

**Regular Meeting
October 17, 2016 5:00 P.M.**

OPENING PRAYER: Offered by: Supervisor McCormick

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Led by: Supervisor McCormick

Call Meeting to order: By: Supervisor McCormick

ROLL CALL: Feger (x) Shallenberger (x) Hranka (x) Tabor (x) McCool (x) McCormick (x) McCormick (x) Christianson (x)

Guests: Gordon Sweat, John Redlingshafer, Brian Manuel

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION & COMMENTS: Brian Manuel thanked the committee who put on Township Day for all the hard work and said he thought it was a very nice event and hopes it continues.

Approve Minutes for: Sept. 19, 2016 Regular Meeting:

Motion by: Shallenberger

Second by: Feger

Discussion: None

All in favor: All vote Aye

CORRESPONDENCE:

- 1.) Note from Daisy Martiens.
- 2.) Letter from Christ Followers Church.
- 3.) Information on State Conference. If anyone is interested in attending we need to know by the end of the week.
- 4.) E-mail regarding cemetery. From John Redlingshafer to be discussed later in agenda item 2 under old business.
- 5.) Award notification
- 6.) Feedback from Township Day

Presentation By: John Redlingshafer

Atty. Redlingshafer discussed with the board the potential of putting a referendum on the ballot in the next Consolidated Elections in April 2017 to increase the tax levy. He commended this board for the actions taken to resolve the financial issues of several years ago but with the limitations of Tax Caps and increasing expenses the Town Fund took the hit. Given that limitation the question then becomes "is there another option". A bond or new levy not being a good option he reviewed the information in the PETEL Manual which would allow asking for a limiting rate increase but only in the Town Fund line. He then discussed the legal side of what goes on the ballot and how important this decision is for the board to consider. Decisions like increase cap on equalized evaluations, how much is the increase, will it be a permanent increase or just a four year increase etc. Supplemental ballot information could include approximate amounts now and what would that be in over a four year period. He then discussed time limitations given the short time the board would have to make these decisions and to fully inform the residents of the township of the need and the reason for an increase. The decision about the wording for what would go on the ballot itself would need to be decided by December 12, 2016 after a Special Town Mtg. so this is a huge undertaking given what needs to be decided and finalized in such a short period of time.

APPROVE TREASURER'S REPORT:

Motion by: Hranka

Second by: Tabor

Discussion: None

Roll Call

Feger (x)

Shallenberger (x)

Hranka (x)

Tabor (x)

McCormick (x)

Motion Carried

OLD BUSINESS:

1.) Review the results of Township Day.

We had a great turnout and appreciate everyone taking time out of their day to attend the first annual Township Day. We also want to thank the Groveland Township Library for their participation. Avanti's gondolas, chips, cookies and drinks were served. Along with giveaways of note pads and pens there were also 4 door prize drawings throughout the day. Winners included the following; 1st session door prize went to Groveland resident Claude Milan and 2nd session door prize went to Pekin resident Ron Austiff. Our FB like our page winner was East Peoria resident Kathy Sheppard and our "DID YA KNOW" game winner was Groveland resident Daisy Martiens. The goal of this event was to inform the residents of the township exactly what the Township does and to that end we have received a thank you letter from one of the attendees who stated that she in fact did learn things she did not know. We hope that other attendees had the same experience.

2. Update on Cemetery Care. – Since the Township has decided to stop mowing the cemetery owned by the Morton School District (between East Peoria and Groveland) and is Tax Caps considering taking ownership of the Church cemetery on Queenwood Rd. which shows ownership by a church congregation is no longer in existence Supervisor McCormick has requested input from Atty. Redlingshafer. His recommendations are as follows. 1.) School District cemetery – he recommends giving formal notice (e.g., a letter) that you are no longer mowing absent an intergovernmental agreement where you receive compensation or are named as an additional insured on their policy. He says more and more townships/road districts are offering to mow for the public relations benefit; this is especially true in the Chicago suburbs, where it is not as clear as to what the road districts do. 2.) Church cemetery – I think you have a claim under adverse possession to take it (which makes more sense than having the public get mad for no longer mowing). This would require a court action, but should be accomplished in 3-4 hearings then registering with the state.

NEW BUSINESS:

1.) Discuss referendum options.

RaeLyn McCormick discussed her concerns of the need to determine what we need to increase for, identify where the money would go, and is concerned about the time limitations at this time. Trustee Hranka asked about salaries/pensions as they are now and can we sustain those without and increase? Her other concerns are pay rates for elected official who she feels are underpaid

compared to other Townships. Supervisor McCormick says the next four year projection is not a “huge” issue as there are some things we can do within the current budget and some things we can levy for such as in the area of IMRF for example. Trustee Feger states he feels that we need more time to explore the amount and to get the information out to the residents of the township to maximize the chance of passing an increase. Trustee Hranka suggest we gather more information and possibly have this as a discussion item on the agenda for the next Annual Town Mtg. Trustee Tabor and Shallenberger are in agreement.

2.) November meeting may include:

- A. Amend the previous budget – Will propose to pass with an increase of \$20k at a special meeting just prior to the next Regular Mtg.
- B. Call a Special Meeting of the electors – Meeting is scheduled for November 21, 2016 at 4:45p. This meeting has been published.
- C. Board will consider a request for referendum -- No need to consider this now since the board consensus is not to pursue as per earlier discussion.
- D. Pass the levy. Auditor Eric Jones will be at the November meeting

3. Pass salary increases and fringes for the next administration 2017-2021

Motion by: Hranka

Second by: Tabor

Discussion: Supervisor McCormick referred the board to the packet insert containing recommendations for Salaries for Elected Officials for the 2017-2012. All salaries become effective June 1, 2017 except for the Assessor whose salary is effective until January 1, 2018.

Roll Call:

Feger (x)

Shallenberger (x)

Hranka (x)

Tabor (x)

McCormick (x)

Motion Carried:

- 4. Awards. Supervisor McCormick wants to thank Stephanie for submitting our township for the “Mighty Message” contest with TOI. The good news is that our Township won in several categories: Best Website, Best Use of Social Media and Best Photo of a Township Event, for the 15,000-25,000 population. The Township will be recognized with a plaque at the awards breakfast during our Annual Educational Conference on Tuesday November 15, 2016.

Road Commissioner’s Report: by Jim McCool: Commissioner McCool says that other townships do so much less work than his road crew, they work really hard. Currently, now that it’s fall we are working on tree trimming and leaves. He also says the trailer for election material/storage is in place at a cost of \$350.00 and should be a great help not only with storage but making it easier to set up for elections when they come up. The big issue for the Special Rd Budget is of course the age and condition of the road department’s fleet of trucks. The cost to replace the entire fleet with new trucks would cost around \$350k so we are looking to update at least one of those by updating to 2014 in the near future for around \$55k.

Assessors Report: by Raelyn McCormick:

This month –

Phone Calls: 7- Taxpayer, 17- SAO, 5- BOR and 2- NPF.

Building Permits: 2- Creve Coeur, 8-East Peoria, 2- Marquette Heights, 0- Morton, 0-Pekin, and 5 Tazewell County – (1- New Construction and 1 Commercial)

We are re-sketching all the summer work. We will be completing our field work on Building Permits starting October 19.

Assessor McCormick thanked Stephanie, Pam, Garrett and Jason for all their hard work on Township Day saying it could not have been done without their dedication and hard work.

General Assistant Report: Sep/Oct 2016 by: Stephanie Stecken, Case Worker.

Sept/Oct CLIENT G.A./E.A. EXPENDITURES:

Sept/Oct G.A. REPORT - There were four inquires this month. One client was referred to DHS, and three others were sent documents to verify eligibility.

Sept/Oct E.A. REIMBURSEMENTS: \$.00

Executive Session Request: None requested.

PAYING OF BILLS:

Motion to Pay Town Bills:

Motion by: Hranka

Second by: Feger

Discussion: None

Roll Call

Feger (x)

Shallenberger (x)

Hranka (x)

Tabor (x)

McCormick (x)

Motion Carried

Motion to pay GA bills:

Motion by: Hranka

Second by: Shallenberger

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

Feger (x)

Shallenberger (x)

Hranka (x)

Tabor (x)

McCormick (x)

Motion Carried:

Motion to Pay Road & Bridge bills:

Motion by: Tabor

Second by: Feger

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

Feger (x)

Shallenberger (x)

Hranka (x)

Tabor (x)

McCormick (x)

Motion Carried

Motion to Pay Special or Permanent Road Bills:

Motion by: Shallenberger

Second by: Hranka

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

Feger (x)

Shallenberger (x)

Hranka (x)

Tabor (x)

McCormick (x)

Motion Carried:

MOTION TO ADJOURN by: Motion by: Shallenberger **Second by:** Feger

Voice Votes: All in Favor **Motion Carried:**

Meeting Adjourned at: **6:40 PM**

Respectfully Submitted: Pam Christianson Town Clerk