

Dundee Township Board of Trustees – Regular Meeting
June 17, 2020

Supervisor Glees called the June Meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 7:06 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 was physically present at the meeting. Trustees Harney, Johnson, Schaffer and Ahrens were participating in the meeting via remote access.

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

Agenda:

Trustee Harney made the motion to approve the agenda as presented. Trustee Johnson seconded the motion. Trustee Schaffer proposed an amendment regarding Old Business specifically the continued consideration of Resolution 2020 – 002 which is the referendum on abolishing the Dundee Township Road District. He stated he wanted to either decide the issue tonight or to remove it from future agendas. Counsel Kurt Asprooth noted that since the item had been tabled at a prior meeting it would normally show up under old business on tonight's agenda. Supervisor's Glees made the motion and Trustee Harney seconded the motion to leave the matter on the agenda and deal with it later. Supervisor Glees asked for a roll call vote and Trustees Harney and Johnson and Supervisor Glees responded "aye" - Trustees Ahrens and Schaffer responded "nay" - motion to leave the resolution 2020 – 002 on the Agenda passes. Supervisor Glees called the original motion and with a roll call vote Supervisor Glees, and Trustees Harney, Johnson and Schaffer voted "aye"; Trustee Ahrens voted "nay" - motion carried.

Minutes/Treasurer's Report:

Trustee Harney made the motion to dispense with the reading and approve the minutes of the May 20, 2020 Board of Trustees regular meeting. Trustee Ahrens seconded the motion. Assessor Bielak requested an amendment to the minutes regarding his report. He stated he said that more people were walking in front of his home and not that he had observed people walking at one of the open space sites. There were no other suggested amendments to the minutes. Supervisor Glees called the motion to approve minutes of the May 20, 2020 Board of Trustees meeting and upon roll call vote Supervisor Glees Trustees Harney, Ahrens, Johnson, and Schaffer voted "aye" – motion carried.

Trustee Ahrens made the motion to accept the May 31, 2020 Treasurer's Report and Financial Reports through June 15, 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 stated that his department had turned in their books to the County and anticipate that they will be published in July. They are continuing to work remotely and have not gotten bombarded with questions on the recent tax bills. Per the Kane County Treasurer, property tax collections seem to be on track with prior years. His department will be working on doing required training remotely as the Illinois Property Assessment Association has canceled all their upcoming conferences. They will also be utilizing the national associations online training to complete some of their requirements.

Trustee Schaffer questioned if the former Walmart property in East Dundee has been leased. He noted that the sign on the property says it is. Assessor Bielak replied that he has no confirmation that the lease has been completed. He also reviewed the recent news regarding the proposed construction of a Caterpillar repair facility in East Dundee.

Dundee Township Board of Trustees – Regular Meeting
June 17, 2020

Highway Commissioner: Mr. Sinnett commented that the Highway Department is currently down two employees. The crew has finished the prep work for this season's paving. They also have been completing trimming and cleanup of the roadways. He reported they are continuing to daily sanitize the equipment. Also, they recently have been working on the installation of a culvert on Country School Road which will be finished tomorrow. Finally, he is working on responding to resident's calls.

Trustee Johnson stated that he saw the Supervisor's note regarding the fact that there was potential interest in someone buying the Briggs property. Mr. Sinnett responded that he had talked to the individual and it appears he is an environmentalist and wants to put up a very small home on the property. Mr. Sinnett stated he reviewed some possible driveway locations on the property.

Trustee Ahrens asked a question about the various emails that have been received from residents. He believes that Mr. Sinnett has addressed all the complaints. He also noted that a complaint had been received about gasoline and oil being dumped illegally down a drain. Trustee Ahrens noted that he had investigated the property involved with the Highway Department foreman and that no problems were found.

Open Space: Supervisor Glee presented the open-space report. She highlighted that with past heavy rains several trees have come down which the department is taking care of. Also, a bridge over the creek at Dixie was washed out and found quite a distance downstream. The department has placed signs and safety barriers at the bridge's location, and they are working on designing a replacement structure. Recently, we have been seeing a lot of bikers at Raceway and have added several barriers to try and stop riding in areas subject to erosion. At the Dixie site, the department has replaced and repaired several trailhead barriers. Also, the staff has been helping at the cemetery columbaria garden completing the planting of annuals and investigating what can be done to save the native plants in the outer ring area.

Cemetery: No Report

Dundee Township Cares Food Pantry: No Report

Kane County Board Member Chris Kious: Mr. Kious updated the Board on recent County activity including notification that the County has received a \$92 million grant from the Federal Cares program which is to be used to reimburse residents for Covid-19 expenses. The County Board is having further discussions on how to distribute the money. They are currently looking to allocate \$1 million for the purchase of PPE for residents. The Board is also discussing how to redistribute the remainder of the money - whether it should be all distributed by the County Board or if the money should be given to villages and townships for distribution.

He also reported that the engineering has been approved for the removal of the Carpentersville dam. He explained a new solar energy program designed to help a homeowner select a qualified vendor for the installation of a solar energy system on their home. The program will also provide rebates to homeowners to help offset the cost of the installation.

A new liquor license has been granted to the Milk Pail but it is limited to banquets only. Finally, he noted that the new building for the Kane County Coroner and Sheriff's department has broken ground.

Office Manager: No Report

Trustees: No Report

Public Comments: Supervisor Glee opened the Public Comment period.

Mr. Chris Kempf was asked if he had any comments and he requested the ability to defer his comments until after he had heard the Board's later discussion.

Dundee Township Board of Trustees – Regular Meeting
June 17, 2020

Robyn Huffar of Dundee stated that their drainage issue had been presented at the last Board meeting and that they are awaiting a return call from Highway Commissioner Sinnott. Trustee Schaffer asked if the problem is in the property owner's backyard or is adjacent to the Highway. Mrs. Huffar responded that the Highway had come out and had installed a culvert but never finished the grading.

Mr. Paul Setze of Sleepy Hollow commented that he has attended several Board meetings but believes that the Board still has had no discussion on the priorities for the Township moving forward. He stated he believes the Board continues to emphasize Open Space and he stated that the last time he had attended the meeting, a Trustee had offered him an opportunity for a one-on-one discussion but that that has never happened. Mr. Setze provided additional written comments which are included as part of these minutes.

Maria Borrero of West Dundee commented that it is very refreshing to hear people engaging in a discussion of how to assist others. She also confirmed that she is very interested in being a member of the Dundee Township 708 Board and providing help and assistance to youth.

Reverend Wendy Witt of West Dundee, who is the pastor At the Methodist Church in West Dundee, stated that one of her main focuses is to work with marginalized individuals and to make everything better for those people. She also expressed her continued interest in being a member of the 708 Board.

Dawn Arimura of Sleepy Hollow who is also a candidate for the 708 Board stated that she is a 30-year resident of Sleepy Hollow and works as a clinical Supervisor and family therapist.

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

New Business:

Review/Approval of Candidates for the 708 Mental Health Board - Supervisor Glees reviewed the slate of candidates for the 708 Board including six volunteers and herself. She provided a brief summary of each candidate's qualifications. Trustee Schaffer asked if there was a requirement that background checks be conducted on all potential members of the 708 Board. Counsel Asprooth stated that there is no statutory requirement and that no background checks are required. Trustee Schaffer and Supervisor Glees reviewed the HIPAA regulations as they would apply to the 708 Board. Supervisor Glees stated that there would be no access provided to the 708 Board of person's case files or data. Rather, the 708 Board's job is to just set up the contracts and ensure the proper health care providers are in place. The verification of Township residency would be done by the Township's General Assistance Caseworkers.

Trustee Ahrens asked if there are any other candidates Supervisor Glees stated that there is one additional candidate who would serve as a backup. Trustee Schaffer asked if the terms will be staggered. Counsel Asprooth stated that yes there would be different terms - initially you would have two members who would have a two-year term, two members who would have a three-year term and three members who would have a four-year term. He further stated that the Township Board can either establish the specific terms or leave that determination up to the Mental Health Board itself.

Trustee Schaffer made the motion to accept the list of candidates for the 708 Board as presented as a group - Trustee Johnson seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, Supervisor Glees and Trustees Harney, Ahrens, Johnson, and Schaffer voted "aye" – motion carried.

Dundee Township Board of Trustees – Regular Meeting
June 17, 2020

Review/Approval of Reappointment of Dawn S. Reig for a three-year term as a member of the

West Dundee Fire Protection District: After a brief discussion, Trustee Harney made the motion to re-approve Dawn Reig for a three-year term as a member of the West Dundee Fire Protection District. Supervisor Glees seconded the motion and upon roll call vote, Supervisor Glees and Trustees Harney, Ahrens, Johnson, and Schaffer voted “aye” – motion carried.

Old Business:

Review/Approval of Re-opening of FY 2020-21 Budget to amend Assessor’s Budget: Supervisor Glees summarized the situation. She stated that Assessor Bielak had submitted raises for his department shortly after the approval of the fiscal year 2020-21 budget. Supervisor Glees stated that with Highway Commissioner Sinnett having given his department raises that left the nine employees who work for her as the only ones that would receive no salary increases. She suggested the possibility of providing a dollar per hour increase for all employees. Trustee Harney commented that during the budget discussions, she believed that there had been an agreement to not grant any salary increases this year. She stated she believes the real problem is next year as future revenues are unknown and if the Levy increase is not past it may lead to salary reductions or reductions in staff.

Trustee Johnson stated that he currently has very little appetite to reopen the budget for such a small dollar amount. Supervisor Glees confirmed that the Assessor’s budget has the funds in it to increase his staff’s salaries with no need to reopen the budget. The only reason to reopen the budget is to remove approximately \$32,000 from the Assessor’s budget to prevent him from granting salary increases. Trustee Harney reemphasized that additional salary increases would further reduce the Township’s operating reserves. Supervisor Glees commented that overall it would take about \$30,000 for the total salary increase package.

Trustee Ahrens believes that the Board should just let it go and let the Assessor do the raises as funds are available. Supervisor Glees stated that she agrees with Trustees Johnson and Harney that there should be no increases at this time. Trustee Ahrens reaffirmed that he is okay with the salary increases as proposed. Trustee Schaffer stated there is too much spending and he would like people to keep their word. Trustee Schaffer asked if there would be legal consequences to this action. He did not support the first budget and will not support the second budget. Counsel Asprooth stated he has no comment regarding potential legal issues. Supervisor Glees polled the Board and Trustee Harney stated that she would vote to open the budget; Trustee Johnson stated he was on the fence; Trustee Ahrens stated he would prefer not to open the budget and would vote to provide the raises; Trustee Schaffer stated he would vote not to open the budget is he was told there was no room in the budget for any raises.

Trustee Johnson commented that the Board should reopen the budget remove the \$30,000 from the Assessor’s budget and that if he wished Assessor Bielak could provide the raises with transfers from other line items. Assessor Bielak stated that from the beginning there has been talk of no raises and potential staff cuts. In his budget he had included 2% salary raises and he was not told to remove the 2%. He has the ability to do the raises and believes this is probably the last increase that will be available as he does not believe the referendum will pass. His staff deserves increases as they are facing a record number of appeals from the latest tax bills. He noted that it is just not the raises that are coming out of reserves but everything else as well. He asked the question if he could make budget transfers by himself. Counsel Asprooth responded that the Board must approve all transfers-Assessor Bielak questioned why they are not automatic.

Trustee Harney stated that the Board is talking about taking operational costs out of reserves. The Board was operating under the assumption that all budgets were at a minimum. Trustee Johnson stated we all wanted to share the pain of the current fiscal woes. He believes the budget should be open contingent on the removal of the

Dundee Township Board of Trustees – Regular Meeting
June 17, 2020

\$30,000 and that the Assessor can submit budget transfers if he wishes. Assessor Bielak ask what good will come out of reopening the budget?

Trustee Harney stated that all the Township employees are working hard and that she will not support raises for any of the other employees. Trustee Schaffer noted during the budget process the Assessor's budget went up 7% and revenues are not going up. He stated he will not support any revision to the budget and ask if we open the budget isn't that opening up the entire budget - not sure what the Board will gain. He is also concerned about potential challenges and it is not fair to selectively increase wages for one group without increasing the other departments.

Supervisor Glees stated that if there is no guarantee of giving salary increases to the other Township employees that she would be in favor of reopening the budget. She noted the public comment from Paul Setze that we will put buying herbicide before we give increases to the staff. Supervisor Glees stated that she followed the rules in establishing her department's budgets and that nine people will not be given raises.

Trustee Johnson responded to the question of what purpose does it serve. Message is sent that the Board of Trustees is serious on financial issues and that there needs to be responsibility shown to the taxpayers to use the tax revenue wisely. Trustee Harney commented that the Board has not met for strategic planning and the Board is responsible for oversight. If we had had this discussion in January, she would have voted differently. The Assessor immediately sent salary increases for his staff after the approval of the budget which she believes is a betrayal of trust which is unacceptable. The Assessor stated he believes that the extra money in the budget was the Board's mistake not his.

Trustee Schaffer asked if we could only open the Assessor's budget. Counsel Asprooth responded no - it would open up the entire town budget - you cannot open only one department. Trustee Schaffer asked if we can open up the entire budget and just work on the Assessor's budget and Counsel Asprooth responded the Board cannot be specific, the entire budget would be subject to review.

Counsel Asprooth stated that the Board really does not need a motion at this time. If enacted, the motion would allow reference at a later date. Supervisor Glees asked if the Board was ready to vote. Trustee Harney made the motion to reopen the fiscal year 2020-21 budget in July 2020 to modify the Assessor's budget. Supervisor Glees seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote Supervisor Glees and Trustees Harney and Johnson voted "aye" and Trustees Ahrens and Schaffer voted "nay" – motion carried.

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":

Trustee Harney made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-002 a resolution providing for and requiring the submission of the proposition to place the question to the voters of the Township of Dundee at the general election on November 3, 2020 regarding abolishing the Dundee Township Road District with a second by Supervisor Glees. Supervisor Glees opened the discussion on the resolution. She stated that it's important for the Trustees to understand that their role is not to be a gatekeeper but rather that the electors should make the decision and the process should not be held up by the Board of Trustees. Trustee Harney agreed and stated that the Board should let the voters decide.

Trustee Ahrens commented that somewhere along the way the electors must have approved the office of Highway Commissioner so therefore why change. Trustee Harney commented that the Road District was established by state regulations and that there been many problems with the office and that there needs to be better oversight.

Dundee Township Board of Trustees – Regular Meeting
June 17, 2020

Supervisor Glees called the motion and upon roll call vote Trustee Harney and Supervisor Glees voted “aye” and Trustees Ahrens, Johnson and Schaffer voted “nay” - motion defeated and will be removed from future agendas.

Public Comment – Part 2: Mr. Chris Kempf of Algonquin Shores was offered the opportunity to make his comments at this time. He stated he appreciates the vote on the Highway Commissioner’s office. He commented on the budget issue that Trustee Johnson had originally proposed 2% increases in the budget. He also stated that Assessor Bielak and Highway Commissioner Sinnett did not declare that they would not provide raises to their employees. Finally, he commented that individuals listening to the meeting on audio do not see the Trustees faces and cannot see their expressions or their nods and that their votes have to be clearly indicated to the public.

Audit/Approve Bills and Payrolls:

Audit Bills – Pending Town Fund Bills \$19,825.42; Pre-Paid Town Bills \$388.96; Payrolls \$31,952.65 & \$31,274.49; Pending General Assistance Bills \$388.23; Prior Month’s General Assistance Costs \$4,707.37; General Assistance Payrolls - \$622.22 & \$649.67; Pending Cemetery Fund Bills \$7,871.27; Payrolls \$9,408.32 & \$9,136.46; Pending Road & Bridge Fund Bills \$10,793.11; Pre-Paid Road & Bridge Bills \$336.27; Payrolls \$14,639.75 & \$12,850.16; Road IMRF/FICA Payrolls of \$2,300.82 & \$1,983.17.

Trustee Johnson made the motion to approve the bills as audited with a second by Trustee Harney.

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

Budget Transfers: Budget Transfer #1 was presented. Budget transfer #1 is a request by Highway Commissioner Sinnett to transfer \$15,000 from his infrastructure line item to his legal services line item. The Board briefly discussed the transfer and Counsel Asprooth clarified that the Board cannot deny the Highway Commissioner’s right to legal Counsel. Highway Commissioner Sinnett confirmed that the amount requested is a projected total.

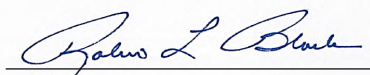
Trustee Ahrens made the motion to approve Budget Transfer#1 as presented with a second by Trustee Schaffer. Supervisor Glees called the motion and upon roll call vote Trustees Harney, Ahrens, Johnson and Schaffer and Supervisor Glees voted “aye” - motion carried.

Executive Session:

Trustee Harney made the motion to enter into executive session to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of a specific employee in accordance with 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) and discuss litigation that is probable or imminent (5 ILCS 120(c)(11). Trustee Schaffer seconded the motion and upon roll call vote Trustees Harney, Ahrens, Johnson and Schaffer and Supervisor Glees voted “aye” - motion carried. The Board entered executive session at 9:26 PM.

At 9:50 PM, Trustee Johnson made the motion to return to open session with a second by Trustee Schaffer. Upon roll call vote Trustees Harney, Ahrens, Johnson and Schaffer and Supervisor Glees all voted “aye” - motion carried.

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 9:53 pm.



Robert Block
Dundee Township Deputy Clerk

Dundee Township Board of Trustees – Regular Meeting
June 17, 2020

Public Comments for the June 17, 2020 Dundee Township Trustee Meeting

Submitted by Paul Setze

It still appears that the Trustees prioritize Open Space ahead of the neediest in the Township. Please note that when I say this, I did not say the Trustees do not care for the neediest in the Township: It is clear they are a lower priority for the Trustees when compared to Open Space. Support for this perspective is as follows: I do not hear any of the Trustees ask about what more can the Township do for the neediest during the pandemic. Instead I hear a Trustee state that the board should be talking about how many people use the Township's Open Spaces during the pandemic instead of discussing controlling noxious weeds. I hear how one Trustee illegally puts up a trail camera in one of the open spaces to surveil people without their approval to see how many people use Open Spaces. I do not think this action had nefarious intent, but it is none-the-less illegal. The push for entry signs, a trail architect and grant writer for Open Space rather than a discussion about helping the neediest are just further evidence that Open Space is a higher priority than helping the neediest. Why not use funds to hire a grant writer to help the neediest? Why is a grant writer for helping the neediest not part of the discussion?

As for priorities, I noted back in December 2019 that the Trustees should clearly determine their priorities within legal and contractual constraints prior to settling on a budget. Determining priorities focuses discussion and makes budgeting a bit easier. There were no discussions about priorities and no decisions about priorities after the December meeting – there was just flat out confusion on the part of the Trustees during the budget discussions. In fact, I am convinced only one Trustee knows or understands how to read a budget – the remaining three do not – and that single Trustee uses the confusion to be a spokesperson for focusing Trustee discussions on Open Space.

Discussions focused on priorities and decisions about priorities, as well as clear decisions about recurring items such as salaries also prevent department heads from slipping in budget requests that miss scrutiny. When I had to construct budgets I was always informed, usually as the first item, about what I was to do about salary increases and compensation. As trustees you fail in your responsibilities when you allow department heads to slip in salary increases in opposition to the general sense of the board (Note: the trustees never made a firm decision about salary increases as best as I can determine) and then fail to correct the error.

Further, as best as I can recall, when the referendum for Open Space was presented to the voters of the Township, we were told there would be no need to increase taxes to support Open Spaces. I suppose in some sense that is true up to a point – taxes were not increased. However, when staff for Open Space is supported directly by taxpayer dollars year after year and assistance from the Highway Department is required what you as a board are doing is redirecting tax dollars to support Open Space and hope no one notices. But I and others do.

Lastly, at the last meeting I attended in person in February, one trustee noted in response to my public comments that they were willing to talk to anyone about Open Space while stating that they cared about the neediest. I am still waiting on an invitation from that trustee or any other trustee to discuss Open Space and how they think the neediest are supported. I should not have to chase after you to have that discussion.