

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

**November 14, 2023**

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

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

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Nothing at this time.

**MINUTES:** The Trustees reviewed the minutes of the October 10, 2023 regular monthly meeting. Trustee Earle caught an error in the paragraph of the Road Commissioner, regarding the name of Mill Creek Cares. Supervisor Steel asked for a motion to approve the minutes with the amended correction. Trustee Veldhuizen so moved, Trustee Anderson seconded. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**ROAD COMMISSIONER:** Highway Commissioner Rod Feece reported that the Round-About on Main Street will open on Nov. 16, 2023. Bliss Road will be a dead-end, however, will become the Township's responsibility. They are getting the trucks ready for plowing. There are concerns/issues about Mill Creek parking again.

**ASSESSOR:** Assessor Riley Kavanaugh reported that they have one more appearance that week. The Assessor's office new computers are online. They are getting out in the field, weather permitting. Assessor Kavanaugh attended the TOI Conference and thought it was informative and she enjoyed the experience. She attended a session about the upcoming new law regarding paid leave.

**TRUSTEES:** Trustee Veldhuizen shared his experience at the TOI Conference and thought the sessions were interesting, especially the session regarding equipment rental, since Blackberry Township already has such a program.

Trustees Anderson, Childress and Earle shared their positive experiences. Trustee Anderson brought back information regarding Senior Services. He also reviewed the Township's email migration.

Trustees Childress and Earle shared information from the session regarding Cemetery restoration.

**CEMETERY:** Sexton Jeanne Chybik reviewed the Cemetery report with the Board. Some headstones appear to have been knocked over. Deputy Sheriff Biddle was in attendance and shared that the Sheriff's Department will start patrolling the Cemetery.

**SUPERVISOR:** Levy Ordinance Distribution: Supervisor Steel briefly reviewed the Levy process with Board.

Discussion and Vote on Park Funding: Supervisor Steel led the discussion for funding. The Board liked the idea of sponsoring the fishing pier with a cap of \$25,000. Supervisor Steel will communicate this to the Village of Elburn.

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

Road: Highway Commissioner Rod Feece reviewed the bills and pointed out 2 large bills for asphalt and repair of the skid steer. A motion to pay the Road bills was made by Trustee Earle, seconded by Trustee Anderson. 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 unanimously.

Town/Cemetery: Supervisor Steel reviewed the bills. 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 unanimously.

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

**NEW BUSINESS:** Supervisor Steel shared her vision for placing a bench in honor of Mr. Jim Feece. Shodeen will donate the bench.

Schedule of Regular Meeting Dates & 2024 Holiday Schedule: Clerk Hodge asked the Board to review both documents. The start time of 7:00 p.m. being changed to 6:30 p.m. for the Regular Meeting Dates was briefly discussed as a possibility.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Nothing at this time.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Review Ex. Session Minutes: Supervisor Steel asked for a motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of reviewing Executive Session minutes. Trustee Anderson so moved, Trustee Childress seconded. Clerk Hodge called the roll: Veldhuizen-yes, Earle-yes, Anderson-yes, Childress-yes, Steel-yes. The meeting left open session at 8:25 p.m.

The meeting returned to open session at 8:29 p.m.

Trustee Anderson made a motion to release the Ex. Session Minutes from May 9, 2023 and May 22, 2023; to approve as to form and content, Ex. Session Minutes from July 11, 2023 but keep closed; and finally, to keep all the other Ex. Session Minutes closed. Trustee Veldhuizen seconded. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**ADJOURNMENT:** With no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Trustee Earle, seconded by Trustee Veldhuizen. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa L. Hodge, Blackberry Township Clerk

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