

**Sangamon Township
Regular Township Meeting Minutes
Held at Sangamon Township Office Building, 1264 Old Rt 47 White Heath, Illinois
December 12, 2024**

The Meeting was called to order by Supervisor Mike Nolan at 7:00 pm.

Roll call was taken. Present were Supervisor Nolan and Trustees Bill Blickhan, Tim King and Kathleen Piatt.

Also present were Loyd and Vicki Wax, Doug Wax, Jake and Hannah Wallace and children, Tom and Tiffany Loen, Lily Loen, John Jordan, Todd Heleine, Sally Nolan, Highway Commissioner Larry Sebens and Clerk Kevin Duff.

Absent: Trustee Bill Olson

Supervisor Nolan introduced Sangamon Township Outstanding Citizen of the Year, Loyd Wax. Mr. Wax's family present at the meeting introduced themselves. Supervisor Nolan spoke about Mr. Wax's background, his numerous outstanding contributions and thanked him for his service.

Tony Kirkman from the Piatt County Mental Health Center will be scheduled at the January meeting.

No public comments were made.

The Assessor's contract for 2025 is the same as 2024. No assessor's report was received. Trustee Piatt made a motion seconded by Trustee Blickhan to approve the assessor's contract for 2025. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Trustee King made a motion seconded by Trustee Piatt to approve the November Regular Meeting Minutes. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

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

Trustee Blickhan made a motion seconded by Trustee King to approve the regular monthly meeting dates for 2025. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

The Board agreed to offer Dan Morris the same lease for 2025 for the Park's farm ground as the 2024 lease.

The Truth in Taxation hearing for the 2024 Road and Bridge Levy greater than 5% from the 2023 levy began with some background comments from the Board. The Township

has about 97 miles of roads to maintain. Twenty years ago, every road received a new oil and chip overlay every three years. Currently, every road receives a new oil and chip overlay every ten years. The proposed increase in the Road and Bridge tax levy would allow every road to receive an overlay every 6 years. In addition, some Township roads were constructed with no gravel base requiring the roads to be reconstructed at a current rate of \$50,000/mile. Since the existing right of way is often not enough to widen the reconstructed roads and the cost to widen would increase the reconstruction cost, a typical reconstruction would not widen the roads. Over the years, the costs to maintain and reconstruct roads have increased. New subdivisions have also increased the miles of roads in the township. The proposed levy increase would result in an average of \$13 increase for a \$100k home, an increase of \$29 for a \$200k home, \$61 for a \$300k home and most farmland would increase about 35 – 40 cents/acre. The Board feels the Township has a responsibility to request a levy increase to maintain the roads.

Clerk Duff read the Road and Bridge Levy Resolution. A motion was made by Trustee King and seconded by Trustee Piatt to approve the Resolution and the Levy Certification. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Concern was expressed that Attorney Rupiper changed the Road and Bridge Levy approved by the Board at the November meeting to lower amounts without notifying or asking anyone. The revised amounts were published by Attorney Rupiper prior to the meeting thereby locking the Board into the lower rate. Apparently, Attorney Rupiper calculated the levy using incorrect data to set the maximum rate increase.

The 2023 audit was finally received and distributed to the Board for review at the January meeting. The State has received the audit. Clerk Duff will take one copy to the County Clerk.

Expenditures for the Ball Diamond existing electrical panel improvements are being received. The panels are now completely updated. Rec League Director Aaron Brown worked 2 weeks on the panels with nightly review by a volunteer electrician. (Supervisor Nolan also assisted Mr. Brown.) New light fixtures for the existing field have been received. Mr. Brown is looking for additional funding for installation. Finishing the tiling of the new ball diamond is weather dependent but expected to happen this winter. Trustee Blickhan will touch base with the tiling contractor about the tiling, especially the tile repair under the proposed entrance road. Supervisor Nolan is waiting for the tiling to be complete before ordering the rock for parking lot expansion.

The paperwork for the land donation for the Camp Creek Cemetery is complete. Supervisor Nolan will ask Carol Hawkins to appraise the value of the land for the donor's information. Cemetery Sexton will coordinate with the donor for the five plots requested.

The monthly transfers for the Illinois Fund were distributed. The Fund paid 4.75% interest on the Township's accounts.

A positive cash flow projection was distributed.

A motion was made by Trustee Blickhan and seconded by Trustee Piatt to keep the existing closed meeting minutes closed. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Trustee Piatt and seconded by Trustee Blickhan at 8:06 pm to go into closed meeting session. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

The regular meeting resumed at 8:35 pm.

A motion was made by Trustee Piatt and seconded by Trustee Blickhan to pay Commissioner Sebens's attorney \$10,000 from the Township's Town Account for fees accrued by Commissioner Sebens for his appeal to IMRF to credit his years of service. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. Supervisor Nolan will confer with Kelly as to the best approach for payment. Commissioner Sebens will sign a document stating that he will not pursue a lawsuit against the Township in the future. Supervisor Nolan will ask Attorney Rupiper to draft the document.

A motion was made by Trustee Piatt and seconded by Trustee Blickhan to adjourn. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Clerk Duff