

**Sangamon Township
Regular Meeting Minutes**

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

July 13, 2023

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

Also present were Guest Tori Taylor, Cemetery Sexton Frannie Dick and Clerk Kevin Duff.

Absent: Supervisor Mike Nolan.

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Public Comment: none

New Business: A motion was made by Trustee Blickhan and seconded by Trustee Olson to keep the closed meeting minutes closed.

The cemetery license from the State is current until August of 2024.

A motion was made by Trustee King and seconded by Trustee Blickhan to spend up to \$4k with an annual fee of \$600 to purchase a cemetery information management system. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Guest Tori Taylor was introduced to the Board as a candidate for cemetery data input. A motion was made by Trustee Blickhan and seconded by Trustee Piatt to hire Ms. Taylor part time at \$15/hour without benefits to provide cemetery data input. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. Supervisor Nolan will be Ms. Taylor's primary contact. The project work schedule will be up to Ms. Taylor. Sexton Dick will be consulted on a minimal basis. If Sexton Dick's time becomes extensive, consideration will be given to compensating him accordingly.

Sexton Dick reported that the oldest mower's engine has failed and is not worth repairing. A motion was made by Trustee King and seconded by Trustee Piatt to transfer up to \$4k from the Town Fund into the Cemetery fund to allow the purchase of a new 60" Toro mower with a cost \$11, 545.92. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

A check for \$350 for a cemetery plot at Camp Creek has been received.

Sexton Dick reported recent storm damage to trees and headstones at the cemetery. He submitted a bill for \$300.00 for his repair services to be considered. A discussion incurred about requiring a foundation be poured for a headstone when a cemetery lot is sold.

No assessor's report was given.

Announcements: Media Com sent a letter asking for support for a Federal Government grant to provide internet service to rural communities. The letter was received after the last regular township meeting. The deadline for a response has passed so no action was taken.

A notice for an educational seminar for township trustees was passed out. The seminar is to be held in Rockford on July 28.

An announcement sign for the Sangamon Township Homecoming was presented. The event will be on September 9, 2023 with activities similar to last year. Music will be from 11:00 am to 7:00 pm with a 2 hour open mic. The fire department will be hosting a pork chop dinner from 4 to 7 pm. M/T Wallets will be hosting a car show. Free rides on the railroad gang car will be available and a parade will start at 10 am.

The State has raised the required bid ceiling from \$20k to \$30k.

Kaiser Abstract has completed the title search for the additional acreage at the Camp Creek Cemetery. There are no liens or mortgages on the property.

Highway Commissioner Larry Sebens has given employee Shawn Melton a raise beginning with the week ending May 27 for a new hourly rate of \$19.50/hour.

The first tax payments from the County of \$119,646 for the Town Fund and \$285,449 for the Road Fund have been received. Cemetery plots have been purchased for \$2100. Highway Commissioner Sebens received a check for a piece of machinery that was owned by multiple townships for \$775. An insurance check for a totaled truck was received for \$46,650.

The next meeting of the Decennial Committee will take place at the regular township meeting on August 10 at 7:00 pm. Clerk Duff will send an e mail reminder about two weeks ahead. The agenda will be: 1. Road and Bridge responsibilities, 2. Employees, 3. Building Facilities, 4. General Assistance, 5. Insurance, 6. Legal Compliance and 7. Finances.

No termite building inspection has happened yet.

Additional information was given to the Auditor. The goal is to have the audit completed July 25, 2023.

Supervisor Nolan will look at applying for a grant for park development.

Township handbooks were passed out to the Trustees.

The Town Fund has received \$1613.37 and the Road and Bridge Fund has received \$3142.20 from the state replacement tax. The deposits will be reflected in next month's bank statements.

An announcement for a local government appreciation picnic at the State fair was distributed. Attendees must sign up before attending.

With the current 3.5% interest rate from the bank. The Road and Bridge Fund received \$2175.50. Interest received to the Town Fund is described below.

Minutes: A motion was made by Trustee King and seconded by Trustee Blickhan to approve the June meeting minutes as amended. 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.

Old Business: A positive cash flow projection was presented. A transfer of \$15k from the Town Fund to the Park Fund will be made and reflected in next month's statements. The Town Fund received interest payments of \$896 generated from the Insurance CD, the General Assistance CD and the 3.5% interest payment. The Rainy Day Fund had interest of \$112 for a total of \$38,939. A township expense of \$1200 was incurred for the termite treatment.

Trustee King reported that at least 2 accounts for the Township have been set up in the Illinois Fund. Supervisor Nolan prepared a spreadsheet for reference showing historic account balances going back to June of 2022. Last month, the Illinois Fund paid 5.2% interest. When the Township's CD's are due to be renewed, consideration should be made to transfer those funds into the Illinois Fund.

Trustee Blickhan reported that he and Supervisor Nolan met with Aaron Brown, director of the White Heath Rec League about the Township providing a matching grant up to \$20k to what is donated to the Rec League for light/electrical upgrades and work to the new ball diamond. Mr. Brown is setting up a Go Fund Me page on the internet. The Rec League has a 501 account to allow donations to be tax deductible. The Piatt County Journal Republican will have an article about the fund raising in the July 19 edition. A meeting was held with excavator Phil Davis to review possible work and probable construction cost estimate for excavation and tiling for the new ball diamond with home plate located in the SW corner of the site. A layout plan drawn and donated by A & R Mechanical Contractor will be presented to Mr. Davis. Mr. Davis hopes to have an estimate in August with the work expected to be done the summer of 2024. Trustee Olson volunteered to spray the site to kill the grass. He hopes to have the chemical for the

spray donated and will plan on spraying up to 4 times before next summer. Trustee Olson will contact the farmer leasing the park's farm ground to ask about tilling the site. Mr. Brown will flag the site. A motion was made by Trustee King and seconded by Trustee Piatt to spend up to \$1,000 for possible expenses for spraying and tilling the new ball diamond site. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. Fencing for the new ball diamond has been salvaged by the Rec League.

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 8:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Clerk Duff