

**Sangamon Township  
Regular Meeting Minutes**

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

**June 13, 2019**

The regular monthly meeting of Sangamon Township was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Supervisor Kathleen Piatt. Roll Call was taken. Present were Supervisor Piatt and Trustees Bill Blickhan, John Foley, Mike Nolan and Bill Olsen.

Also present were guests Dana Rhoades - State's Attorney, Michael Schroeder - Piatt County Heath Department, Jennifer Mitchell, Lori Harper, Mark Sieja, Steve Harper, James Allen, Doug Foster, Tammy Benson, Kim Benson, Calie Gregg, Cara Nightlinger, Marcia Riehardsier, Erik Berkman, Tina Bennett, and Brian Ball. Kevin Duff, Clerk, Larry Sebens - Highway Commissioner and Denise Dees - Assessor were also present.

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

**Public Comment:**

Comments were deferred until the discussion about nuisance properties.

**Minutes:**

A motion was made by Trustee Blickhan and seconded by Trustee Foley to approve the Regular May Minutes with one correction. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

**Invoices:**

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

**Communications:**

Auditor Feller and Kuester CPA gave forms for the Township to review. Range of costs of the audit is hoped to be \$5,000 with a maximum of \$7,000. An audit may not be necessary next year. A compilation may be done instead on accounts reconciled at a cost estimated at \$2-3,000.

Supervisor Piatt looked into Certificates of Deposit rates and will explore further.

A TIF meeting is to be held June 21 at the Monticello Community Building at 7:00 pm.

Kirby Ambulance rates are increasing to \$5/capita with the Township's contribution in 2020 expected to be \$11,785 due the end of January 2020. Supervisor Piatt will talk with Kirby about the increase as well as the possibility of sharing recycling cost and donating a defibrillator for the ball field.

A recycling event sponsored by the Piatt County Soil and Water Conservation District will be held Wednesday July 10, 2019 from 10:00 until noon.

Summary sheets from Kelly's Accounting showing year to date and monthly expenditures were distributed.

### **Old Business:**

#### Assessors Report:

Assessor Dees reported that she is currently looking at 12 new houses and some additions. The County will be updating the computer systems in all townships next year at a cost of \$1600/ township spread over 5 years pending approval by the County. Assessed values in Sangamon Township have increased 6% due to an increase in the multiplier. Property owners can contact Assessor Dees from July 1 to September 10 with questions.

#### Nuisance Property Discussion:

State's Attorney Dana Rhoades and Piatt County Health Department Employee Mike Schroeder gave some background information about the process to deal with abandoned nuisance properties in the county. The Township defers to the County for oversight of the process and the County enforces the ordinances. Cases start with Mr. Schroeder receiving a logged phone call and an initial investigation. Mr. Schroeder takes pictures and sends along with a report to Attorney Rhoades. Attorney Rhoades files an ordinance violation if appropriate and the property owner is summoned by the Court to appear in 30 days. If the owner objects, the case can go to trial. If the judge finds the owner guilty, the owner is given time to clean up the property. If the owner fails to clean up, another court date is set. The county can be asked to clean up and a fine can be levied. The County Board is informed and can hire a contractor and put a lien on the property to cover the cost. If the County fails to clean up, the Township can clean up and file a lien on the property to cover the cost. The County and Township can share the cost.

The Township wants to assist in the process to help remedy nuisance properties. The Township will confirm if the County has budgeted funds available for clean up.

Some of the comments offered by guests were that property owners next to nuisance properties are unable to sell their property or get loans for improving their property because of the nuisance properties. Property owners have been complaining for 12 years and have been unable to get anything done.

Next steps include property owners prioritizing 4 properties that have health and safety concerns and submitting to Mr. Schroeder. Supervisor Piatt will e mail Attorney Rhoades that the Township supports and agrees with the property owner's complaints. At the August Regular Township Meeting, Attorney Rhoades and Mr. Schroeder will report progress.

#### Cemetery Update:

Funds need to be set aside to purchase a new mower for about \$15,000 in 3 or 4 years. A coupe of trees will be removed in the fall.

#### Ball Diamond:

The septic system has been cleaned and will need to be pumped again in 5 years. Supervisor Piatt will check the lease to see if the lease automatically renews. The water line exposed in the ditch will be removed by the water company. A new water line can be run to the new field from the existing meter.

#### Park Development Project:

A memorandum of agreement for property purchase has been signed subject to the public being informed, a successful zoning change, receipt of the funding grant and approval of the

Township Board. The Township will agree to reduce lighting impact, keep existing drainage tiles functioning, and plant trees for screening. Ownership of Blueberry Lane will be clarified. A survey has been completed. The seller must file for a zoning change and the filing is expected at the next zoning board meeting in early July.

**New Business:**

A report of the audit was discussed in communications.

Trustee Nolan made a motion seconded by Trustee Olsen to adjourn the meeting. A vote was taken and the meeting was adjourned at 9:24pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Clerk Kevin Duff