

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

May 11, 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 and John Van Bogaert. Also present were Highway Commissioner Rod Feece, Assessor Uwe Rotter and Clerk Lisa Hodge. Trustee Ed Stuehm attended by conference call.

PLEDGE: Supervisor Steel led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CLERK: Roll Call: Clerk Hodge called the roll: Veldhuizen-here, Norris-here, Van Bogaert-here, Steel-here. Trustee Stuehm attended by conference call.

Swearing-in of Elected Township Officials: Supervisor Esther Steel, Highway Commissioner Rod Feece, Assessor Uwe Rotter, Trustee Harley Veldhuizen, Trustee Tim Norris, Trustee John Van Bogaert were sworn-in by Clerk Hodge, for the term May 17, 2021 to May 18, 2025. (Assessor's term-January 1, 2022 to January 1, 2026) Trustee Ed Stuehm was sworn-in on May 7, 2021 by Clerk Hodge.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Nothing at this time.

MINUTES: The Trustees reviewed three sets of minutes from April 13, 2021: Town Budget & Appropriation Hearing, Road Dist. Budget & Appropriation Hearing and the Regular Monthly Meeting. Trustee Veldhuizen made a motion to approve all three sets of minutes, Trustee Van Bogaert seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

BILLS: The Trustees reviewed the bills.

Road: Highway Commissioner Rod Feece pointed out 2 large bills: TOIRMA-liability insurance and KDOT-bridge inspection. A motion to pay the Road 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, Van Bogaert-yes, Steel-yes. Trustee Stuehm-yes, by conference call. The motion carried.

Town/Cemetery: Supervisor Steel noted the TOIRMA bill, the Town portion of the liability insurance. A motion to pay the Town/Cemetery bills was made by Trustee Veldhuizen, seconded by Trustee Van Bogaert. Clerk Hodge called for a roll call vote to authorize the expenditures: Veldhuizen-yes, Norris-yes, Van Bogaert-yes, Steel-yes. Trustee Stuehm-yes, by conference call. The motion carried.

ROAD COMMISSIONER: Highway Commissioner Rod Feece reported that LaFarge donated gravel for the 6 ½ miles of gravel road maintained by the Road District. Calcium chloride gets sprayed on top to control the dust.

Supervisor Steel and Highway Commissioner Feece have started a conversation with Attorney Williams about placing an item on the spring 2022 ballot regarding having one garbage collection company in the unincorporated portion of Blackberry Township. Attorney Williams advised that it must be placed in a referendum. Discussion followed.

ASSESSOR: Assessor Uwe Rotter reported that the Book was sent to County on April 30, 2021.

There was \$3 million of new construction. Depending on the State of Illinois, and how soon it “opens up”, Assessor Rotter will decide whether to hold “in person” or conference calls and emails, like the 2020 appeal season.

TRUSTEES: Nothing at this time.

CEMETERY: Cemetery Sexton Jeanne Chybik reviewed the report. There were two new riders signed up for Ride in Kane, however, the Township still has not received an invoice.

SUPERVISOR: Supervisor Steel reviewed the “Rent Relief” program offered by the County. Supervisor Steel reviewed a matrix that a concerned citizen had prepared a few years ago about the cost of the many garbage collection companies that operate in Blackberry Township.

Supervisor Steel and Highway Commissioner Feece attended the Dedication Ceremony of the new Coroner’s and Sheriff’s Department multi-use building.

The Dedication Ceremony for the Elburn Station Park will be May 17, 2021 and she invited the Board to attend.

A resident in Mill Creek inquired if she could paint her house number on the curb in front of her house. After discussion with Highway Commissioner Feece, and the Mill Creek SSA, it was decided that it’s not allowed.

Supervisor Steel moved Executive Session to after Public Comment.

OLD BUSINESS: Supervisor Steel reiterated the importance of the “Rent Relief” program offered by Kane County.

NEW BUSINESS: Supervisor Steel shared that she is getting requests from groups who want to use the Township Hall. The Board discussed several options that would keep the room and the bathrooms clean after events. The kitchen would not be open for the public/groups to use.

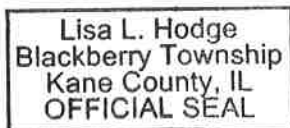
Highway Commissioner Feece suggested that Claesson Cleaning Services give the Township a quote to clean after each function and that cost would be passed onto the group that used the room. The Board liked that idea and asked HC Feece to ask Claesson the next time they clean the Township.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Ms. Judie Childress thanked Highway Commissioner Feece for spaying the gravel road with calcium chloride.

EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION: Supervisor Steel asked for a motion to enter into Executive (closed) Session to discuss Personnel. Trustee Norris so moved, Trustee Veldhuizen seconded. Clerk Hodge took roll call: Veldhuizen-yes, Norris-yes, Van Bogaert-yes, Steel-yes. Trustee Stuehm-yes by conference call. The meeting entered into Executive (closed) Session at 7:44 p.m.

The meeting returned to open session at 8:05 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: With no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Trustee Stuehm, seconded by Trustee Norris. The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.



Respectfully submitted,
Lisa L. Hodge

Lisa L. Hodge, Blackberry Township Clerk