

**Sangamon Township  
Regular Meeting Minutes**

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

**April 11, 2024**

The regular monthly meeting of Sangamon Township was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Supervisor Mike Nolan. Roll Call was taken. Present were Supervisor Nolan and trustees Bill Blickhan, Tim King and Kathleen Piatt.

Also present were Township residents Tiffany St. John, Chad St. John and Sean Stevens, Piatt County State's Attorney Sarah Perry, Highway Commissioner Larry Sebens, and Clerk Kevin Duff.

Absent: Trustee Bill Olson

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

**Public Comment:** Mr. Stevens reported an issue with standing water in the drainage ditch adjacent to the road along his property on Sandra Lane. He has been in discussion with Highway Commissioner Sebens about possible solutions. Highway Commissioner Sebens has offered to regrade the ditch again but believes water from adjacent neighbors is contributing to the problem and regrading may not solve the problem. Neighbors Mr. and Ms. St. John acknowledged that they have contributed to the problem by tiling their sump pump into the ditch but said that water was standing in the ditch before they tiled to the ditch. Highway Commissioner Sebens noted that another's neighbor's septic system is also improperly emptying into the road ditch and the road ditch's only purpose is to drain water from the road. He made that the point that as soon as anyone mows the ditch, the drainage in the ditch is likely to be impaired again. Highway Commissioner Sebens restated that he would regrade the ditch.

**New Business:** Attorney Perry reported that she would check to see what complaints about abandoned properties are still on file from the Township but does not believe any recent complaints have been made. The County and the Health Department cannot address abandoned properties without complaints. The County has an ordinance about abandoned properties that usually result in assessing monetary damages but is difficult to enforce. If a property owner does not clean up a property, the County can clean up and put a lien on the property for the cost. The County does have some funds available to clean up abandoned properties. The clean up rarely results in a long term solution. Attorney Perry will meet with the Health Department to clarify the status of abandoned properties in the Township. Attorney Perry would like to redraft the ordinances. The Township is willing to partner with the County for a long term solution such as demolition of abandoned properties. Attorney Perry will also clarify the definition of an abandoned property. The suggestion was also made for the County to address cargo containers being placed on residential properties as well as prefab buildings being used as residences since no building permits are issued for either.

Supervisor Nolan distributed the Annual Treasurer's Report.

Supervisor Nolan distributed the EAV received from the County.

The Annual Town Meeting was held April 9. Five people attended.

The Annual Statement of Receipts was updated.

The mowing contract for the Township is valid for this year.

**Minutes:** A motion was made by Trustee Blickhan and seconded by Supervisor Nolan to approve last month's meeting minutes. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

**Invoices:** A motion was made by Trustee Piatt and seconded by Trustee Blickhan to approve the invoices. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

**Communications:** The Township Officials Organization sent a notice that the State legislature is considering a bill to allow the counties to abolish township road departments so that the counties can assume responsibility to maintain the roads. Piatt County does not have a road maintenance department and currently pays the townships to maintain the county roads.

**Old Business:** Copies of the insurance policy for the White Heath Rec League were distributed.

Supervisor Nolan received and signed a contract with IDNR for the grant for improvements at the ball diamond.

Positive cash flow projections were distributed. Projections for the Town Fund going into July appear to be \$193 without including the grants for the Park.

A summary of Illinois Fund transfers was distributed.

Rec League chairman Aaron Brown is still finalizing how the lights at the existing ball diamond can be replaced. Mr. Brown believes the League can contribute about \$12k for the work. The project is moving forward but is unlikely to be completed for this summer. Adjacent property owner Rick Pontious does not want to sell the Township an additional 75 feet of land adjacent to the new ball diamond but is open to other ideas. A motion was made by Trustee King and seconded by Trustee Piatt to allow Trustee Blickhan to offer Mr. Pontious for the Township to buy all of the approximate 15 acres of land adjacent to the Park (without the Township improving Mr. Pontious's private road) at a not to exceed amount agreed upon by the Board. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. If Mr. Pontious approves the Township's offer, the Board will vote on the purchase at the next meeting. The Township would explore options for the land after reaching a purchase agreement.

Trustee Piatt made a motion seconded by Trustee Blickhan to adjourn the meeting. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Clerk Duff