

**Sangamon Township
Regular Meeting Minutes**

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

August 8, 2024

The regular monthly meeting of Sangamon Township was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Supervisor Mike Nolan. Roll Call was taken. Present were Supervisor Nolan and Trustees Kathleen Piatt and Bill Blickhan.

Also present were Charlie Montgomery, Tony Kirkman, Andrea Shaw, Diane Oberson, Aaron Brown, Mark Vogelsang, Terri Norman, Highway Commissioner Larry Sebens, Assessor Steve Whitehouse, and Clerk Kevin Duff.

Absent: Trustees Bill Olson and Tim King

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Public Comment: Tony Kirkman, executive director of the Piatt Co Mental Health Agency and Mental Health Board member Charlie Montgomery reported that a referendum will be on the fall ballot to fund under resourced programs at the agency. Funding from the State has been lost over the years and there is no tax now supporting the agency. 75% of the people that the agency serves are from Piatt Co. The referendum is intended to help preserve the programs currently offered.

Assessor Whitehouse reported that building growth in the Township is impressive with most growth around Kirby Hospital. Assessor Whitehouse also reported that the County Assessor's Office is using satellite imaging to determine property additions and improvements that have not been permitted in the County and therefore not currently taxed. Some property owners may be angry with their taxes being raised.

Public Comment and New Business: Ms. Oberson, a neighbor to the ball diamond, stated that she is present to listen to the discussion about improving parking and traffic created by the ball diamond and the proposed ball diamond to solve the current and future parking blocking the Township roads and her private drive and to improve safety. ADA parking is also not currently available. Highway Commissioner Sebens agreed that the current off street parking area is insufficient and Supervisor Nolan noted that the Township is aware. The solution will need to be a collective effort between the Township, the White Heath Rec League and the County Sheriff's Office and needs to be resolved before next spring's athletic season. Supervisor Nolan noted that we shouldn't dwell on the past but should focus on what can be done. He has spoken to the Township's attorney and has been told that the Township needs to have a no parking ordinance approved by the County Engineer's Office and the County Sheriff's Office to enforce no parking on the Township's roads. Sheriff Vogelsang that his office does not ticket violators of an ordinance but can have vehicles towed if the no parking signs include a towing statement. The County will not enforce parking regulations on the Township's property. Signage on the Township's property does not need an ordinance or to be approved. Plenty of grass parking areas are available on the Township's property. Messaging about parking needs to be clear. Rec League Director Brown can put in the registration package and post on their website. ADA parking can be signed next to the pavilion. A clear, good pathway and signage needs to be created to direct parkers to the off street parking. Signage also is

needed to state parking on the grass is ok. Maybe some of the trees at the street next to the parking drive can be removed to make the drive more visible. Perhaps another drive can be added or the existing drive widened. Volunteers to direct parkers would be helpful. The high school might have students to volunteer to direct parkers. A volunteer on Plum Street and one in the off street lot would be good. Sheriff Vogelsang volunteered to come out at the beginning of the season to help support volunteers. No parking tape between no parking signs could be placed. Signs on both sides of the road and at the end of the public road are needed. Commissioner Sebens showed a flexible no parking sign to be considered. A sidewalk is needed from the parking lot to the concession stand and perhaps the shed and batting cage should be relocated to make the walk more visible. Lighting is also needed. Mr. Brown will look into donations for the walk. Once bids are received for current improvement projects, parking lot improvements can be prioritized. The Board will continue the parking discussion at the next Board meeting. A motion was made by Trustee Piatt and seconded by Trustee Blickhan to allow Supervisor Nolan to apply for a grant with the State based on need for improvements to the Park. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. The state grant is a matching grant for what the Township spends. A motion was made by Trustee Piatt and seconded by Trustee Blickhan for the Township to fund the cost of new lights for the existing ball diamond for \$17,057.52. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

New Business: A petition was received from the Trail Blazers to request a special Town meeting to grant permission for them to obtain a license for alcohol sales for the rodeo for all three nights in June of 2025 and at least one one day additional event at another time of the year. A special Town meeting will be scheduled before the regular township meeting on September 12, 2024 at 6:30 pm to consider the request. The Township will include an agenda item on the spring 2026 Annual Town Meeting to consider permission for the Trailblazers to obtain liquor licenses for their 2026-2030 events.

Supervisor Nolan distributed the Illinois Fund transfers and deposits from last month.

Old Business: Supervisor Nolan distributed a positive projected cash flow report. No update is available about the donation of additional land at Camp Creek Cemetery.

Minutes: A motion was made by Trustee Piatt and seconded by Trustee Blickhan to approve last month's meeting minutes. 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.

Communications and Announcements: First Mid Bank has changed insurance on accounts but the new insurance still covers the Township accounts.

CIMS now has an on-line program for burials that the Township may want to purchase in the future.

A motion was made by Trustee Blickhan and seconded by Trustee Piatt to adjourn the meeting. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Clerk Duff