

Minutes – Board of Town Trustees

State of Illinois, }
Lake County, ss }
Town of Grant, }

October 20, 2020
Board Minutes

The Board of Town Trustees met at the Grant Township Administration Building at 26725 W. Molidor Road on October 20, 2020.

Attendees:

Supervisor:	Kay Starostovic	x__ Present	___ Absent
Trustee:	Robert Hamm	x__ Present	___ Absent
	Bob Selle	x__ Present	___ Absent
	Tom Lippert	x__ Present	___ Absent
	Karen Fischer	x__ Present	___ Absent
Clerk:	Barbara Schau	x__ Present	___ Absent

Ms. Kay Starostovic acting as chairperson and Barbara Schau as clerk, the following official business was transacted:

1.-2. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm with the pledge to the Flag.

3. Roll Call of Officials

Present: Trustees Hamm, Selle, Lippert, Fischer; Supervisor Starostovic

Absent: None

Also present: Assessor Barr, Highway Commissioner Kiesgen, Clerk Schau

4. Audience

There were no comments from the audience.

Assessor Barr wanted to report about Timber Oaks requesting a Property Tax Exemption, as they are going to make the property available to veterans. It appears that this will impact the township and the schools as it relates to property taxes. Trustee Lippert made a motion to move this discussion and explanation by the Assessor Jeri Barr to New Business for a complete summary. Motion seconded by Trustee Selle. The vote was called:

Aye: Trustees Hamm, Selle, Lippert; Supervisor Starostovic

Nay: None

Motion carried

5. Motion to Approve Minutes

Trustee Selle made a motion to approve the September 2020 minutes as presented; motion seconded by Trustee Lippert. There being no further discussion, the vote was called:

Aye: Trustees Hamm, Selle, Lippert; Supervisor Starostovic

Nay: None

Motion carried

6. Motion to Approve Bills

Trustee Selle made a motion to approve the bills, dated October 2020, in the amount of \$584,346.14; motion seconded by Trustee Hamm. It was pointed out that the unemployment amount was not present in the bills. This will be reviewed and added shortly. There being no further questions or discussion, the vote was called:

Aye: Trustees Hamm, Selle, Lippert; Supervisor Starostovic

Nay: None

Motion carried

7. Motion to Approve Investment Report

Trustee Selle made a motion to approve the Investment Report in the amount of \$4,973,787.68 dated September 30, 2020; motion seconded by Trustee Lippert. There being no further discussion or comments, the vote was called:

Aye: Trustees Hamm, Selle, Lippert; Supervisor Starostovic

Nay: None

Motion carried

8. Miscellaneous

a. The board welcomed a newly appointed Trustee, Ms. Karen Fischer. Clerk Schau Administered the Oath of Office, Ms. Fischer signed her document, and she is now a duly appointed member of the Grant Township Board of Trustees. Welcome, Karen!

b. We received a Thank You from the Durante family and recognition for the work our road department does in their neighborhood. In addition, they made a generous donation to our food pantry. We are grateful for their generosity.

9. Old Business

a. Building and Grounds Update

- Our team has been very busy; they have recently painted our doors and added new kick panels at the bottom. We continue to keep our park and grounds in wonderful condition. The children's play area is busy, and we like to see that. We will be starting our new RockWall soon.

- We checked with our Electrician and he indicated that the PVC intended for the soon to be installed electric sign is in good shape.

- We are waiting to finalize the electrical sign

b. Walking Path

We are very pleased that the path continues to be used. We see walkers, bikers, and strollers, and so many have told us how awesome it is to have the path. Commissioner Kiesgen pointed out there is just a little work to be done at the creek and bridge.

c. Regarding paths, the Park Path Grant is on hold.

d. We are getting close to the Halloween Drive-Thru event on October 31. There will be surprises for the kids and adults and a park full of Ghosts and Goblins. And of course, there will be treat bags at the end. This replaces traditional Trick or Treating, in an initiative to keep everyone safe and socially separated.

e. On November 14, Northern Illinois Food Bank will donate food to the township; all are welcome to participate.

In addition, we are thinking forward to the Holiday Basket program that we have done each year, and we are not sure what we will do in this pandemic era. It is under discussion. And also, we are re-thinking the Adopt-A-Family program. At this time, we are not sure how, or if, we will proceed.

f. Discuss 2021-2022 Levy

The Levy is due in December. Grant Township has been very careful with its funds and expenditures; in fact for the last 6 years, the Levy has been frozen. It was briefly mentioned that when we work on the Levy, we will no doubt try to hold the Levy in place again, or possibly reducing expenses. Supervisor and Assessor will do an initial look to see what we may be able to do.

g. Any Other Old Business

None

10. New Business

1. Consider Motions:

a. Consider Motion to Approve Officials' Salaries for 2021-2024 (2025 for Assessor)

Several options were reviewed for setting salaries for the officials for the next 4 years. Trustee Selle spoke for the Trustees and recommended that their compensation remain the same as it has in the past, \$6,000. The trustees agreed. Assessor Barr referred to the assessor position in many of the townships. This position is often a full-time role; in some offices it is a part-time role, and in some offices 1 person is performing in 2 different roles. Assessor Barr recommended that the salary for the next term of office for the Assessor (January 2022 – December 2025) replicate the last term of office. Clerk Schau recommended that the salary of Clerk be reduced. After a brief discussion all agreed that a reduction to \$17,000 was fair. Supervisor Starostovic recommended that the Supervisor's salary remain the same as the previous term. All agreed.

Highway Commissioner Kiesgen spoke about the increase of work in the township and the number of miles that are serviced, and felt an increase was realistic for the position. Commissioner Kiesgen recommended a 1.5% increase year 1, and 2% increase years 2,3,&4 and all agreed.

Following the discussion of salaries, it was agreed to prepare a resolution stating these salary changes. The clerk will prepare the resolution.

b. Consider Motion to Approve Donation of \$95 for Fox Lake Lions Candy Day
Trustee Selle made a motion to approve a donation of \$95 to the Fox Lake Lions Club in support of their annual Candy Day. The motion was seconded by Trustee Lippert. There being no further questions or comments, the vote was called:

Aye: Trustees Hamm, Selle, Lippert, Fischer; Supervisor Starostovic

Nay: None

Motion carried

c. To Approve Participation in Community Holiday Activities if they are continued
Thinking ahead, and not sure what activities may or may not be approved this year, it was suggested that we be ready to participate. All agreed.

d. To Approve Application for a Township Credit Card

The board agreed this was a necessary and very convenient tool to have. It was suggested by Trustee Selle that the card have a \$5,000 limit. All agreed to this tool and the amount, and the vote was called:

Aye: Trustees Selle, Hamm, Lippert, Fischer; Supervisor Starostovic

Nay: None

Motion carried

2. Any Other New Business

Assessor Barr provided an explanation of the Timber Oaks situation. The schools will be impacted by this as well as the township, and they are appealing this, knowing that property taxes will be impacted by this maneuver. Assessor Barr is asking for \$1400.00 from the township for legal fees to match the schools legal fees in an effort to stop the Timber Oaks conversion. A brief discussion followed and it was agreed this was a very necessary initiative. Trustee Lippert made the motion to approve the expenditure, seconded by Trustee Selle. The vote was called:

Aye: Trustees Hamm, Selle, Lippert, Fischer; Supervisor Starostovic

Nay: None

Motion carried

11. Officials' Reports

Supervisor:

- Passed out our certificates of membership in TOI
- Has prepared the Holiday Calendar for next year, it will be in your mailboxes shortly

Trustees and Clerk:

- Nothing additional to report

Highway Commissioner:

- Has many projects going on including Laneville
- Several projects under construction
- Complimented the recent E-News

Assessor:

- Participated in virtual meetings in the past month
- Completed 423 appeals in Grant Township
- Lisa LaMantia in the assessor's office completed her CSIO and is certified as an assessor

12. Audience

The guest in the audience thought it was a very interesting meeting.

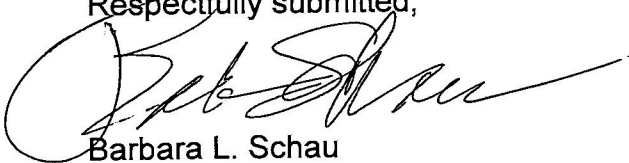
13. Adjournment

The Board Meeting was closed at 7:35; the board members then went into an executive session meeting to discuss personnel matters.

The Executive Session was concluded at 7:40, and the board returned to the regular board meeting.

There being no further township business before the board, Trustee Hamm made a motion to close the meeting; motion seconded by Trustee Fischer. By voice vote all ayes, no nays, and the meeting was closed at 7:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Barbara L. Schau
Grant Township Clerk