

Dundee Township Board of Trustees – Regular Meeting
May 20, 2020

Supervisor Glees called the May Meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 7:08 PM at the Dundee Township Meeting Room, 611 East Main Street, Suite #201, East Dundee, IL.

Roll call: Supervisor Glees was physically present at the meeting. Trustees Harney, Johnson, Schaffer 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 Ahrens made a motion to allow remote participation at this Board meeting. Trustee Harney seconded the motion. The motion was called and all present voted “aye” – motion carried.

Trustee Sue Harney led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda:

Trustee Johnson made the motion to approve the agenda as presented. Trustee Harney seconded the motion. Trustee Schaffer proposed an amendment to move the consideration of Resolution 2020 – 002 until after the Board’s executive session. Trustee Harney seconded the proposed amendment and Supervisor Glees called the amendment in all present voted “aye” amendment carried. Supervisor Glees called the amended motion and with a voice vote - all present voted “aye” - motion carried.

Minutes/Treasurer’s Report:

Trustee Johnson made the motion to dispense with the reading and approve the minutes of the April 15, 2020 Board of Trustees regular meeting. Trustee Harney seconded the motion. Trustee Ahrens asked a question about the comment in the April 15 minutes that the Road District only has 13 miles of road. He stated he had checked with the Kane County Hwy. Department and they stated the Dundee Township Road District had 31.3 centerline miles of roadway. Trustee Harney confirmed that she had also checked and that the stated mileage was between 31.3 and 31.6 centerline miles. Trustee Schaffer asked to confirm if everyone was indeed talking centerline miles and that lane miles were double that amount. It was confirmed that the correct number is 31.3 centerline miles. Supervisor Glees called the motion to approve minutes of the April 15, 2020 Board of Trustees meeting and upon voice vote – all present voted “aye” – motion carried.

Trustee Johnson made the motion to dispense with the reading and approve the minutes of the May 6, 2020 Township and Road District budget hearing. Trustee Harney seconded the motion. Supervisor Glees called the motion to approve minutes of the May 6, 2020 Township and Road District budget hearing and upon voice vote – all present voted “aye” – motion carried.

Trustee Schaffer made the motion to accept the April 30, 2020 Treasurer’s Report and Financial Reports through May 19, 2020 as presented subject to audit – Trustee Ahrens seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, all present voted “aye” – motion carried.

Reports:

Open Space: Supervisor Glees presented the written open-space report for May 2020. She highlighted that the open-space staff had completed limited burning including the areas around the Monza wall and the infield at Raceway Woods. She said the staff used a new circle technique that resulted in higher flames. Other burn areas included the Dixie easement area and Jelke area 5. She also noted that the open-space sites had been seeing increased traffic during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Trustee Johnson commented that he had heard from people that there are no visitors at the open-space facilities, and he disagrees. He suggested that he would like to see a change made in the monthly open-space report to change the focus from weeding and other work to the use of the sites by visitors and the various activities that go

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on at the open-space facilities. He believes people are finding the open-space sites a good way to get out during the Covid-19 stay-at-home order and he would like to encourage the Township to develop better metrics to measure the attendance at the sites.

Trustee Harney stated that she had driven by a number of the open-space sites and the parking lots were full. Also, she noted people were parking in other lots. People are definitely using the open-space sites, they are a great health benefit to the Township's population.

Assessor: Mr. Bielak commented that the traffic in front of his home certainly indicates that people are walking much more in the Township. He noted that his department has closed their books with County approximately two weeks early. The fact that many of their educational classes and vacations were canceled due to the Covid-19 situation allowed them to complete the books early this year. The staff is continuing to work and is now focusing on fieldwork especially for the commercial sites. As the weather improves, it will allow more fieldwork and they have had no bad experiences so far. He stated the anticipated Township factor for this upcoming year will be 1.0534 and that the factor is pushed by the low-end residential market and its' increases in value. He and his staff are not looking forward to the appeals which he anticipates will be coming in. The trustees had no questions for Assessor Bielak.

Highway Commissioner: Mr. Sinnett stated that his department is continuing the grinding and other preparation work for the season's repaving program. Due to the heavy rain falls, they are behind in getting this work completed. Also, the record rainfalls are leading to increases calls to respond to clogged culverts, stormwater issues and other problems. One of the hardest hit areas is the Crescent Drive area which has been clobbered recently. He has contacted and may have an agreement with Mr. Lundstrom to change his farming techniques to hopefully cut down on the runoff. The highway department does not repair culverts or drain tiles on private property. Regarding the issues on Binnie Road, it appears to be caused by commercial runoff and the fact that the drainage ponds for these commercial sites cannot handle the volume of rainwater. Trustee Harney asked if Carpentersville had made any moves to increase the drainage and Highway Commissioner Sinnett said no. Mr. Sinnett concluded his remarks by stating that he would be opposing the referendum to eliminate the highway department.

The Trustees had no additional questions for Mr. Sinnett.

Cemetery: Supervisor Glees reported that the cemetery is seeing an increase in issues with the lack of support by the local and county police departments to help enforce the rules regarding the Covid-19 Executive Orders on social distancing and the wearing of personal protective equipment. She stated she is working every funeral with the cemetery staff to help and tried to stop bad behaviors including drinking at the cemetery. She and the cemetery staff are now working with the funeral directors to try and get their cooperation in enforcing the Executive Order.

Trustee Johnson commented that he had seen in recent articles that the police feel they have no authority to act on these issues. Trustee Harney asked what other laws are not being enforced? Trustee Ahrens stated he felt that Supervisor Glees should not be at every funeral, she has other work to do. Supervisor Glees commented that the cemetery manager had asked for her assistance at the funerals.

Dundee Township Cares Food Pantry: Supervisor Glees reported that the pantry is now serving over 100 seniors per week. She noted that many of the seniors are sending written comments thanking the staff for their work and that many of these comments have been mounted on a wall in the office. Trustee Harney asked if there were any metrics on people who are hungry in the Township or those that have a lack of food? Supervisor Glees reviewed the District 300 student food program which is currently serving about 500 students every day. She also reviewed the donation of the MRE meals which she has distributed to homeless individuals and to some of the seniors.

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The Board reviewed the cemeteries policies on funerals and asked what should the staff be doing at this time? Counsel Kurt Asprooth responded that the cemetery staff should be attempting to enforce the Governor's Executive Orders in order to minimize potential liability. Trustee Harney asked is this really our problem? Supervisor Glees responded that it was.

Public Comments: Supervisor Glees opened the Public Comment period.

The first comments were made by Mr. Kenneth Huffar of Dundee. Mr. Huffar stated his issue is with his property on Ridge Road. He believes the culverts in the roadway have allowed storm water to flow into his backyard and make a mess. Supervisor Glees stated that she would provide his contact information to Highway Commissioner Sinnott. Mr. Huffar replied he would like to resolve the issue as soon as possible. He stated he would also like to see the consolidation of the Highway Department into the Township as he feels there is a need for more checks and balances.

The second member of the public to make comments was Mr. Chris Kempf of Algonquin Shores. Mr. Kempf stated that he had asked for corrections or clarifications in the previous minutes of the Township Board meetings and had not yet gotten those answers. For example, in the minutes of the January 15, 2020 Board meeting, Mr. Kempf said that a comment had been made by one of the Board members that no tax dollars were being spent on Open Space. Mr. Kempf stated that if the Township originally spend a dollar of property taxes on a project and then got back \$0.50 back in grants – the end result is that the Township is still spending tax dollars on open space. He also asked for a clarification on the salary for the office manager and whether the former stipend he was receiving for the clerk's position had been removed from his overall salary. He then commented that he feels that eating at a Board meeting should not be done even eating candy is not professional and should be discontinued. Finally, he said it is a disservice by the Township to not post the information for the zoom meeting dial-in numbers and passwords on the agenda as he states other government bodies are doing. He asked why the Township will not post that information on their agenda.

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

New Business:

Review/Approval of Re-opening of FY 2020-21 Budget to amend Assessor's Budget:

Supervisor Glees stated that she would like to suggest that the Board agree to a \$1/ hour raise for both the Assessor's office and the Township staff in order to be fair and equitable. She opened the floor for discussion. Supervisor Glees asked Assessor Bielak for his comments. He stated yes, he would like to go with the dollar per hour raise across the Board. Trustee Aherns asked if the Assessor's office had the money in the budget to cover the raises. Assessor Bielak answered that he did have the funds in his budget. Trustee Schaffer asked what the percentage increase in salaries is represented by the proposed raises and noted that he had originally opposed the budget as presented. Trustee Johnson commented that generally he was in favor of the dollar per hour increase, but he thought the purpose of reopening the budget was to limit the hiring of additional interns in the Assessor's department.

The Board of Trustees reviewed the budget and the funds available in each department. Trustee Schaffer asked about approving the reopening of the budget and asked for a review of those numbers. Trustee Johnson asked about the impact of the proposed increases. Trustee Harney asked what the actual impact of everyone getting a dollar per hour increase would be.

Assessor Bielak stated that the actual increase in cost would be approximately \$10,000. He asked do we really want to reopen the budget for such small numbers for example \$30,000 out of a budget of \$1.3 million. Trustee Aherns asked if the Township would be pulling money out of the reserve accounts and stated for such a small

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amount why are we even discussing this issue. Trustee Johnson noted he would like to see the actual numbers for the proposed increases.

Supervisor Glees stated does Assessor Bielak have money in his budget to do the raises – “yes” - does the town fund have money in their budget to do the raises – “yes”. Trustee Johnson stated that the commitment heading into the budget process was to hold salaries and not give raises. Trustee Harney noted that since we appear to be headed into a rough economic period, are we simply setting our employees up for quicker layoffs and or furloughs? It appears to her that such raises would be irresponsible.

Assessor Bielak stated that he had built a 2% increase into his budget proposal in January. He feels that difficult or challenging things are coming to his department and he would like raises for people who are working in difficult times. He also asked if the Board were to vote to reopen the budget would it be to remove the raises.

Supervisor Glees stated that they would need the approval of the Board to enact the raises that had been discussed. The Board expressed the need for additional time and asked that the motion to reopen the budget be tabled until the June meeting.

Discussion regarding potential Candidates for the 708 Mental Health Board: Supervisor Glees noted that to date she has received only four applications for membership on the 708 Board. She needs at least two more candidates to move forward and asked the Board for help on securing additional residents who may be interested in serving on the Board. She outlined that the ideal candidates would have worked with someone who has special needs or perhaps someone who has dealt with substance abuse or homelessness. She briefly reviewed the current applicants.

Trustee Schaffer asked whether the time limit for assembling the Board had been reached. Counsel Kurt Asprooth replied that while the statute provides a timeframe of 60 days, there is no penalty if the Township takes longer to assemble the Board. Trustee Schaffer also asked for clarification on whether the statute required that the Township Board representative be the Supervisor or if it can simply be a member of the Board. Also, who presents and approves the members of the 708 Board? Counsel Asprooth noted that the Township representative on the 708 Board can be any member of the Board or the Supervisor. Also, the statute requires the Supervisor to present the candidates for the 708 Board and the Township Board must approve the candidates.

Review/Approval of Health, Dental, Vision and Life/ADD Insurance Plans for the Policy Year beginning July 1, 2020.

The new rates for the employee health care coverage as well as the rates for the dental and vision insurance were presented to the Board. After a brief discussion, Trustee Harney made the motion to approve the new health, dental and vision plans as presented for the policy year beginning July 1, 2020. Trustee Johnson seconded the motion and upon roll call vote Trustees Harney, Ahrens, Johnson and Schaffer and Supervisor Glees all voted “aye” - motion carried.

Old 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 Johnson made the motion to approve the Resolution as presented with a second by Trustee Harney.

Trustee Schaffer noted he had asked for the updated numbers before proceeding with the Resolution and asked if the revised numbers are the correct and updated numbers from Kane County. Counsel Asprooth confirmed that

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the Resolution had been updated with the correct numbers. Assessor Bielak questioned how much revenue is really needed and noted that he had never been given the opportunity to review and/or present a five-year forecast of the funds he believes are needed for his department.

Trustee Schaffer asked if the language in this Resolution is different than the 708 referendum in terms of how the dollars per household are expressed. Counsel Asprooth confirmed that yes, the language is different as it is based on the dollars per a \$100,000 home per the statute.

Supervisor Glees explained that she came up with the figures based on the following numbers: \$350,000 for the General Township fund, \$200,000 for the Open Space Fund, \$50,000 for the Cemetery Fund and \$100,000 for the General Assistance Fund. She also commented that the adoption of this Resolution only allows the question to go to the residents and the electors to decide.

Supervisor Glees called the motion and upon roll call vote Trustees Harney and Johnson and Supervisor Glees voted “aye” – Trustees Ahrens and Schaffer voted “nay” - motion passes 3-2.

Executive Session:

As noted during the approval of the Agenda, the Board voted to modify the Agenda and approved going into executive session before discussing Resolution 2020 – 002 regarding the potential abolishment of the Dundee Township Road District. 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 1202(c)(11). Trustee Johnson 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 10:57 PM, Trustee Harney 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.

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”:

The Board briefly discussed the Resolution before deciding that the Resolution should be tabled until the June meeting.

Audit/Approve Bills and Payrolls:

Audit Bills – Pending Town Fund Bills \$69,856.42; Pre-Paid Town Bills \$754.14; Payrolls \$33,069.62, \$32,423.76 & \$31,796.59; Pending General Assistance Bills \$907.37; Prior Month’s General Assistance Costs \$7,695.37; General Assistance Payrolls - \$622.22, \$631.36 & \$677.12; Pending Cemetery Fund Bills \$12,977.16; Pre-Paid Cemetery Bills \$154.33; Payrolls \$8,182.68, \$7,723.46 & \$13,165.52; Pending Road & Bridge Fund Bills \$21,655.34; Pre-Paid Road & Bridge Bills \$1,437.02; Payrolls \$15,394.16, \$15,394.16 & \$15,394.16; Road IMRF/FICA Payrolls of \$2,434.73, \$2,434.73 & \$2,434.73; Road & Bridge Insurance Bills of \$31,374.00.

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

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

Budget Transfers: No Budget transfers were presented.

Trustee Johnson made the motion to adjourn with a second by Trustee Schaffer. Upon voice vote, all present voted “aye” – motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 11:20 pm.

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

Robert Block
Dundee Township Deputy Clerk