carried.

Supervisor Glees asked if there were any additional items that needed to be brought before the Board and hearing none, she asked for a motion to adjourn. 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 9:33 PM.



Robert Block
Dundee Township Deputy Clerk