

## **Annual Town Meeting April 11, 2017 at 6:00PM**

The Annual Town Meeting was held this year at the Marquette Heights Council Room 715 Lincoln, Marquette Heights, IL, 61554.

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 for nominations of Meeting Moderator.

**Nominations for Meeting Moderator:** Motion made by: Brian Manual to nominate Dan McCormick  
Second by: John Shallenberger. No additional nominations were offered. Discussion: None. 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: Brian Manual. Motion carries with all in attendance voting “Aye”.

**Approve Minutes of the April 12, 2016 Annual Town Meeting:** Motion by: John Shallenberger  
Second by: Joe Hranka to approve the minutes as presented with no additions or correction. Discussion: None. Motion carries with all in attendance voting “Aye”.

**Motion to set Annual Town Meeting: For the second Tuesday in April 2018.** Motion by: Joe Hranka, Second by: Brian Manual to set the next Annual Town Meeting for April 10, 2018 at 6:00PM.  
Second by: John Shallenberger. Motion carries with all in attendance voting “Aye”. Location will be announced at a later date by the new administration.

Moderator McCormick then addressed the audience, especially those who may be attending for the first time, giving a brief overview of Townships in general but specifically Groveland Township which covers approximately 38 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 19

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 newly Elected Officials stand as he introduced each one. Supervisor John Shallenberger, Assessor McCormick, Road Commissioner McCool, Town Clerk Christianson and Trustee Hranka. Trustee's Lawson, Pentecost, and Bresnahan were not in attendance.

#### **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 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. Overall this year funds are in good shape. Groveland Township has the second lowest corporate tax rate out of 19 townships and that rate has not increased since 1973. He then commented that one underlying thing that he is proud of is in the area of revenues and expenditures. Balances are important because they have to last until July. If balances are good we don't levy for more money, however we do have some concerns with the G.A/E.A fund. Prior administrations have levied too high but we are working on getting those lower, with no negatives and without asking the taxpayer to do more than needed. In response to some questions from the audience moderator McCormick 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 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. Prior administration expenditures exceeded \$3000.00 a month, but with the implementation of specified guidelines for eligibility we have been able to cut that amount by over 75%.

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

Road Commissioner McCool thanked everyone who voted for him in the last election. He 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 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 that with some very large road projects behind us we still have a lot of road expenditures coming up this year, especially in the area of equipment purchases and building maintenance expenses. In an effort to save money the road department does as much work as possible in house.

## **2. 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 our focus was on photographing and updating property records in the Springfield Rd. and Cole Hollow Rd. areas. A website for homes in the township is maintained to verify or make changes to those records. This year we had 357 permits and 1600 re-evaluations. Areas of review for this year will be Pekin, Hickory Hills and Schramm Edition. Assessor McCormick then reviewed with the audience some general information concerning "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. 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 not only for new buildings but property improvements that include adding and or removing structures. 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 notes the importance of these ongoing updates saying there was a situation of a property in Creve Coeur valued at about \$180,000 that had not been updated until last year. He also points out the value of having a good assessor and noted that since taking office the overall value of properties in the Township have seen a significant increase.

Moderator McCormick then recognized Mike Turner saying he and his wife run one of two Food Banks in the township serving 120-150 families or about 300-500 people. He notes that part of the township budget includes money for contributions but that it does not fully fund the food banks. Individual contributions are always welcome.

Incoming Supervisor John Shallenberger thanked Mr. McCormick for his 25 years of service to Groveland Township. Brian Manual also expressed his appreciation to Mr. McCormick for his dedication to the township over the years noting especially his fiscal achievements and help with the Pioneer Committee. He also thanked the prior board for doing such a good job with the Barb Hart Scholarship program, the food pantries and especially all the work over the years to complete the Terminal Road project.

Mr. Manual also thanked the Assessor and the Road Commissioner for their hard work and dedication to the township.

**Motion to Adjourn made by:** John Shallenberger with a second by: Nick Gauwitz

Motion carried with all in favor voting “Aye” Meeting Adjourned at 6:55 PM

Respectfully Submitted; 4/12/2018

Pam Christianson, Town Clerk