

**Sangamon Township  
Regular Meeting Minutes**

**Held at Sangamon Township Building, 1264 Old Rt 47 White Heath, Illinois  
January 9, 2020**

The regular monthly meeting of Sangamon Township was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Supervisor Kathleen Piatt. Roll Call was taken. Present were Supervisor Piatt, Trustees Bill Blickhan and Mike Nolan. Also present were guests Thomas Scott, Jr., Mark Sieja, Sheila Maloney, Kelly Griffith, Clerk Kevin Duff and Highway Commissioner Larry Sebens.

Absent: Trustees John Foley and Bill Olson.

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

**Public Comment:**

Mr. Sieja thanked the Board for its continued efforts toward remedying abandoned/unsafe properties. He hasn't heard from Mike Schroeder from the County Health Department. Trustee Nolan will contact Mr. Schroeder's supervisor. Mr. Sieja also recalled a Township ordinance used in the past to clean up abandoned vehicles. A letter was sent in the past by the Township Clerk advising derelict property owners of the ordinance.

Ms. Maloney spoke about the township's land use committee that was active until 2013 that should be considered to be reestablished. The committee helped guide development and might be useful in incorporating LEED ideas (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) into future land use plans.

**Minutes:**

A motion was made by Trustee Nolan and seconded by Trustee Blickhan to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2019 Regular Township Meeting. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

**Invoices:**

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

**Communications:**

Supervisor Piatt reported that the Highway Commissioner's salary has not received cost of living increases as required for 2018, 2019 and 2020. Trustee Blickhan made a motion seconded by Trustee Nolan to adjust the Township's Highway Commissioner's 2020 salary according to the social security cost of living adjustment. A roll call vote was taken and approved unanimously. A motion was made by Trustee Blickhan and seconded by Trustee Nolan to rectify the pay errors in 2018 and 2019 for the Township's Highway Commissioner with a lump sum payment based on the social security cost of living adjustments with the payment split between the Town Fund and the Road and Bridge Fund. A roll call vote was taken and approved unanimously.

Supervisor Piatt reported a budget planning workshop in Springfield on January 24, 2020 for a cost of \$75. Supervisor Piatt will go. A motion was made by Supervisor Piatt and seconded by Trustee Blickhan to approve expenditure up to \$150 (the supervisor's fee plus one trustee) for the budget workshop. A roll call vote was taken and approved unanimously. Trustees wanting to attend should let Supervisor Piatt know by January 17.

Supervisor Piatt reported that she had asked Dubson HVAC contractor to look at the furnace in the Township's office since the fan was making a lot of noise. A motion was made by Supervisor Piatt and seconded by Trustee Nolan to allow repairs of \$400 or less on the furnace. A roll call vote was taken and approved unanimously.

Supervisor Piatt has been researching Certificate of Deposit rates at local banks with the idea of transferring \$50k each from the Township's General Assistance Fund and the Township's Insurance Fund leaving \$15k in each fund for short term use. The best rate found so far is with First State Bank of Monticello for 1.55% for 6 or 12 months. Interest earned can go to the Town Fund. The idea will be considered at the February meeting.

**Old Business:**

No assessor's report was given.

Trustee Nolan distributed copies of the letters sent by the County Health Department to 5 township property owners concerning abandoned/unsafe properties. State's Attorney Dana Rhoades sent a letter January 7, 2020 to the County Board asking if nuisance orders were to be filed in the court, would the County Board pay for initial clean up cost. Trustee Nolan plans to attend the County Board meeting in February. Follow up will also happen to see if there is a schedule of fines that might be issued prior to a court judgement.

Trustee Blickhan reported on a meeting he and Trustee Foley had with with Mike Davis of the Vermillion County Land Bank. The outcome of the meeting was that the land bank is not a likely source of financial help for the Township given the priorities that the land bank already has. Another outcome was that if nothing is done to remedy abandoned properties, the problem has historically only gotten worse. A discussion about Cisco's success as an incorporated village was had and the idea that White Heath might want to consider incorporating to be able to adopt ordinances was mentioned.

No cemetery committee report was made.

Supervisor Piatt distributed Kelly's Accounting reports. Follow up is still needed on how the grant for the park land purchase is recorded.

An appropriation draft budget needs to be posted by February 1, 2020. A draft budget was distributed by Supervisor Piatt. Trustee Nolan made a motion seconded by Trustee Blickhan to allow Attorney Rupiper to compose a draft appropriation budget for posting according to draft prepared by Supervisor Piatt. A roll call vote was taken and approved unanimously.

No audit report was made.

Supervisor Piatt made a motion seconded by Trustee Nolan to allow Supervisor Piatt to apply for an Illinois Department of Natural Resources grant of \$105k for preliminary site work for the Park and to apply for the required certifications. A roll call vote was taken and approved unanimously.

**New Business:**

The reestablishment of a township land use committee was discussed in communications.

A motion was made by Trustee Blickhan seconded by Trustee Nolan to adjourn the meeting. A voice vote was taken and the meeting was adjourned at 9:16 pm.

