

Sangamon Township

Regular Monthly Meeting

September 12, 2013

Minutes

The regular monthly meeting of Sangamon Township was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Supervisor Ray Spencer. Roll call was taken. Elsie Robinson, Ray Spencer, John Foley, Bill Olson and Steve Harper were present.

Debbie Marshall-Clerk and Brent Buckalew-Assessor were also present.

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Steve Long gave public comment on his interview conducted by the Monticello School Board. He was a candidate for the open school board position. He left with a solid impression that the White Heath School will be closed. He shared materials which charted scenarios of the board's findings regarding each district school and proposals for each school building.

The August 2013 minutes were read. Steve Harper made a motion to approve the minutes, Elsie Robinson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

A question regarding the increase to Township's cost of Highway employees' health insurance was raised. A rate increase has caused this. There was also discussion concerning the MFT allotment to Sangamon Township which was answered by a phone call to Larry Sebens. After a motion to approve by Elsie Robinson, and second by John Foley, payment of the invoices was passed.

Supervisor's report:

Ray handed out the Township's annual audit to the board. A copy will be on file at the Piatt County Clerk's office for public inspection. Discussion of the audit will be on the October's meeting agenda.

Highway Commissioner's report:

None

Assessor's Report:

Everything is current. The end of the assessing year is approaching, and the new contract should be reviewed. Contract review will be on the October's meeting agenda.

Old business:

Without a line in our budget for abandoned property cleanup, we will have no access to the County's money offer. John, Steve & Elsie gave a report from the August 27th special planning session regarding the abandoned property funding proposal. The appropriated Township funds would remain in our township. Discussion of this topic followed. The line item in our budget shall be revisited each year, since we may not need to contribute to this every year if not used. An amount of \$5000.00 is suggested to begin the fund. It was clarified that this would take effect in the 2014 budget. The subject was tabled until a meeting with County Board reps for more discussion.

John pointed out concern for the appearance of our town and asked to keep White Heath School open. John suggests showing support for White Heath School's life by attending Monticello District School Board meetings. If the school building is no longer used...what could be the long range plans? Could the building be repurposed as a community center or library? Interest to tour the building in White Heath is strong. An appointment for the Sangamon Township board to tour the White Heath School is to be arranged. Much discussion focused on ways to keep the school open . Group consensus is that we have lost a sense of community by restructuring the type of student body found at White Heath School.

A motion to adjourn was made by Steve Harper and seconded by Elsie Robinson. All were in favor.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Marshall

Sangamon Township Clerk