

**Sangamon Township
Regular Meeting Minutes**

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

October 12, 2023

The regular monthly meeting of Sangamon Township was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Supervisor Mike Nolan. Roll Call was taken. Present were Supervisor Nolan and Trustees Bill Blickhan and Tim King.

Also present were Highway Commissioner Larry Sebens, Cemetery Sexton Frannie Dick and Clerk Kevin Duff.

Absent: Trustees Bill Olson and Kathleen Piatt

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Public Comment: none

Minutes: A motion was made by Trustee Blickhan and seconded by Trustee King to approve the September Regular Minutes and the Decennial Meeting #3 minutes. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

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

Communications: Heartland Pathways is merging with Kickapoo Trails organization.

An e mail was received from Attorney Rupiper's office confirming that the services provided last month for the Road and Bridge audit was not covered under retainer services.

A thank you note was received from the Sangamon Township Homecoming Committee thanking the Township for their support for the recent homecoming event.

A copy of temporary employee Torie Taylor's hours for work performed for entering cemetery data into CMIS.

Supervisor Nolan confirmed that Kelly's Accounting does perform financial reconciliation for the Township.

Information about the annual township education conference was discussed.

Supervisor Nolan reported that a check was written for \$450 for emergence assistance..

New Business: A motion was made by Trustee Blickhan and seconded by Trustee King to approve the ordinance to accept the donation of land at the Camp Creek Cemetery. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Supervisor Nolan has been working with IMRF on an audit. The Township and employee Doug Whitehouse will receive a refund from contributions made for him. He has not worked enough hours or received enough pay to qualify for IMRF. A motion was made by Trustee King and seconded by Trustee Blickhan to accept Resolution 6.75-2023 to verify that Road Commissioner Sebens wages also include health insurance pay as reported to the IMRF. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. Supervisor Nolan and Commissioner Sebens will complete form 604 to confirm Commissioner Sebens's date when elected and when no longer an hourly employee. Supervisor Nolan will work with Attorney Rupiper to prepare a letter requesting IMRF correct the data recorded for Commissioner Sebens.

The Township's audit is to be completed next week.

Handouts prepared by Trustee King were distributed showing different levy options for the Township Levy and the Road and Bridge Levy. The Township's rate history shows that because total Township assessed valuations have been increasing more than 5% for many years, the

Board's practice of increasing levies by 4.99% annually has resulted in declining Township tax rates well under the maximum rates that were approved by taxpayers. Information from the Piatt County assessor shows that the Township assessed valuation will increase 6.55% next year so that Township tax rates will again decrease if the Board approves a 4.99% levy increase this year. A levy increase over 5% would require holding a Truth in Taxation hearing. Options were presented that would either maintain the current tax rate or begin to increase the rate with the goal of eventually again reaching the maximum allowable rates within a few years. The Board discussed the options in great detail noting that if a Truth in Taxation hearing were to be held and especially if the Board is proposing a rate increase, the Township should have clear, viable expenses to document the need. Even though modestly increasing the levies greater than 6.5% would have a nominal increase in taxes for the Township's residents, some residents would likely not be favorable to the increase. Tax rates for other townships would be interesting for comparison to Sangamon Township. The procedure for a Truth in Taxation and timing is not clear as well as how the process interfaces with the budget process. The Board concluded that all Township trustees should be present to vote on significantly increasing the levies. A motion was made by Trustee King and seconded by Trustee Blickhan to increase the Town Levy by 4.99%. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. A motion was made by Trustee Blickhan and seconded by Trustee King to increase the Road and Bridge Levy by 4.99%. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. (An increase of 4.99% does not require a Truth in Taxation meeting.)

A motion was made by Trustee King and seconded by Trustee Blickhan to approve the Decennial Report. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. The Board thanked Supervisor Nolan for his excellent work on the project.

A motion was made by Supervisor Nolan and seconded by Trustee Blickhan to name Max Olson as Outstanding Sangamon Township Citizen and to spend up to \$75 on a commemorative gift. Supervisor Nolan will talk to Trustee Bill Olson on ideas for the gift. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Trustee King and seconded by Trustee Blickhan to approve the grant procedures written by Supervisor Nolan. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Revenue amounts from the second tax payment were reported.

Old Business: The Board reviewed the Township's cemetery fees. Supervisor Nolan will investigate what the price is for cemetery plots in Ivesdale and Deland. Trustee Blickhan will investigate the price of cemetery plots in some other cemeteries. Sexton Dick noted that by state law up to 4 cremation remains can be buried in one cemetery plot. The idea to build modest cremation walls to insert remains in the Township's cemeteries will be explored by Supervisor Nolan. The fee for plotting or locating the fee for a grave is raised from \$25 to \$40 for the first visit with a fee for \$25 for each subsequent visit after the initial visit. The fee for preparing a deed is raised from \$25 to \$50. The fee for digging a grave is raised from \$600 to \$650 for the gravedigger and the fee is raised from \$100 to \$150 for caretaker for filling the grave, leveling and planting grass seed. The fee for digging a grave for cremation is to remain at \$300 unless the digging is on a holiday or weekend. The fee for digging a grave for cremation on a holiday or weekend is to be \$400. The fee for locating a grave for a foundation order is to remain at \$50. The Board will review the Township's cemetery fees annually at the November meeting.

A positive cash flow report was distributed.

A statement from the Illinois Fund was distributed.

Trustee Blickhan reported that Aaron Brown of the White Heath Rec League is to have updated estimates for proposed work on the existing ball diamond lights and electrical service next week. Trustee Blickhan and Trustee Piatt will report at the November meeting if the trustees for the Milliken Fund will consider contributing to projects at the ball diamond.

Supervisor Nolan reported that the Township's CDs are due for renewal on December. The Board will discuss at the November meeting if the CDs should be renewed or the money invested in the Illinois Fund.

A motion was made by Trustee Blickhan and seconded by Supervisor Nolan to adjourn the meeting. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Clerk Duff