

**Sangamon Township
Regular Meeting Minutes**

Held at Sangamon Township Building, 1264 Old Rt 47 White Heath, Illinois

April 11, 2019

The regular monthly meeting of Sangamon Township was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Supervisor Kathleen Piatt. Roll Call was taken. Present were Supervisor Piatt, Trustee Mike Nolan, Trustee John Foley, and Trustee Bill Blickhan.

Also present were Kevin Duff - Clerk, Larry Sebens - Highway Commissioner, Amy Rupiper (Township Attorney) and visitor Tom Scott Jr. from the Champaign/Urbana Western Railroad Historic Society.

Absent: Trustee Bill Olsen.

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Public Comment: Mr. Scott asked if anyone had any questions about the Railroad Historic Society. A question was asked what is the width of the easement is through White Heath. Mr. Scott replied the easement is 100 ft.

Minutes:

Clerk Duff read the minutes of the March 14, 2019 Regular Township Meeting. One correction was noted and changed. Trustee Nolan made a motion seconded by Trustee Foley to approve the minutes as noted. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Clerk Duff read the minutes from the March 21, 2019 Special Meeting. Trustee Foley made a motion seconded by Trustee Blickhan to approve the minutes. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

In accordance with the Open Meeting Act 5ILCS 120/C5 that authorizes the Board to go into closed session to discuss appointment, employment, performance or dismissal of employees of the township, a motion was made by Trustee Blickhan and seconded by Trustee Foley at 7:40 pm to go into closed session. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved

A voice vote was taken and passed to resume the regular meeting at 8:12 pm.

Old Business:

A discussion was had about several abandoned properties in White Heath. Attorney Rupiper confirmed that the Township has the authority to condemn abandoned properties but must first ask the County to consider. If the County doesn't act, the township can take the owner or any interested party to court to force the owner to fix or declare abandoned. If taxes or the water bill has not been paid in two years, a property may be considered abandoned. The question was asked if the Township needs an ordinance. Attorney Rupiper responded that the authority is already in the Township Code. The County ordinance will supersede any ordinance that the Township might adopt. If there is a complaint, the County can give the owner a timeline to fix. If the property isn't fixed, the County can issue fines. The Board suggested that an alternative

may be to approach the property owner to share the cost of demolition with the Township. Attorney Rupiper will send summary to the Board prior to the next meeting.

Trustee Foley reported about property assessment questions raised at the last meeting. He had conversation with Jeff Colbert of the County Treasurer's Office. The Township levies for a certain dollar amount. The variable assessed value backs into what the tax rate is to make the levy. If the assessed value goes up, the tax rate goes lower to get to the levy amount. So if assessed value goes up, taxes don't go up. Jennifer Bryant confirmed. Assessed value needs to be 1/3 of sales. Multi taxing districts are leveled. If Sangamon Township values go up while other Townships do not, Sangamon will pay a greater portion. Sangamon Township needs to go up to 6% for leveling for a fair market value. Former Assessor Brent Buckalew confirmed. Trustee Foley did ask about farmland but found out that is a different system; farmland isn't assessed.

There was no assessor's report.

As an update to the cemetery committee, Supervisor Piatt noted that she has asked the committee to come to a Township meeting. A meeting four months from now from now was suggested.. Since the committee is to meet May 1 and committee member Joyce Munster's term expires this year, Supervisor Piatt made a motion seconded by Trustee Nolan to reappoint Ms. Munster for a new term ending 2025. A voice vote was taken an unanimously passed. To resolve the questions about committee member Ray Spencer's current term, Trustee Nolan made a motion seconded by Supervisor Piatt to approve Mr. Spencer's completing the remaining 2 years of his current term. A voice vote was taken an unanimously passed. Supervisor Piatt also noted that the committee needs to complete a tour of the cemeteries to complete a required form. Supervisor Piatt made a motion seconded by Trustee Blickhan for Trustee Nolan to attend the cemetery committee with written expectations for the committee and to report back to the Board. A voice vote was taken and passed unanimously.

Supervisor Piatt will ask Kelly's accounting to give report options for the Board to review.

Invoices:

A motion was made by Trustee Blickhan and seconded by Trustee Nolan to approve the invoices. A roll call vote was take and unanimously approved.

Communications:

A card from last year's mowing contractor Mark Mitchell was received thanking the Township for the business. The question was asked why Mr. Mitchell didn't bid. Supervisor Piatt replied that Mr. Mitchell didn't see the ad but also didn't think his bid would be competitive.

New Business:

Commissioner Sebens distributed a handout of an ordinance establishing utility permit fees for discussion. Typical permits are for fiberoptics or field tile installations and require a permit from the County. The contractor is charged for Commissioner Seben's time to oversee the installation and the contractor pays the cost of installation and the fix. The ordinance only applies to construction or if a property owner's field tile crosses a Township or County road. No permit is required for a culvert. A motion to approve the ordinance was made by Trustee Foley and seconded by trustee Nolan. A roll call vote was taken an unanimously approved. The ordinance was signed by Commissioner Sebens and Clerk Duff.

Commissioner Sebens noted that three trucks will be listed as surplus equipment: a 1999 International, a 1995 International and a 1995 Ford. The trucks are surplus due to the purchase of two new trucks.

Supervisor Piatt will ask the White Heath Rec League about a new ball diamond lease. A question was asked when the diamond septic system had last been cleaned. Supervisor Piatt will investigate and report back to the Board. If necessary a firm will be contacted to pump.

In accordance with the Open Meeting Act 5 ILCS 120/2 C5, a motion was made at 9:41 by Supervisor Piatt and seconded by Trustee Foley to go into closed session to discuss possible land acquisition. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved/

A voice vote was taken and passed to resume the regular meeting and the meeting resumed at 11:10 pm.

A motion was made by Supervisor Piatt and seconded by Trustee Nolan to enter into a non binding agreement to purchase plus or minus 11 acres of land from Christina and Rick Pontious at \$10,000/acre subject to approval by the Township Board and a modified tree agreement presented by Mr. Pontious with a closing date on or before August 15, 2019. A roll call vote was taken and unanimously passed. A special Township meeting will be scheduled in June for public input.

A motion was made by Trustee Blickhan and seconded by Trustee Foley to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 11:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin Duff
Sangamon Township Clerk