

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

March 9, 2021

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, Tim Norris, Ed Stuehm and John Van Bogaert. 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, Stuehm-here, Van Bogaert-here, Steel-here.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Ms. Judie Childress provided an update of the 708 Inc. Board activities which included a technology upgrade. She felt that they are doing a great job. The past Holiday Spirit activity was well received, even during the pandemic.

MINUTES: The Trustees reviewed the minutes of the February 9, 2021 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 reviewed the bills and pointed out one large bill to cold patch an area and reported that fuel usage was up. A motion to pay the Road bills was made by Trustee Veldhuizen, seconded by Trustee Norris. 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.

Town/Cemetery: A motion to pay the Town/Cemetery bills was made by Trustee Norris, seconded by Trustee Van Bogaert. 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.

ROAD COMMISSIONER: Highway Commissioner Rod Feece reported that they have removed the wings from the trucks, some roads have been getting cold patch. The weather has caused them to erupt.

He also reported that Sugar Grove has a used truck that he may purchase and Elburn may buy the truck that was going to be declared as surplus.

ASSESSOR: Assessor Uwe Rotter reported that they have been entering sales information received from County. They are waiting for better weather to get out in the field. May 1 is the target date to submit the Book to County.

He also reported that Realtor listings were back-logged by 2 years so they have been working on inputting that data to compare with information his office has on file.

His office reached out to Rep. Keith Wheeler's office and Rep. Lauren Underwood's office to see if they had any help for homeowners and paying property tax. Mr. Wheeler's office reported the since the State is broke, they hope for Federal help.

The County will mail out tax bills by end of April.

TRUSTEES: Trustee Veldhuizen attended the Elburn Chamber lunch and reported that the Chamber is looking for a place to hold their golf outing.

Trustee Norris echoed Ms. Childress sentiments that the 708 Inc. Board is doing a wonderful job.

CEMETERY: Sexton Jeanne Chybik reported that there were no burials in the past month.

Supervisor Steel shared that Ms. Chybik spent a lot of time and worked very hard cleaning up Blackberry Township's file on active riders to help AID and Ride in Kane. There is still no invoice from AID.

SUPERVISOR: MOTION TO APPROVE NEPOTISM RESOLUTION: Supervisor Steel asked for a motion to approve the Nepotism Resolution 2020/21-3. Trustee Norris so moved, Trustee Stuehm seconded. Clerk Hodge called the roll: Veldhuizen-yes, Norris-yes, Stuehm-yes, Van Bogaert-yes, Steel-yes. The motion carried with 5 ayes, 0 nays, 0 absent.

Highway Commissioner Rod Feece and Assessor Uwe Rotter signed the Resolution also.

DISTRIBUTION OF 2021/22 BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION ORDINANCES: Supervisor Steel provided the Board a copy of each of the Town and the Road District budgets. She reviewed the spreadsheet of the Town Budget Process that demonstrated the last two years and 2021-2022. Discussion followed.

APPROVE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING AGENDA: Supervisor Steel asked for a motion to approve the Annual Town Meeting Agenda. Trustee Veldhuizen so moved, Trustee Norris seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

ACTION ITEM: MOTION TO PAY APPROVED ACCOUNTS ONLINE: Supervisor Steel reported that a few invoices are not received in a timely manner to be paid at the regular monthly meeting. She asked for a motion to pay approved invoices online for: Insurance, credit cards, utilities and water, as the process becomes available. Trustee Norris so moved, Trustee Veldhuizen seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

ACTION ITEM: MOTION TO ADJUST FUNDS TO ACCOMMODATE FOR OVER BUDGET ITEMS: Supervisor Steel reported that at the end of the fiscal year, some funds will need to be adjusted up to 10%. She asked for a motion to adjust funds. Trustee Veldhuizen so moved, Trustee Stuehm seconded. Clerk Hodge called the roll: Veldhuizen-yes, Norris-yes, Stuehm-yes, Van Bogaert-yes, Steel-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

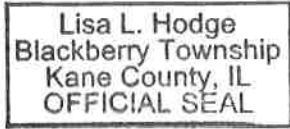
EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION: None at this time.

OLD BUSINESS: None at this time.

NEW BUSINESS: Highway Commissioner Rod Feece reported that LaFarge donated gravel worth \$20,000.00 to the Road District.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Ms. Judie Childress thanked the Board for their transparency and the Road District's snowplowing efforts on her road. She also provided an update on the upcoming election for the Sugar Grove Village President.

ADJOURNMENT: With no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Trustee Stuehm, seconded by Trustee Veldhuizen. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.



Respectfully submitted,

Lisa L. Hodge

Lisa L. Hodge, Blackberry Township Clerk