

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

May 9, 2023

CALL TO ORDER: At the Blackberry Town Hall, Supervisor Esther Steel called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Trustees present were Bill Earle, Judie Childress, Eric Anderson and Harley Veldhuizen. Also present were Highway Commissioner Rod Feece, Assessor Uwe Rotter and Clerk Lisa Hodge.

PLEDGE: Supervisor Steel waived the Pledge of Allegiance since it was recited earlier at the Town Budget & Appropriation Hearing.

CLERK: Roll Call: Clerk Hodge called the roll: Veldhuizen-here, Earle-here, Anderson-here, Childress-here, Steel-here.

Supervisor Steel postponed the Presentation of the Scholarship until the recipient could be in attendance.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mr. Michel Williams from LaFox stated that the train horns at the RR Crossing in town are too loud.

Mr. Ray Fugiel expressed concern about who would be assessing the newly annexed property of Crown, if Sugar Grove does indeed annex it.

PRESENTATION: Township Officials of Illinois Scholarship Presentation: Clerk Hodge, who is also on the Board of Directors of the Township Officials of Illinois, had the pleasure of presenting the Barbara Behm Scholarship Award to Kaneland Senior, Annika Salchert.

MINUTES: The Trustees reviewed the minutes of the April 11, 2023 regular monthly meeting. A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Trustee Veldhuizen, seconded by Trustee Anderson. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

The Trustees reviewed the minutes of the April 20, 2023 Special Meeting. A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Trustee Anderson, seconded by Trustee Childress. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

ROAD COMMISSIONER: Highway Commissioner Rod Feece reported that the Road District received a donation of gravel from LaFarge. It was about 1900 ton, worth approximately \$20,000. He also took receipt of more salt because of the cost. He is finalizing the paving projects for July or August.

ASSESSOR: Assessor Uwe Rotter reported that Riley Kavanaugh is the new Chief Deputy Assessor, who will be part-time at Blackberry Twp. and part-time with Batavia Twp.

The office continues to work on the Book. The office has been fielding calls about the tax bills that were mailed from Kane County. The antenna on Seavey Road is online.

TRUSTEES: Trustee Earle shared that he communicated with the RTA regarding the road to/from

the LaFox RR Station because it has many potholes. Trustee Earle was happy to report that the road is paved now.

Trustee Childress shared that on May 11, 2023, Sugar Grove will be voting on the CMAP. She thanked Supervisor Steel for hosting the meeting with Sugar Grove Village President, Jen Konen.

Trustee Anderson shared that he has been adding documents to the Blackberry Twp. website.

CEMETERY: Sexton Jeanne Chybik reviewed the Cemetery report with the Board. The cost of bricks, for the cremation garden, has increased from \$15.00 to \$ 25.00. Ms. Chybik thanked Highway Commissioner Rod Feece for helping maintain the lawn, while Larry Bower, is laid up.

There were no Ride in Kane invoices.

SUPERVISOR: Supervisor Steel reported that the Audit is scheduled for May 22-26. To date, only one person has applied for the vacant Assessor position. As Trustee Childress mentioned, Supervisor Steel hosted a meeting with interested community members and Sugar Grove Village President, Jen Konen. Supervisor Steel felt that it was a mostly positive meeting.

The Township is planning to plant at the Cemetery on May 17, at 6:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome. Regarding the zoning changing meeting: many folks from Blackberry Township were planning to attend because it would affect LaFarge and all mining.

BILLS: The Board reviewed the bills.

Road: Highway Commissioner pointed out one large bill from TOIRMA, for Liability Insurance. A motion to pay the Road bills was made by Trustee Veldhuizen, seconded by Trustee Earle. Clerk Hodge called for a roll call vote to authorize the expenditures: Veldhuizen-yes, Earle-yes, Anderson-yes, Childress-yes, Steel-yes. The motion carried.

Town/Cemetery: Supervisor Steel pointed out the Town share of the TOIRMA Liability Insurance, in the Town bills. A motion to pay the Town/Cemetery bills was made by Trustee Anderson, seconded by Trustee Childress. Clerk Hodge called for a roll call vote to authorize the expenditures: Veldhuizen-yes, Earle-yes, Anderson-yes, Childress-yes, Steel-yes. The motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS: Nothing at this time.

NEW BUSINESS: Nothing at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mr. Ray Fugiel shared his concern about Elburn Fire Department buying the land on Route 47 and Green Road.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Supervisor Steel asked for a motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of reviewing Executive Session minutes. Trustee Anderson so moved, seconded by Trustee Childress. Clerk Hodge took Roll call: Veldhuizen-yes, Earle-yes, Anderson-yes, Childress-yes, Steel-yes. The meeting entered Executive at 8:00 p.m.

The meeting returned to open session at 8:05 p.m. Supervisor Steel asked for a motion to release the November 8, 2022 minutes, and approve the April 11, 2023 Ex. Sess. minutes as to form and content, but to keep them closed. Trustee Anderson so moved, Trustee Childress seconded. The motion carried

unanimously with a voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT: With no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Trustee Anderson, seconded by Trustee Earle. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa L. Hodge, Blackberry Township Clerk

