

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

**March 12, 2024**

**CALL TO ORDER:** At the Blackberry Town Hall, Supervisor Esther Steel called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. Trustees present were Judie Childress, Bill Earle, Harley Veldhuizen and Eric Anderson. Also present were Highway Commissioner Rod Feece, Assessor Riley Kavanaugh and Clerk Lisa Hodge.

**PLEDGE:** Supervisor Steel asked Highway Commissioner Rod Feece 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 February 13, 2024 regular monthly meeting. Trustee Veldhuizen made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Trustee Earle seconded. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**ROAD COMMISSIONER:** Highway Commissioner Rod Feece reported that he had received all the salt that he had to get. He picked up the new truck. There has been work done on the Township building with a new sign in front, a light on the flagpole and on the new sign, however the new lights on the building at the front door have been back ordered. They have also done some pothole patching.

**ASSESSOR:** Assessor Riley Kavanaugh reported that they are working on neighborhood reviews. They have visited some farms that reported storm damage.

**TRUSTEES:** Trustee Anderson reported that he continues to update the Township website. Trustee Childress provided a report on the 708 Inc. Board meeting. She shared the documents showing services provided. Also included was the “708 Inc. Objectives” document. These will be posted.

**CEMETERY:** Highway Commissioner Rod Feece reported on the Cemetery Maintenance bid opening. He thanked Trustee Earle and Sexton Jeanne Chybik for their assistance in getting the bid package put together. There were 10 bids received and opened on March 8, 2024. After reviewing all bids, they decided on one company. The Township Attorney will prepare a Resolution to be approved at next month’s meeting.

Sexton Chybik reviewed the report with the Board. Ride in Kane sent 4 invoices at one time. Supervisor Steel shared that Vicky Vandiver agreed to research plants/perennials and costs from Wasco Nursery and they will offer a discount. Planting date will be announced in the future.

Highway Commissioner Rod Feece offered that the Road District will take care of spraying for weeds in the cremation garden this year and next year, it’ll be the responsibility of the new maintenance company.

**SUPERVISOR:** Distribution of the 2024/25 Budget & Appropriation Ordinances/Discussion: Supervisor Steel started the discussion of the Town budget with the Board. Allotment for the fishing pier at the updated park in Elburn, there will be an invoice for the re-roofing that wasn't covered by insurance, and a new phone system will need to be considered.

The Assessor's Contract pay-adjusted as of January 2024. Supervisor Steel reported that Shodeen will pay for a bench in honor of Trustee Jim Feece. The Township will purchase a table to be placed in front of the building.

The Cemetery budget will be adjusted to include the new maintenance company.

Supervisor Steel updated the Board of the Senior coupon program. Trustee Childress visited Rise & Dine to discuss the senior gift certificates. Rise & Dine seemed very excited about the program. Trustee Childress shared the plan for folks over 65, to receive a \$5.00 coupon, quarterly. Supervisor Steel shared her vision for hiring a part-time program manager just for seniors.

Supervisor Steel reported that the Levy Confirmations were sent back to Kane County. Banking transition to Old Second is complete. Supervisor Steel wanted the Board to know that there is a developer showing interest in developing what is left of The Settlements of LaFox. St. Charles is looking to annex some or all of the area.

Approve Annual Town Meeting Agenda: Supervisor Steel asked for a motion to approve the Annual Town Meeting Agenda. Trustee Veldhuizen so moved, Trustee Earle seconded. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Action Item: Motion to Adjust Funds to Accommodate for Over Budget Items: Supervisor Steel reviewed the items. The Assessor's part of the budget will adjust maintenance, training, website consulting and travel. Supervisor Steel asked for a motion to approve the adjustments. Trustee Anderson so moved, Trustee Childress seconded. Clerk Hodge called the roll: Veldhuizen-yes, Earle-yes, Anderson-yes, Childress-yes, Steel-yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Action Item: New Phone System Contract Approval: Supervisor Steel opened the discussion and the board decided to table the contract approval until next month.

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

Road: Highway Commissioner Rod Feece pointed out three large bills: salt, new truck, and repairs of old truck. Old Bliss Road is now the Road Districts responsibility and has received \$300K for maintenance. 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: A motion to pay the Town/Cemetery bills was made by Trustee Childress, 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.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Trustee Veldhuizen shared his experience with LRS picking up large items with no issue.

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

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

**EXCUTIVE SESSION:** Nothing at this time.

**ADJOURNMENT:** With no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Trustee Anderson, seconded by Trustee Veldhuizen. The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa L. Hodge, Blackberry Township Clerk

