

## **Annual Town Meeting April 12, 2016 at 6:00PM**

The Annual Town Meeting was held this year at the Creve Coeur Community Center in Creve Coeur IL.

The meeting was called to order by Town Clerk Pam Christianson at 6:00PM

Clerk Christianson then led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Clerk Christianson read the legal notice published in the Pekin Times.

Clerk Christianson then opened the floor nomination for Meeting Moderator.

**Nominations for Meeting Moderator:** Motion made by: Bill Nimmo to nominate Dan McCormick  
Second by: John Shallenberger. No additional nominations were offered. No Discussion. Motion carried  
with all in attendance voting “Aye”.

**Oath of Office:** Administered by Clerk Christianson. Dan McCormick seated as Moderator.

**“Robert’s Rules of Order”** Motion by: Joe Hranka, Second by: Bill Nimmo. Motion carries with all in  
attendance voting “Aye”.

**Approve Minutes of the April 14, 2015, Annual Town Meeting:** Motion by: Joe Hranka Second by:  
John Shallenberger to approve the minutes as presented with no additions or correction. Motion carries  
with all in attendance voting “Aye”.

**Motion to set Annual Town Meeting: For the second Tuesday in April 2017.** Motion by: Brian  
Manual to set the next Annual Town Meeting for April 11, 2017 at 6:00PM. Second by: John  
Shallenberger. Motion carries with all in attendance voting “Aye”. Location will be announced at a later  
date.

Moderator McCormick then addressed the audience, especially those attending for the first time, giving a brief overview of Townships in general but specifically Groveland Township which covers approximately six square miles. Areas within the Township include Marquette Heights, Creve Coeur other than the Homewood Heights area, Groveland to the Moose Lodge and down Sheridan Rd, about ½ of East Peoria and to the Woodlawn Edition of Morton. He goes on to say that there are 21 townships in Tazewell County and that Groveland Township is the third largest with a population of over 20,000 residents. He also says that township government is the most democratic form of government mandated by law and the closest form of government to serve the needs of the people. He then had the Elected Officials stand and introduced each one.

## **1. Supervisor's Report - Township Finances**

Moderator McCormick offered the Township's Financial Report that will be voted on at the next Regular Township Meeting. He notes that this year there are no funds in the negative, that we are sound financially. He then briefly reviewed various fund items. Town fund, General Assistance, Audit, Road & Bridge, and Insurance. He noted that the bulk of the township funds go towards maintaining 45 miles of roads and this past year the completion of Terminal Rd. The Terminal Rd project has been in the works for nearly ten years now requiring a number of steps over this time to achieve. The residents and our road division are happy to now have these upgrades completed. Then in response to some questions from the audience he answered questions about how G.A & E.A funds, offered through the township, function. G.A. is a general assistance program offering a "workfare" program where if an applicant qualifies they are able to work for the funds they receive. Local Church's or even the Library has been able to offer hours of work that is then paid by through G.A. funds. E.A. or Emergency Assistance is available one time in a twelve month period to individuals or families for shelter or utility assistance. To be eligible for cash assistance all other resources such as unemployment or public assistance must be exhausted. There are strict guidelines for eligibility in either of these programs that include a residency requirement and lots of documentation related to the applicant's circumstance.

## **2. Report of the Road Commissioner:**

Road Commissioner McCool reports the Road Division has 2 full time employees and several part time employees that work two days a week. The road department maintains about 45 miles of roads affecting approximately 22,000 residents providing snow removal, ditching and piping, tree trimming, where it affects a particular road, spray patching and equipment maintenance to name a few. He says the Road Department has dealt with a number of road issues this year completing about 70 miles of ditching, five major road crossings, and installation of a large box culvert on California Rd, ½ mile north of Sheridan Rd, in addition to the Terminal Rd project. He also reports that this year they have purchased all the salt for next winter and have one more payment on the End Loader purchase.

## **3. Assessors Report:**

Assessor McCormick introduced herself and gave a brief overview of her work for this year and plans for next year. She notes that Groveland Township is the third largest township in the county with over 10,000 parcels of property. This past year, with the assistance of two part time interns, we were able to photograph every house (873) in Marquette Heights. The

interns did really well. With one position open for this summer the next area targeted will be the Springfield Rd. area. A website for homes in the township is maintained to verify or make changes to the property record cards. Assessor McCormick then reviewed with the audience some general information concerning the "Illinois Homestead Exemptions" that residents may or may not be aware of. There are a number of categories of exemptions available that taxpayers may be eligible for. She notes that it is up to the taxpayer to file for these saying that it is not the responsibility of the assessor's office alert the taxpayer. There are a number of exemptions available which she reviewed briefly with those in attendance. These Exemptions include 1. Owner occupied. 2. Senior Citizen Homestead Exemption that is not based on income. 3. Senior Citizen Assessment Freeze which is based on income. 4. Veterans Exemptions for returning veterans and veterans with disabilities. 5. Home Improvement Exemption which gives a four year deferment. 6. Natural Disaster Homestead Exemption. She also discussed the importance of acquiring permits for not only new building but property improvements that include adding and or removing structures. This year there were over 1500 property changes and over 400 last year. Her final comments included the importance of the role of Assessor in having an accurate description and value estimate of every parcel of land that is current and up to date. It is this procedure that allows for a fair and uniform taxing base for revenue for the township.

Moderator McCormick offered information about the "Barb Hart Scholarship" given by the Township each year. Two scholarships of \$500.00 each are awarded in her name each year and he encourages anyone who may qualify to apply. It is the hope of the Township to increase the amount in the future.

Brian Manual noted that the Emergency Defibrillator here at the Community Center is in need of upgrade or repair and wanted to mention this issue for consideration by the Township.

**Motion to Adjourn made by:** John Shallenberger with a second by: Jim Tabor  
Motion carried with all in favor voting "Aye" Meeting Adjourned at 7:07PM

Respectfully Submitted;

Pam Christianson Town Clerk 4/12/2016