

**Sangamon Township  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
And  
Decennial Committee Minutes  
Held at the Sangamon Township Building, 1264 Old Rt. 47 White Heath, Illinois  
June 8, 2023**

The regular monthly meeting of Sangamon Township was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Supervisor Nolan. Roll call was taken. Present were Supervisor Mike Nolan and Trustees Bill Olson, Bill Blickhan and Tim King.

Decennial Committee members present (in addition to the Township Board) were Tosha Valentine, John Foley, Mark Siega, Leslie Heath and Kevin Duff.

Kevin Duff also acted in his capacity of Town Clerk.

Kathleen Piatt was absent.

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

**Public Comment:** None

**Decennial Minutes Meeting One**

The first meeting of the Sangamon Township Decennial Committee, Piatt County, was held on June 8<sup>th</sup> at the Township office as a part of the regular schedule monthly meeting. The Decennial portion of the monthly meeting was called to order by Supervisor Nolan at 7:05 p.m. Those in attendance were township officials Mike Nolan, Bill Blickhan, Bill Olson, Tim King, town committee members Tosha Valentine, Mark Sieja, Leslie Heath, Kevin Duff and road and bridge committee member John Foley.

The first meeting covered the following topics: 1) Introductions, 2) About the Township, 3) Assessment, 4) Communications, 5) Education.

- 1) **Introductions:** Members introduced themselves as to their backgrounds, length of residency in the township, where they live and their interests in Sangamon Township. After introductions the committee reviewed the public act 102-1088. The purpose of the act is to look at how the township functions and what improvements might be made to make the township more efficient. Decennial studies are to be made every ten years with a minimum of three meetings. A report will be submitted of the decennial committee's findings within eighteen months from the time of the first meeting to the county board by Supervisor Nolan. Clarification was made that John Foley is designated as the Road and Bridge Committee member.
- 2) The following information was distributed **About Sangamon Township:** Sangamon Township was founded in 1851 after Piatt County had been carved out of Macon and Dewitt Counties in 1841. According to the 2020 Federal Census the township has a total of 47.25 square miles of which 47.18 square miles is land and .06 square miles is water. Sangamon Township is bordered

by Blue Ridge Township to the north, Mahomet Township, Champaign County to the northeast, Scott Township, Champaign County to the east, Goose Creek Township to the west and Monticello Township to the South, Colfax Township, Champaign County to the southeast. The township consists of nine cemeteries: Argo, Boyer, Bucks, Camp Creek, Ross-Hughes, Ingram, Mackey, Madden and Mallory. The township has two main highways Route 10 which goes through from east to west and Interstate 72 which runs diagonally through the township from southwest to north east. The Sangamon River cuts through the township from the north east corner through the southwest corner. The township also has the tributary Madden Creek which originates north of the township and flows into the Sangamon River. The main source of water for the township is the Mahomet Aquifer. A large portion of the residential buildings rely on drilled wells into the aquifer. The main industry of the township is agriculture because of the rich farmland which produces outstanding yields. Residents of Sangamon Township primarily attend schools in the Monticello School District. White Heath is the location of one the district's schools. The township has four unincorporated villages, White Heath, Lodge, Galesville and Centerville. The north edge of the City of Monticello is part of the township. Sangamon Township has the following recreational areas: Forest Preserve Park (3 separate parks), The Monticello Train Museum, Heartland Pathways and Eli Field. The township owns and maintains the White Heath Park and Ball Field. Kirby Hospital is located in the township as well as a Carle Clinic and Ridings Ford dealership. Sangamon Township is very rural, with the majority of the population living in rural unincorporated subdivisions. The population of Sangamon Township has steadily increased since 1960 and has contributed largely to the overall population of Piatt County remaining relatively stable.

#### Census Population

1960 - 1021	1970 - 1124	1980 - 1585	1990 - 1481	2000 - 2041
2010 - 2357	2020 - 2481			

#### 2020 Census Facts

##### Education

No degree 5%, High School 25%, Some College 19%, Bachelors 34% and Post Graduate 17%

##### Mobility

85% lived in the same house the previous year, 12% from same county, 1% from different county and 2% from a different state.

##### Household Income

23% are under \$50K, 23% \$50K to \$100K, 40% \$100K to \$200K, 13% over \$200k

##### Units / Occupancy / Value

958 housing units, 95% occupied, 88% ownership of occupied units. Median value owner occupied \$257,500

The Niche Grade given to areas for places to live states:

Sangamon Township is in Piatt County and is one of the best places to live in Illinois. Living in Sangamon Township offers residents a rural feel and most residents own their homes. Residents of Sangamon Township tend to be conservative. The public schools in Sangamon Township are highly rated.”

- 3) **Assessment:** Six areas regarding assessment were discussed:
- a) Discussion was covered about the existing contract with the present assessor of the township and the liability of not having a plan of succession if there was an opening in the position. No resident in recent years has run for township assessor. The discussion centered around what the qualifications are to be the assessor. The committee feels that the township should work the County Assessor in devising a plan to recruit assessors from the county population. Additional information was discussed as to how multipliers work and the history of the corporate replacement tax.
  - b) It was presented that the present assessor gives regular updates on assessments, building permits etc.
  - c) It was pointed out that everyone owning property should be receiving the Homestead Exemption on their home ownership. That this is the responsibility of the township and county assessors and should be reviewed with any constituent seeking financial support from the township that they are receiving this exemption.
  - d) Presently the township assessor reviews new procedures and regulations with the township board as they come up. An example of this is the photographing of all properties for the county database. The consistent communication between the assessor and the board gives the opportunity for updating of knowledge of the assessing system as it evolves and how it relates to the township finances.
  - e) The importance of how assessments affect the finances of the township and constituents tax bills was discussed. It was noted that with the increase in evaluation (new building) has allowed the township to be financially stable without increasing tax bills.
  - f) Each year the county clerk informs the township of the confirmation of property evaluation in relationship to the township budgeted taxing.
- 4) **Communications:** Two areas were reviewed regarding communications, legal requirements and the township website.
- a) Legal Requirements were covered which included the posting of dates of monthly meetings, the annual town meeting and special meetings. That the township posts meeting agendas required at the township office, the post office and the Grand Prairie office as well as the website. The township has a designated FOI (Freedom of Information) officer. The audience is allowed public comment at all meetings. The township maintains legal counsel for compliance on laws and requirements pertaining to the township.
  - b) The township maintains a website that contains the listing of township officials and their contact information. The schedule of meetings agendas and minutes as well as other information is posted in timely and appropriate manner. The website is maintained by a volunteer which saves the township money. It was noted that the township website has had 1992 hits in the last twelve months. A suggestion was made to post on the township window a contact list of township officials for those not familiar with the website. It was also mentioned that on occasion the Piatt County General or Main Street Monticello-chamber of commerce be alerted of any events the township might be involved in.

- 5) **Education** of the township officials as well as the general public was addressed. All township officials receive the monthly Township Perspective which provides timely information on legislative updates and a calendar of required events of the township. The board participates in TIORMA educational seminars as pertinent topics arise. Information sent out by all entities is covered at the monthly township meetings. Any mandated training is communicated to and complied with by the township board. All information covered in township meetings regarding these matters is contained in the township minutes which are posted on the township website for public review. Presently one of the township trustees is also a county board member who gives us updates on matters of the county.

**Minutes:** The regular Township Meeting resumed with a motion made by Supervisor Nolan and seconded by Trustee King to approve the May meeting minutes as revised. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

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

**Communications:** Piatt County Soil and Water is having a **Used Oil and Tire Event**, July 7, 2023 from eight until noon at the FS parking lot in Monticello. Supervisor Nolan distributed an annual TIF report from the City of Monticello. Supervisor Nolan passed out information on a survey from Community Action.

**New Business:** The auditor has requested a few additional items to be delivered.

A motion was made by Trustee King and seconded by Trustee Blickhan to prepay for propane delivery from FS Services at a price savings of 5 cents/gallon. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

The township office has been treated for termites. An annual inspection will be conducted each year to check for termites. The need for some inspection of the building to ascertain if there was any damage needs to be conducted. Supervisor Nolan will contact someone to do an inspection.

A new survey has been completed for the additional property donated by the Hays family at Camp Creek cemetery. A title search is in progress on the additional property.

Supervisor Nolan will meet next week with Mary Appleby of Garret Township to get an understanding of the CIMS program for mapping cemeteries.

Trustee King and Supervisor Nolan investigated the Illinois Fund process and requirements. The Illinois Fund has no fees for transactions and the township can have multiple accounts. The state will send out monthly paper statements regarding each account. The Piatt County Treasurers office has an account with Illinois Funds the fund has not recently been used. At the time of the meeting the state was paying a little over 5%. The interest rate changes daily. A motion was made by Trustee King and seconded by Trustee Blickhan giving Supervisor Nolan the authority to open as many accounts as needed with amounts as Supervisor Nolan determines with the Illinois Fund with review authority given to accountant Kelly Finet. A roll call was taken and the motion passed unanimously. A motion was made by Bill Blickhan and seconded by Bill Olson giving Trustee King also the authority to make transactions in the Illinois Fund. A roll call was taken and the motion passed unanimously. Accountant Kelly Finet will have to sign a form that gives her review authority when she gets back from vacation.

Trustee Blickhan and Supervisor Nolan met with White Heath Rec. League Director Aaron Brown. The price to replace lights on the ball field with LED lights has been updated to \$14K for the 24 fixtures. (The previous quote was to replace 12 lights.) Aaron estimates they will save over 30% operating costs with LEDs. The electrical panel and light poles need to be inspected for possible updates. The current equipment is over 35 years old. The cash flow projection provided by Supervisor Nolan shows that the park fund has about \$25K presently. There will be approximately \$4K to \$5K in mowing expense the rest of this year. \$15K will be coming into the park fund when the county releases the tax income. It was discussed that the budget for the park fund can be amended and that funds from the town fund can be transferred to the park fund if necessary. If construction and updates proceed the White Heath Rec League will be asked to hold the contracts. There was a discussion on how to move the project forward. A motion was made by Trustee Blickhan and seconded by Trustee King for the township to provide up to \$20K in matching funds raised by the Rec. League for lights, electrical upgrades and earth work for a new ball field until the end of FY 2023. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. Trustee Blickhan will update Aaron of the matching grant.

Supervisor Nolan reported that Cemetery Sexton Francis Dick will update the board on the older of the two mowers that may have reached its life expectancy.

**Old Business:** Tree removal quotes at the cemeteries have been received but removals are currently on hold since the trees in question have leafed out.

A letter was sent to Lloyd Wax from the township that was approved at the May meeting.

A motion was made by Trustee Olson and seconded by Trustee Blickhan to adjourn the meeting. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Township Clerk Kevin Duff