

Regular Meeting
August 15, 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 (-) Tabor (x) McCool (x) McCormick (x) McCormick (x) Christianson (x)

Guests: Eric Jones, Gordon Sweat, Brian Manual, Ron Hale, Marvin Claassen

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION & COMMENTS: Eric Jones states that this is not an audit year, but a required regular communication with the board to provide an overview in anticipation of next year's audit. An overview is to make sure everything is on track and meeting legal regulations. Mr. Jones notes a new statute to consider regarding compensation for employees and elected officials who travel and receive reimbursements. One question relates to monies used for re-imbusement for expenses for Road, Assessor etc. Supervisor McCormick says he will contact Atty. Redlingshafer for correct language. Another area to consider is the question of township tax rates and the need to start a dialogue about the possibility of putting something on the ballot that would address financial shortfalls for the Assessor for example. Groveland Township has more parcels than other townships and is not "handcuffed" by tax caps the way Groveland is. Supervisor McCormick states that the fiscal year starts on April 1st, but no new money comes in until July. He says that when we budget we need to think ahead on how to carry that three month gap. Also, all Public Officials salaries come out of the town fund so there needs to be enough money in the fund to meet those expenses at years end. We have not had an increase in 40 years so it is reasonable to consider a possible \$.02 tax increase be put on the ballot.

Motion to Approve Minutes of: Regular Meeting July 18, 2016

Motion by: Shallenberger

Second by: Tabor

Discussion: None

Voice Votes: All voted Aye - Motion Carried

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Thank you letter from Ryan Hale scholarship recipient.
2. Thank you for MDA
3. Library annual report and minutes from 2015 annual meeting.
Supervisor McCormick noted the recognition of cooperation from the township, says its nice report.

APPROVE TREASURER'S REPORT:

Motion by: Feger

Second by: Shallenberger

Discussion: None

Roll Call

Feger (x)

Shallenberger (x)

Hranka (-)

Tabor (x)

McCormick (x)

Motion Carried

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Scholarship Issues to Resolve:

a. Number of scholarships to offer.

2 Scholarships have already been determined.

b. Amount of each scholarship.

Trustee's Shallenberger and Tabor are in favor of keeping the current amount of \$500 each at this time, but favor considering an increase in the future. Trustee Hranka expressed the same feeling at the last meeting. Supervisor McCormick and Trustee Feger both said that they are in favor of an increase. Trustee Feger feels it will generate more interest. RaeLyn McCormick noted that most of the East Peoria Scholarships are \$500. Supervisor McCormick says that with 3 in favor of keeping the current amount of \$500, it will remain as \$500 for now for each of 2 yearly scholarships.

c. Should gender be an issue?

d. Should we affiliate with East Peoria High School?

RaeLyn McCormick recommends affiliating with East Peoria where applicants can apply for all available scholarships. The board would coordinate with East Peoria and this would also be a great way to promote The Barb Hart Scholarship

e. Responsible elected official?

Supervisor McCormick says that the Supervisor is directly responsible for the monies that are (legally) budgeted for the township so this is the logical responsible party.

2. Township Day – Sept. 21st. Report from the committee.

Questions & comments from the Board

RaeLyn reports the plans for the first Annual Township Day are well underway. The slogan, "**Township Government – Neighbors Serving Neighbors- Come See What Your Township Does for You**", will a focus on who we serve and what we do, things our residents may or may not be aware of. The date will be Sept. 21, 2016 with two open house times, one from 11am-1pm and the other from 5pm-7pm to accommodate both working and non-working residents. Our event will be advertised in various local publications along with having 4 permanent metal signs displayed strategically around the township for maximum coverage of all areas in the township. Additionally, large posters & smaller flyers will be posted at various locations around the township. Inside the township building there will be informational posters of elected officials and employee job descriptions. Three door prizes will be offered for participating in a number of activities. There will also be note pads and pens with logos offered as giveaways. Avanti's sandwiches, assorted chips and drinks, as well as cookie tray will be offered at both event times. We are excited and hopeful for a well-attended and successful day!!

NEW BUSINESS:

Supervisor McCormick states that these two items are an effort to paint a picture for salary consideration for the next board to consider.

1. Township Assessors will present information about the position, her concerns and possible recommendations.

Assessor McCormick discussed her concerns for the future of the Assessor's Office. One of those concerns relate to the "Equalization Factor" where this year there is a 1% increase based on a 3 year median. It is required by law that all parcels in the township are re-valued every four years but in looking forward, with the resources currently available, it will take a minimum of six years to catch up. This year there were 2 full time employees for the summer, but there are 5-6000 pictures that need to be catalogued etc. and assessor's office is not able to keep up or catch up with the backlog that existed when she took office. Being current and up to date with valuations, directly affect calculating for that 3 year median.

Another major concern is that there is no one in the township that is "Certified" and able to step into her office in the event her circumstances were to change and she would not able to continue to serve.

Another concern is the need for a Deputy Assessor and additional staff to meet the needs of a township that is the third largest in Tazewell Co. With additional staff the Assessor would have more time to insure residents were taking full advantage of things like "exemptions" that would better serve their needs.

Supervisor McCormick states that the board confronted some of these issues 3-4 years ago and did result in having the Assessor's office moved into the Township Bldg. and hiring a Deputy Assessor. However, with the retirement of the previous Assessor the Deputy Assessor position became vacant again when our current Assessor moved into that position. The question of how to fund and put in place does not have to happen tomorrow, but is something to seriously consider for the next administration.

2. The Road Commissioner will address the Board in September to talk about the Road Division and what issues, projects and concerns lie ahead. These presentations should help the Board as it ponders salary considerations for the next administration.

Road Commissioner's Report: by Jim McCool:

The Road Dept. is doing a lot of mowing, cleaning out catch basins and just trying to keep up.

Assessors Report: by **RaeLyn McCormick:** Assessor McCormick reports the following.

Phone Calls - 36 Taxpayer calls (I called 30 people when it was time to file an appeal)
SAO- 12 calls.

Building Permits – Creve Coeur (4), East Peoria (9) (4 NC), Marquette Heights (8), Morton (1) (COMM),
Tazewell County (4) (1 NC)

Summer work is over!!! We reviewed all properties in Sec. 9, approximately ½ of Sec. 4, all of Lutticken's
Cove, and all outstanding Building Permits from 2007-2014. We have approximately 100 – 2016 Building
Permits to look at this fall. We have begun sketching and valuing for next year's books.

We will once again be receiving an "Equalization factor of 1.01%."

General Assistant Report: July/Aug 2016 by: Stephanie Stecken, Case Worker.

July/Aug CLIENT G.A./E.A. EXPENDITURES: \$650.00

July/Aug G.A. REPORT: There were six (6) inquires this month. Two clients were determined eligible,
one (1) for \$300.00 and one (1) for \$350.00. There were four (4) clients that were sent documents. One of
those clients did call back after gathering needed documents and made an appointment but then did not
keep appointment or call to cancel, so depending on her reason for missing or not calling to cancel a 30
day sanction could apply if she calls again. The other three (3) clients were sent the required documents
but no further action at this time.

July/Aug E.A. REIMBURSEMENTS: \$.00

Executive Session Request: None Requested

PAYING OF BILLS:

Motion to Pay Town Bills:

Motion by: Shallenberger

Second by: Tabor

Discussion: None

Roll Call

Feger (x)

Shallenberger (x)

Hranka (-)

Tabor (x)

McCormick (x)

Motion Carried

Motion to pay GA bills:

Motion by: Feger

Second by: Tabor

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

Feger (x)

Shallenberger (x)

Hranka (-)

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 (-)

Tabor (x)

McCormick (x)

Motion Carried:

Motion to Pay Special or Permanent Road Bills:

Motion by: Feger

Second by: Tabor

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

Feger (x)

Shallenberger (x)

Hranka (-)

Tabor (x)

McCormick (x)

Motion Carried:

MOTION TO ADJOURN by: Motion by: Shallenberger

Second by: Tabor

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

Meeting Adjourned at: 6:25 PM

Respectfully Submitted: Pam Christianson, Town Clerk