

Minutes of Blackberry Township
43W390 Main Street Road, Elburn, IL 60119
Regular Monthly Meeting

May 12, 2020

CALL TO ORDER: At the Blackberry Town Hall, Supervisor Esther Steel called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Arrangements were made to conduct the meeting via “Conference Call” or attend in person. With the Governor’s Disaster Proclamation ongoing, social distancing was observed and masks were worn. Phase 3 allows the public to attend as long as they have face coverings and the room can accommodate a 6 foot distance. Trustees present were Harley Veldhuizen, John Van Bogaert and Tim Norris. Trustee Ed Stuehm attended via conference call. Also present were Highway Commissioner Rod Feece, Assessor Uwe Rotter and Clerk Lisa Hodge.

PLEDGE: Supervisor Steel led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CLERK: ROLL CALL: Clerk Hodge called the roll: Veldhuizen-here Norris-here, Van Bogaert-here, Stuehm-here, Steel-here.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None at this time.

MINUTES: The Trustees reviewed the minutes of the April 14, 2020 regular monthly meeting that were emailed to them prior to the meeting. Trustee Stuehm made a motion to accept the minutes as presented and Trustee Veldhuizen seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

BILLS: The Trustees reviewed the bills that were emailed to them prior to the meeting.

Road: Highway Commissioner Rod Feece pointed out one large bill: TOIRMA-Liability Insurance and Workman’s Comp. Trustee Norris made a motion to pay the Road bills and Trustee Van Bogaert seconded. Clerk Hodge called for a roll call vote to authorize the expenditures: Veldhuizen-yes, Norris-yes, Van Bogaert-yes, Stuehm-yes, Steel-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

Town/Cemetery: A motion to pay the Town/Cemetery bills was made by Trustee Veldhuizen, seconded by Trustee Van Bogaert. Clerk Hodge called the roll to authorize the expenditures: Veldhuizen-yes, Norris-yes, Van Bogaert-yes, Stuehm-yes, Steel-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

ROAD COMMISSIONER: Highway Commissioner Rod Feece reported that they have been working almost every day and keeping social distance guidelines. There are projects coming up.

ASSESSOR: Assessor Uwe Rotter reported that tax bills were mailed out by the County. Phone lines were busy at first but then calmed down soon after. His staff is back working in the office. He hopes to have The Book back to the County by May 15. In about 3-4 weeks, Blackberry Township should be published in the Elburn Herald. His office will employ a College student for summer work.

TRUSTEES: Trustee Stuehm thanked Assessor Rotter and Highway Commissioner Feece for contacting a Mill Creek resident and helping to answer their questions and concerns.

Supervisor Steel reported that she was contacted by Meals on Wheels, Kane County, and asked the Trustees if they knew of any residents that might be in need of food, let her or Meals on Wheels, Kane County know.

CEMETERY: Assoc. Sexton Jeanne Chybik reviewed the report that was emailed to the Board prior to the meeting.

Discussion re: New Software: Supervisor Steel reported that after talking with Jeanne, a tablet must be purchased to support the newest software. Apple's version works well for mapping, etc. Discussion followed. The Board recommended the purchase of a new tablet so Supervisor Steel will include that cost in the budget.

Trustee Norris volunteers for the Sugar Grove Cemetery as the Sexton and he shared his involvement and reviewed the time he spends on average, in one month.

SUPERVISOR: Email from Concerned Mill Creek Resident: Supervisor Steel reported that she also responded as well as Assessor Rotter and Highway Commissioner Fece.

Credit Card for Supervisor-Action Item: Supervisor Steel reported that the previous Supervisor had a credit card for the Cemetery but also purchased items for the Supervisor's office. That credit card was cancelled after the previous Supervisor retired, leaving the Cemetery office and the Supervisor's office without the means to purchase items.

Supervisor Steel asked for a motion to allow her, as Supervisor, to have a credit card, for the purpose of purchasing items for the Cemetery office and the Supervisor's office. Trustee Veldhuizen so moved, Trustee Van Bogaert seconded. Clerk Hodge called the roll: Veldhuizen-yes, Norris-yes, Van Bogaert-yes, Stuehm-yes, Steel-abstained. Motion carried with 4-yes, 0-no, 1-abstained.

Health Insurance Discussion: Supervisor Steel led the discussion regarding the current health insurance plan and Medicare. Discussion followed.

Capitol Outlay Discussion: This was placed on the Agenda in error.

Ride in Kane: Supervisor Steel reported that given the "shelter in place" order, there have been no riders.

Supervisor Steel led the discussion regarding the Cemetery Sexton hours worked and the job description. Discussion followed.

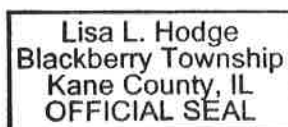
EXECUTIVE SESSION: None at this time.

OLD BUSINESS: None at this time.

NEW BUSINESS: None at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None at this time.

ADJOURNMENT: With no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Trustee Veldhuizen, seconded by Trustee Norris. The meeting was adjourned at 7:49 p.m.



Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa L. Hodge".

Lisa L. Hodge, Blackberry Township Clerk