

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

**November 10, 2020**

**CALL TO ORDER:** At the Blackberry Town Hall, Supervisor Esther Steel called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Trustees present were Harley Veldhuizen, Ed Stuehm, John Van Bogaert and Tim Norris. Also present were Assessor Uwe Rotter and Clerk Lisa Hodge.

**PLEDGE:** Supervisor Steel asked Trustee Norris to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Ms. Judie Childress updated the Board on the 708 Inc. meeting.

**MINUTES:** The Board reviewed the minutes of the October 13, 2020 regular monthly meeting. Trustee Stuehm made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Trustee Van Bogaert seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

**BILLS:** The Trustees reviewed the bills.

Road: Highway Commissioner Rod Feece was unable to attend the meeting, so Supervisor Steel passed around the Road bills. Trustee Veldhuizen made a motion to pay the Road bills, Trustee Norris seconded. Clerk Hodge called for a roll call vote to authorize the expenditures: Veldhuizen-yes, Norris-yes, Stuehm-yes, Van Bogaert-yes, Steel-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

Town/Cemetery: Supervisor Steel reviewed the Town bill for the Elburn Station Park. Trustee Veldhuizen made a motion to pay the Town/Cemetery bills, Trustee Van Bogaert seconded. Clerk Hodge called for a roll call vote to authorize the expenditures: Veldhuizen-yes, Norris-yes, Stuehm-yes, Van Bogaert-yes, Steel-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

**ROAD COMMISSIONER:** Highway Commissioner Rod Feece emailed his report to the Board prior to the meeting. Supervisor Steel offered to field any questions that the Board may have, however, there were no questions.

**ASSESSOR:** Assessor Uwe Rotter reported that they have finished their duties for this assessment period. They continue to work on the tool sets. He also reported that due to the pandemic, some office supplies have been unavailable when he has shopped for certain items.

Intergovernmental Recipient Agreement for Coronavirus Relief Funds w/Kane County: Supervisor Steel moved up this Agenda item since Assessor Rotter has been working on this. He updated the Board and discussion ensued. Attorney Rick Williams was present and shared his opinion as Supervisor Steel requested. Discussion ensued.

Supervisor Steel asked for a motion to approve the IGA. Trustee Veldhuizen so moved, Trustee Stuehm seconded. A voice vote was taken, the motion carried unanimously.

**TRUSTEES:** Nothing at this time.

**CEMETERY:** Supervisor Steel thanked Sexton Jeanne Chybik for reviewing and editing the Ride in Kane documents and invoice, as she caught several “rides” that were not approved by Blackberry Township rules.

Sexton Chybik reviewed the Cemetery report and the suggested Verbiage regarding the buying back of plots. Discussion ensued. Ms. Chybik will incorporate the suggestions provided by the Board and have them review the changes at the December Board meeting.

**SUPERVISOR:** Levy Ordinances-Town & Road District: Discussion & Review: Supervisor Steel reviewed the process and reminded the Board that they will adopt both Ordinances at the Levy Hearings held just prior to the regular Board meeting, next month.

Approve/Pass Resolution 2020/21-1: Setting the Compensation of Blackberry Township Elected Officials for the term May 17, 2021-May 18, 2025: Supervisor Steel led the discussion regarding the cost of living -vs- actual \$ amount. Discussion ensued. Supervisor Steel asked for a motion to increase the compensation for the office of the Highway Commissioner and the Office of the Assessor by 3% each year and that the benefits will stay the same, and the compensation for the Offices of the Supervisor, Clerk and Trustees will stay the same as they each are now: Trustee Veldhuizen so moved, Trustee Norris seconded.

Supervisor Steel asked Clerk Hodge to call the roll: Veldhuizen-yes, Norris-yes, Stuehm-yes, Van Bogaert-yes, Steel-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

IGA Agreement Agenda item was moved up to the Assessor’s Report.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Ms. Childress offered the name of a local Attorney that would provide the Township with Sexual Harassment Prevention Training.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Supervisor Steel asked for a motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Personnel-Insurance. Trustee Stuehm so moved, Trustee Van Bogaert seconded. Supervisor Steel asked Clerk Hodge to call the roll: Veldhuizen-yes, Norris-yes, Stuehm-yes, Van Bogaert-yes, Steel-yes. The meeting entered into Exec. Session at 7:50 p.m.

The meeting returned to open session at 8:30 p.m.

Supervisor Steel asked for a motion to consider the Assessor’s request that The Board agrees the Township should pay the Health Insurance Premiums of any dependent under the age of 26 for any employee who reaches the age of 65 and is required by Federal law to move to Medicare as the primary source for health insurance when the Township has under 20 employees.

Trustee Veldhuizen so moved, Trustee Van Bogaert seconded. Supervisor Steel asked Clerk Hodge to call the roll: Veldhuizen-no, Norris-no, Stuehm-no, Van Bogaert-no, Steel-no. Motion did not carry.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Nothing at this time.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Calendar of Scheduled Meeting Dates & Township Holiday Schedule: review: Clerk Hodge asked the Board to review and check for errors.

“Virtual” TOI Conference: Clerk Hodge reminded the Board that they were all registered.

Supervisor Steel reported that a new "Ride Share Program" sent her their information.

**TRAINING SESSION:** State of Illinois Sexual Harassment Prevention Training: Supervisor Steel reported that the Highway Commissioner and employees of the Road District, the Assessor and the employees of the Assessor's office had taken the training earlier, so only the Supervisor, the four Trustees, the Clerk and the Cemetery Sexton were going to participate in the training that night.

**ADJOURNMENT:** With no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Trustee Stuehm, seconded by Trustee Veldhuizen. The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa L. Hodge, Blackberry Township Clerk

