

Minutes – Board of Town Trustees

State of Illinois,

Lake County, ss. }

Town of Grant, }

MARCH 15, 2022 EXECUTIVE SESSION-FINAL
RELEASED February 26, 2025

The board of town trustees met at the Grant Township Administration Building at 26725 W. Molidor Road on March 15, 2022

Attendees:

Supervisor:	Kay Starostovic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Present	<input type="checkbox"/>	Absent
Trustee:	Robert Hamm	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Present	<input type="checkbox"/>	Absent
	Bob Selle	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Present	<input type="checkbox"/>	Absent
	Tom Lippert	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Present	<input type="checkbox"/>	Absent
	Karen Fischer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Present	<input type="checkbox"/>	Absent
Clerk:	Judy Martini	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Present	<input type="checkbox"/>	Absent

Ms. Kay Starostovic acting as chairperson and Judy Martini as Clerk, the following official business was transacted:

1. CALL TO ORDER

Executive session was called to order at 6:51 PM

Present: Trustees: Hamm, Selle, Lippert, Fischer, Supervisor Starostovic and Clerk Martini

2. DISCUSSION OF EXECUTIVE SESSION MATTER (continued from 2/15/2022)

Supervisor Starostovic started the discussion on the executive session matter which was continued from the 2/15/2022 meeting and turned over discussion to Trustee Selle, the Whistleblower Representative for the Township.

A) Employee Ghost Payrolling Issue

Trustee Selle stated that himself, Scott Puma, attorney for the Township, have met with Highway Commissioner Kiesgen over the concerns brought up by some former and current Highway Department employees. Trustee Selle stated that the issue about alleged ghost pay-rolling of employee Danny Lamb was discussed. Danny Lamb was working at the Highway Department on and off from 2013-2014, was eventually off, then re-employed later in 2014 and worked up until 2020/2021 sometime. According to Kiesgen, employee Lamb was allowed to use accrued sick time and vacation time to cover the many days he called in sick for.

B) Employee Morale Issue

Trustee Selle reported that during discussion with the Highway Commissioner the issue of bad moral in her Department was brought up about the Lamb issue, among other concerns, had created a hostile work environment in her Department of concerns of favoritism. Several employees had seen Lamb sleeping in Township vehicles during working hours.

C) SCRAP YARD MONEY ISSUE

Trustee reported that attorney Scott Puma advised Kiesgen that the lack of book keeping for the scrap yard money was not acceptable and that her Department needs to record monies collected and put into a Township Account with appropriate accounting procedures.

D) PHONE BILLS PAID FOR NON-EMPLOYEES

Trustee Selle reported that attorney Puma told Kiesgen that phone bill payments for Jack Kiesgen, former Road Commissioner and husband of current Highway Commissioner-Kim Kiesgen, are illegal and should be reimbursed back to Grant Township. Trustee Selle stated that the fee's for Jack Kiesgens phone could be as high as \$14,000.

D) PHONE BILLS (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Highway Commissioner Kiesgen told Puma she will reimburse the Township for Jack's phone bills and that the only reason she was paying them was because Jack would occasionally help out the Highway Department as needed. Trustee Selle stated that the Township needs to verify the exact amount to be reimbursed for that phone line from Kim Kiesgen.

E) TRUCK REPAIRS ON PERSONAL VEHICLES

Trustee Selle reported that discussion with Highway Commissioner Kiesgen, himself and attorney Scott Puma addressed the illegal payment of truck repairs on the personal truck of Highway Commissioner Kim Kiesgens personal vehicle. The Highway Commissioner stated that she was in agreement to repay the Township for the repairs. The Township needs to review the exact amount to be re-imbursed by Kiesgen.

F) PERSONEL ITEMS BEING STORED IN TOWNSHIP GARAGE

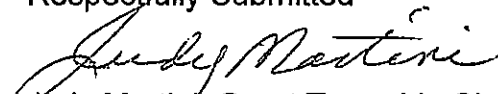
Trustee Selle reported that the issue of personal items being stored on Township property was discussed with the Highway Commissioner. Pictures show boats, furniture, snowmobile, signs tools and many more items have been stored in the Highway Commissioners Building from what appears to be a very long time. Attorney Puma told Kiesgen that the items must be removed within 30 days and she agreed to have the items removed.

TRUSTEE DISCUSSION:

Trustee Fischer suggested that we put deadlines on the action items we are requesting from the Highway Commissioner. Trustee Lippert stated that all this is unfortunate and it must be addressed for the whistleblowers who are seeking resolution to their concerns. Trustee Selle stated that indeed this is an unfortunate situation and believes that the Highway Commissioner will try to resolve this issue because it could taint her reputation and possibly cause Highway Commissioner to lose her pension if the issues have to be taken to court. Trustee Selle reported that Township Attorney Puma will be sending out a letter to Highway Commissioner Kiesgen on 3/16/2022 and we will be discussing issue again in a future executive session.

MOTION TO CLOSE EXECUTIVE SESSION: Motion by Trustee Hamm, seconded to Trustee Selle to come out of Executive Session: All in favor to close executive session at 7:53 PM
No action taken.

Respectfully Submitted


Judy Martini, Grant Township Clerk