

**Sangamon Township
Regular Meeting Minutes**

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

May 11, 2023

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 Tim King, Bill Olson and Bill Blickhan.

Also present were Highway Commissioner Larry Sebens, Cemetery Sexton Frannie Dick and Clerk Kevin Duff.

Absent: Trustee Kathleen Piatt

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Public Comment: none

Minutes: A motion was made by Trustee Blickhan and seconded by Trustee King to approve the April minutes. A voice vote was taken and the minutes were approved unanimously.

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

Communications: Supervisor Nolan advised that TOI is offering training seminars for anyone interested.

Supervisor Nolan update the approved Township signature on file at the bank to be his name.

Former Cemetery Board Member Ray Spencer recently cashed a check from the Township dated from 2020. Supervisor Nolan noted that he and Clerk Duff are recording when checks are cashed and checks older than 6 months that are uncashed will be voided.

A letter from the Dewitt/Piatt County Health Department with an announcement of a new administrator was passed out.

Cemetery Sexton Dick reported that 5 graves have been sold: 2 at Ingram and 3 at Mackey. Sexton Dick is getting quotes for a tree to be removed at Mackey Cemetery.

New Business: The current ball diamond lease to the White Heath Rec League will automatically be renewed if there are no revisions made. Supervisor Nolan shared the Certificate of Insurance for the Rec League. Trustee Blickhan passed out a preliminary estimate to redo the lights as LED fixtures at the existing ball diamond with a total material cost ranging from \$5k to \$10k. The estimate and scope of work will continue to be refined. The Rec League should confirm what their needs are. Trustee Blickhan will find out what the Rec League pays on the electric bill to light the field to assess the possible savings with the installation of new LED lights. The Board confirmed that replacing the existing lights makes sense.

Supervisor Nolan distributed the Final Tax Computation Report.

The printer replacement is still be considered.

Supervisor Nolan reported that he and Clerk Duff have been organizing the Township files. Currently multiple filing systems are in place with multiple sites for the same subject. Files will

be consolidated in one location per subject. What files are kept in the fire safe file cabinets should be considered.

Highway Commissioner Sebens brought an ordinance imposing permit requirements to the Board so that contractors hauling heavy loads at or equal to 80,000 pounds on Township Roads will need a permit from the State. The Board discussed how such an ordinance might affect local farmers hauling grain. Since farmers are currently restricted by law to haul no greater than 80,000 pounds on a load, the Board concluded that this ordinance will have no impact on local farmers. A motion was made by Trustee Olson and seconded by Trustee King to approve the ordinance. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Supervisor Nolan made a motion seconded by Trustee Blickhan to pass a resolution that the Sangamon Township Supervisor will within 60 days of receiving an annual financial audit or report will give copies to the Trustees of the Township and the Road Commissioner. A voice vote was taken and the resolution passed unanimously.

Supervisor Nolan has called the surveyor to provide a survey for the additional property at Camp Creek Cemetery that the property owner would like to give to the Township. Supervisor Nolan will follow up on the survey status and keep the Board informed. A discussion about record keeping at the Township cemeteries was had. CIMS is one possible vendor that can provide electronic systems for record keeping and the alternative of hiring someone part time to put the data in a spreadsheet was also mentioned. Part of long term planning for the Township will include the cemeteries.

Replacement checks have been received: the Township received \$1,995.62 and Road and Bridge received \$3,886.67.

When the vendor sprayed the Township Office for pests, he discovered termite wings in the bathrooms and provided a quote to treat and inspect. A motion was made by Trustee Blickhan and seconded by Trustee Olson to hire the vendor to treat the termites for an initial cost of \$1,200 and to inspect for termites in the future for a cost of \$125/year. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Jim Reed is an expert about ways to protect Townships when considering solar or wind farm applications. Supervisor Nolan drafted a list of 6 items from the Township to be considered by the Piatt County Zoning Board at the request of the Zoning Board: (1) That applications for zoning variances within Sangamon Township be reviewed by the Township Board for comment before a decision is made by the Piatt County Zoning Board; (2) That ground solar installations not be allowed in incorporated rural subdivisions consisting of three parcels or more whose average lot size is less than 2.5 acres; (3) That the back of all approved ground solar installations be concealed by a fence or evergreen plantings tall enough to block the view of the solar installation; (4) That the rear of ground solar installations not be used as a storage area; (5) that ground solar installations where appropriate have a setback of 100 feet from the property line; and (6) That rural subdivisions in unincorporated areas have the same ability to restrict as incorporated areas when it comes to the zoning of windmill turbine installations of one and half mile. A motion was made by Trustee King and seconded by Trustee Blickhan to approve the draft letter as written. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Old Business: No assessor's report was given.

No comments were offered on Kelly's financial reports. Supervisor Nolan confirmed that Kelly can now view the Township's bank statements.

Supervisor Nolan distributed a positive cash flow projection report.

The auditor has the information requested for the audit.

Supervisor Nolan distributed a draft letter of thanks to property owner Terry Harshberger for the work he has done on his property in Hickory Hills. The Board thought the letter was good.

Supervisor Nolan distributed a workbook that he prepared for the Decennial Committee with a copy of the Act, TOI recommended procedures, sample township report from TOI, and a proposed Township Process. The first meeting will be at the Regular Township Meeting on

June 8, 2023. The Board will review the final report November 9, 2023, approve the final report on December 14, 2023 and submit to the County Board January 2024. Trustee Blickhan has confirmed that Township residents John Foley and Tosha Valentine are willing to serve. Supervisor Nolan has confirmed that Township resident Mark Sieja is also willing to serve. Mr. Foley will be asked to serve as a representative for the Road and Bridge component of the committee and the other residents for the Township. Clerk Duff will order 8 copies of the Township handbooks for the Decennial Committee, the Trustees and the Clerk.

Trustees King and Blickhan reported on their study of the Illinois Fund. The website for Illinois Fund is their source of information. The fund allows state and local government agencies to pool their cash reserves to achieve a higher rate of interest that could be earned individually. Money can be moved daily. The Township Supervisor would be required to move funds as needed. The fund is a triple A rated investment fund. A discussion was had concerning how the Township can maintain autonomy between levied accounts if the Illinois Fund is used. Kelly's Accounting does not currently have a client using the Illinois Fund. A motion was made by Trustee Blickhan and seconded by Trustee King to give Supervisor Nolan the authority to open an Illinois Fund account for the Township without the authority at this time to put money in the account unless the State requires a minimum amount to open the account. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Supervisor Nolan made a motion seconded by Trustee Olson to adjourn the meeting. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Clerk Duff