

Atlanta Township
301 SW Arch Street, Atlanta, Illinois 61723
January 14, 2025
Monthly Meeting Minutes

The monthly meeting of the Atlanta Township Board was held January 14th, 2025, at the Atlanta Township Building. The meeting was called to order at 7:31 P.M. by Clerk Shellie Reed. Those present were Clerk Shellie Reed; Trustees Amy Wertheim, Georgia Green, Chuck Van Hoorn and Becky Brandt; Cemetery Manager Shelly Brooks and Highway Commissioner Wes Green. Public present was Shelly Buettner, Bruce Compton, Tom Parks and Martha Green. Supervisor Julie Osborn was absent.

Clerk Reed asked for a nomination for a Pro Tem Chairman in the absence of Supervisor Osborn. Trustee Green nominated Trustee Brandt. Trustee Wertheim seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held: Ayes 3; Nays: 0. The motion carried and the nomination of Trustee Brandt to be the Pro Tem Chairman was approved.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Pro Tem Chairman Brandt.

The following items were discussed:

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Tom Parks gave a report on the Food Pantry. The number of families varies from week to week but it averages from 16 to 30. A total of 1,087 families were served during 2024. The amount of food provided by the food bank varies week to week and the money he receives from the Atlanta Township is the backbone of the pantry and he is very appreciative of it. He also receives \$200 - 300 from other donors and received a very generous anonymous donation which helped be sure they have a nice bank balance. Tom goes once a month to the Food Bank in Morton and gets whatever they give him. He also goes to Walmart twice a week to buy frozen foods and staples like bread, milk and eggs. It varies from week to week what he buys but it ranges from pizzas, to French fries, and frozen chicken. He also purchases items such as paper towels, boxes of cereal, and a variety of canned goods. The 2nd trip each week he buys 30 gallons of milk, 30 loaves of bread, and eggs when able to afford them. Since fresh produce tends to go bad quickly, he is unable to buy it. Once in a while the food pantry in Lincoln calls up and says they have extra something and it needs to be given out due to spoilage and he will pick that up. Tom expressed his sincere appreciation for the money we are donating to help the families in need in Atlanta.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: The minutes of the December 10, 2024, meeting were reviewed by each member. Trustee Wertheim made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Trustee Van Hoorn seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion passed to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2024, meeting as presented.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT: Clerk Reed reported the Multi-Township Board has not signed a contract yet with the assessor's office due to issues which came up. There is an emergency meeting being held Tuesday, January 21 of the board to discuss the situation and move forward.

CLERK'S REPORT: Nothing to report as quarterly budget review was done at December meeting.

HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER REPORT: Highway Commissioner Green reported he pushed snow as needed.

CEMETERY REPORT: Cemetery Manager Brooks reported the following: she looked for burial space for Sue Long and family; did a transfer from Hieronymus to Leonard Harmon and Melissa Harriman; looked up a space for family to sell; printed Rodney Brooks obituary for eventual burial; did end of the year reports and gave a copy to Trustee Wertheim for museum; printed the veteran's list of 375 veterans buried in the cemetery and interred list has been updated and has 4,172 names.

Cemetery Manager Brooks gave a report on the vandalism which occurred on December 27th. A print out listing damaged stones we are aware of so far was distributed. On December 27 at 2:00 PM, she went to the Atlanta Cemetery to remove flowers from the holidays including Bob & Judy Ford's stone. While there, she saw a bicycle laying on the ground but saw no one around explaining it. After returning home, she called Al Adams and asked if he saw a bicycle the last time he was there and he reported he did a drive through on Friday the 26th and there was no bicycle. At 3:30 PM, she received a call from the Logan County Sheriff telling her of the damage. She went to cemetery and met the Sheriff's officers, took photos and made a list of stones. Some were pushed off the bases, some had the vases ripped off, some had the shepherd's hooks bent, etc. On Sunday, December 28, they arrested the person believed to be responsible due to cameras at the pond next to the cemetery. There were approximately 35 stones and vases damaged. She has reached out to as many families as possible to let them know of the damage and discuss the situation. She is still attempting to reach some families. Adams Memorials is coming Thursday to look at damages and offered to assist with repairs for \$1,000.00. Manley Monuments said they would provide one day of help. Unfortunately, nothing can be done until the weather warms up.

TOIRMA does not cover the damages as stones are considered property of the family. Discussion was held on whether there is other insurance available which would cover it and perhaps we should get it. Clerk Reed and Cemetery Manager Brooks will look into it.

A discussion was held of putting a public announcement in Lincoln Daily News or Lincoln Herald announcing list of stones for which she is unable to locate families. Perhaps it could also be on their websites and our website and on Facebook. Discussion on whether to replace shepherd's hooks.

A discussion was held on installing cameras but more research needs to be done.

OLD BUSINESS: New Windows: Highway Commissioner Green said he had nothing new to report at this time.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

FINANCIAL REPORT & PAYING OF BILLS: Board Members reviewed the bills to be paid. Trustee Green made a motion to approve the financial report and paying of the bills. Trustee Van Hoorn seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Ayes: 4; Nays: 0; Supervisor Osborn was absent. The motion carried and bills were authorized for payment.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS: None.

Pro Tem Chairman Brandt adjourned the meeting at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shellie Reed
Atlanta Township Clerk