

Sangamon Township
Regular Meeting Minutes

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

October 8, 2020

The regular monthly meeting of Sangamon Township was called to order at 7:07 p.m. by Supervisor Kathleen Piatt. Roll Call was taken. Present were Supervisor Piatt and Trustee Nolan. Present remotely by internet were Trustees John Foley and Bill Blickhan.

Also present were Highway Commissioner Larry Sebens, Clerk Kevin Duff and Guest Thomas Scott, Jr. Guest Suzanna Wells was present remotely by internet.

Absent: Trustee Bill Olson.

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Public Comment:

Ms. Wells noted that she was on the ballot for the Piatt County Circuit Judge and talked about her experience as a local attorney and why she would like to be elected.

Minutes:

Trustee Nolan made a motion seconded by Trustee Foley to approve the September minutes. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was approved unanimously.

Invoices:

After confirming that the compilation audit has been received, a motion was made by Trustee Nolan seconded by Trustee Blickhan to approve the invoices. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was approved unanimously.

Communications:

Supervisor Piatt noted that the CD's purchased from the General Assistance and Insurance accounts have not been renewed. The funds used to purchase the CD's returned to their respective accounts, \$50k each. The interest earned was deposited in the Town Fund.

TOI memberships for the Township officials have been renewed.

The second tax payment has been received and deposited on October 6. About \$74k was deposited in the Town funds and about \$174k was deposited in the Road funds.

Two residents's reviews for the compilation audit have been received. One review is outstanding. Supervisor Piatt will follow up. The summary report will be published as required in the Piatt County Journal next week.

The first free library book box will be placed in White Heath. Utility locates will be made after contacting JULIE and the White Heath Water Departments.

Clean Up days were held on October 2 and 3rd. Donations of about \$345 on Friday and \$147 on Saturday were received. Scrap metal was sold for about \$234. The money was deposited in the Town Fund to help defray the cost of the dumpsters.

Old Business

The Board is required to vote on any salary adjustments at the November meeting. Supervisor Piatt reported on how the Township salaries compared to Blue Ridge, Willow Branch and Goose Creek townships. The numbers shown below are rounded numbers:

Position	Sangamon	Blue Ridge	Willow Branch	Goose Creek
Supervisor	\$10,000	\$14,000	\$8,000	\$7,000
Clerk	\$6,000	\$9,000	\$5,500	\$4,500
Trustees	\$75/meeting	\$80/meeting	\$85/meeting	\$50/meeting
Assessor	\$9,000	\$7,700	unknown	unknown
Cemetery Sexton	\$700/mo + \$200 assist.	\$300/mo + \$50/weekend Bid mowing	\$20/hr + \$50/funeral hire open + close graves	\$18,000/yr + \$150/burial
Road Commissioner	\$59,000/yr + \$850/mo ins 97 mi roads	\$39,500/yr + benefits 100 mi roads	\$44,500/yr + \$1275 benefits 97 mi roads	\$44,600/yr + \$10,000/yr ins 100 mi roads

The point was made that Sangamon Township has more people than the townships used for comparison.

The election process for Township Officials for April 2021 was briefly discussed. Clerk Duff shared a letter sent to the political parties of the County asking for dates and locations of the caucus meetings to be help for nominations for the ballot.

Attorney Rupiper sent a letter outlining that a levy increase of 5% is allowable without having Truth in Taxation hearings. The 5% levy increases for both the Town Funds and the Road and Bridge Funds will be considered. Tax bills may not increase since there are new additional properties in the Township. Mowing costs for the new park areas have increased \$3k/season not including Trustee Nolan voluntarily mowing the parking area. The total increase could easily be \$6k.

Supervisor Piatt reported that a quote to replace the failing furnace and ac system in the Township Office has been received by local contractor Dubson's Heating of about \$9k. The Board asked Supervisor Piatt to get another quote from the local branch of Mattefor a 90% efficiency furnace and ac system. A motion was made by Trustee Foley seconded by Trustee Blickhan to approve Supervisor Piatt moving ahead with purchasing a 90% efficiency furnace with a 10 year warranty if the total cost is less than \$9k after consulting with Trustee Blickhan. A roll call vote was taken and approved unanimously.

Supervisor Piatt would like to move the Insurance Fund from a NOW account to a MMDA account to increase the interest paid on the money from .01% to .07%. Additional interest earned in a year was estimated at about \$42. A roll call vote was taken with Supervisor Piatt and Trustee Nolan voting yes and Trustees Foley and Blickhan voting no. The motion was not approved.

Supervisor Piatt is not pursuing enrolling the crop land in the park in a conservation program.

A lengthy discussion was had about possible changes in Road Commissioner Seben's salary and benefits since he recently enrolled on his wife's insurance policy and does not need the Township to purchase his health insurance. He would like to change his HSA if possible to be a

family HSA. Additional information is needed on who can fund a HSA (Township or the entity providing insurance), what changes can be made to benefit Commissioner Sebens since he is saving the Township the cost of providing insurance and what the impact change will be for the position since the salary cannot be adjusted again until 4 years from now. A special township meeting will be held to further discuss township official salary changes on October 29, 2020 at 7:00 pm at the Township Building.

No report was received from the White Heath Rec League.

In regards to blighted properties, the Dennis Reed property in White Heath is being demolished by the owner to be replaced by a prefab rental unit. Some of the buildings on the Sprinkle property are being offered as a control burn. There is no update on the Norman House. The Commercial Street property is believed to have been sold but the new owner is not yet known.

Kelly's accounting will change how property taxes are reported on the profit and loss statements.

The Cemetery Committee met last month and a report to the Board will be made at the November meeting. Their next meeting is in April.

A draft budget will be discussed later since the budget does not have to be completed until the first of the year.

The ideas to reduce the Supervisor's salary as well as reducing the meeting allowance for Cemetery Trustees from \$100 to \$80 to be equal to Board Trustee's allowance were introduced.

New Business:

No new business.

A motion was made by Trustee Blickhan seconded by Trustee Nolan to adjourn the meeting. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Clerk Duff