

**SANGAMON TOWNSHIP
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

April 9, 2019

7:00 P.M.

1264 East Old Rt 47, White Heath, IL 61884

Present: Trustee Mike Nolan, Sally Nolan, Clerk Kevin Duff, Supervisor Kathleen Piatt, Linda Bailey, Highway Commissioner Larry Sebens, Sheila Maloney, Kathy Keith, Trustee John Foley, Trustee Bill Blickhan, Mary Murphy

The Annual Town Meeting of Sangamon Township was called to order at 7:00 P.M., Tuesday April 9, 2019 by Township Clerk Duff. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Nominations were opened for Moderator to conduct the meeting. Supervisor Piatt made a motion to nominate Sheila Maloney. Trustee Nolan seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously. The oath was administered by Clerk Duff.

Minutes from the 2018 Town Meeting were read. Supervisor Piatt made a motion to approve. Commissioner Sebens seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.

The annual supervisor's report was given by Supervisor Piatt. Supervisor Piatt distributed the Annual Treasurer's Report, a Profit and Loss Statement and a Balance Sheet Previous Year Comparison. Moderator Maloney asked if the Supervisor wanted to point out any items in particular. Supervisor Piatt noted that at the assessor's request, half of his salary for last year was paid the first of this year so the assessor line item expense appears high this year. Expenditures greater than \$2k are shown while expenditures less than \$2k are lumped together in the last item. Trustee Nolan made a motion seconded by Trustee Foley to approve the treasure's report. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Clerk Duff made a motion that the 2020 Annual Town Meeting be held Tuesday, April 7, 2020 at 7:00. P.M. at the Township Building. Commissioner Sebens seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Agenda item #7 to provide for the sale or purchase of property of Township property was discussed. The term property was clarified by the Board to mean real estate (real property) and items like trucks (personal property). Trustee Nolan made a motion seconded by Trustee Blickhan to adopt a resolution permitting the pursuit and purchase or sale of personal or real property conducive to the best interest of the inhabitants of the Township. A vote was taken and the majority of voters approved with one nay vote.

Agenda item #8 to allow transfer among Township funds was discussed. Supervisor Piatt clarified that only non dedicated funds could be transferred with approval of this agenda item to another account as needed to provide positive cash flow during the year. Ms. Keith asked what items are expected to have a shortfall. Supervisor Piatt replied that no specific items are identified but since a lot of the Township's income comes in July while expenditures occur for the prior 6 months, the budget is tight. Supervisor Piatt mentioned that the the budget process this year has reduced some levied accounts that have a surplus such as the General Assistance account and added to some accounts that are tight to try to help this issue. Ms. Murphy asked if the Township used the General Assistance fund often. Supervisor Piatt answered that the Township doesn't have any monthly recipients but has issued 3 emergency assistance checks in the last year. Ms. Murphy expressed surprise that there isn't a greater assistance need. Supervisor Piatt noted that qualifying for assistance by state law is difficult; if

the applicant has any other assistance, the applicant does not qualify. Moderator Maloney wondered if most people don't know assistance is available. Supervisor Piatt replied that getting the word out especially to elderly residents was a main goal of the Share Fair last year. Commissioner Sebens made a motion seconded by Ms. Keith to allow the transfer among Township funds. A vote was taken and unanimously passed.

Moderator Maloney opened the floor for discussion items not on the agenda and noted that items may be discussed but no action can be taken tonight. Action items must be on the agenda. For future Town meetings, items may be submitted 30 days prior to the meeting. Discussion items may also be included in future regular Township meetings. Ms. Murphy asked if this procedure is a state rule. Trustee Nolan replied that the law was changed to keep someone from bringing an item up at a meeting without public notice and unfairly stacking the attendees in favor of the item for a vote. Supervisor Piatt noted that anyone can ask that an item be added to a regular Township meeting. Trustee Foley added that anyone can come to a regular Township meeting.

Ms. Murphy asked for who was present at this meeting from the Township. Supervisor Piatt noted that in addition to her, Trustee Blickhan was here. Trustee Blickhan took Trustee Steve Harper's place when Trustee Harper had to resign the Board for health reasons. Supervisor Piatt noted that Clerk Duff took Clerk Debbie Marshall's place when Clerk Marshall was elected to another position at the county. Trustees Foley and Nolan were also present as well as Highway Commissioner Larry Sebens.

Ms. Keith spoke relevant to item #7 and the purchase of real property and stressed the importance of letting taxpayers know what the Township Board is considering for purchase rather than the public having to rely or solely trust the Board. Supervisor Piatt agreed and noted that the Board is still doing due diligence and did not have confirmed details to release at this time without possibly ruining a deal. If the Board gets to the point of a specific deal, the deal can be discussed in a special Township meeting. Ms. Keith thought a special meeting would be great and allow the public to give input into the process. She noted that the wording of item #7 could cause public concern about what the Board is doing. Ms. Murphy noted that item #7 is considered every year as a formality. Ms. Keith replied that the public definitely needs to know if there is a specific situation. Ms. Murphy added that as much public notice about a special meeting needs to be made. Moderator Maloney suggested that a special meeting be noted on the Sangamon Township's Facebook page. Supervisor Piatt noted that an advertisement would also be placed in the Journal Republic newspaper for a special meeting. Moderator Maloney reminded the group that the state's Open Meeting Act allows the Township Board to have closed meetings to discuss real estate acquisitions and personnel issues. Supervisor Piatt noted that the Township has an exceptional Board that has the best interests of the inhabitants at heart. Ms. Keith recognized the qualities of the Board but added that if the Board is not as transparent as possible, the public would possibly stir up negative assumptions; being out front of public assumptions would produce far fewer upset people. Supervisor Piatt confirmed that the public does care what the Board is considering and that the Board will be as transparent as possible. Any proposed deal at a special meeting can include the history on how the Board got to the point of the deal and can get that background information out to the public.

Ms. Murphy asked how the Township is doing with the recycling program. The financial documents distributed that show income from the recycling program last year at about \$2k and expenditures at about \$11k.

Commissioner Sebens made a motion seconded by Ms. Murphy to adjourn. A vote was taken and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted:

Kevin Duff, Sangamon Township Clerk

Sheila Maloney 2019 Moderator
