

**The adjourned meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Town of Stookey
Saint Clair County Illinois
Regular Meeting**

March 6th 2023

Meeting held at 313 Eiler Road, Belleville, Illinois 62223

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Supervisor M. Bagby. An official roll call was taken by Clerk F. Garner and all elected officials were present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Supervisor M. Bagby.

Discussion and Approval of Minutes

The Board of Trustees reviewed the February regular meeting minutes.

Motion: Trustee R. Stookey 2nd: Trustee A. Scharf

Discussion: Trustee J. Lougeay suggested additions be added to the February regular meeting minutes.

Vote: All voted yes

Discussion and Approval of Bills

The Board of Trustees reviewed the bills for the month.

Motion: Trustee R. Stookey 2nd: Trustee A. Scharf

Discussion: Trustee D. Weaver questioned a bill for park lighting. Trustee J. Lougeay questioned a bill listed in the Sewer fund, as well as a bill in the Park Maintenance fund.

Vote: All voted yes

A portion of the monthly bills had arrived late.

Motion: Trustee A. Scharf 2nd: Trustee J. Lougeay

Discussion: None

Vote: All voted

- **Approval to move \$320 to 03-517 to 03-929**

Motion: Trustee J. Lougeay 2nd: Trustee A. Scharf

Discussion: Trustee J. Lougeay asked which accounts were represented in the shifting of funds. Supervisor M. Bagby stated the funds would be shifted from, "operations" to "miscellaneous" of the park fund.

Vote: All voted yes

Public Participation

Mr. George Vineyard stated Parks & Receptions Committee members suggested purchasing needed items for the park before the end of the fiscal year.

Mr. Todd Horn thanked Commissioner B. Reed for the work his crew had recently performed on Coventry Lane.

Presentation (via Zoom), Discussion and Approval of Solar for Sewer Plant

Representatives from Keystone Power Holdings, LLC presented to the Board of Trustees their plans to install solar panels to power the Stookey Sewer Plant. The Board of Trustees had the

options of receiving energy at a fixed rate of \$0.0749/KWh or an adjustable rate of \$0.0649/KWh with a 2.25% escalator.

Motion: Trustee J. Lougeay (fixed rate) **2nd:** Trustee A. Scharf

Discussion: None

Vote: All voted yes

Committee Reports

- **Parks & Rec (Mr. Vance Vyers)**

The committee had scheduled a meeting in order to discuss lighting along the Stookey Park walking path. Talks regarding the layout of Stookey Athletic Park and various park grant opportunities were ongoing. A sale of baseball equipment was upcoming.

- **Law Enforcement (Trustee J. Lougeay)**

Reports made by the County Sheriff's Department were distributed to the Board of Trustees for review. The committee planned to meet to discuss uses for a radar speed sign.

- **Lighting & Zoning (Trustee A. Scharf)**

The committee had compiled a list of 10 properties exhibiting zoning violations. The list is to be sent to county officials on a monthly basis in hopes action is taken to correct the problems.

Highway Commissioner's Report

Engineering projects for Pecan Lane and Powder Creek were set to be bid upon within the month. A used dump truck had been purchased by the department. The department will possibly be purchasing a street sweeper. Plans for a new biking trail on 66th street will require the Highway Department to pay a portion of the cost in conjunction with the City of Belleville and St. Clair Township.

Supervisor's Report

Supervisor M. Bagby reminded attendees of the trash hauler referendum listed on the consolidated election ballot. The 460 lift-station project is currently delayed due to a review by the Illinois Department of Transportation.

Discussion and Approval of Amended Sewer Budget

An amended sewer budget had been released for public review. The budget had been amended due to increases in the cost of gas and electricity.

Motion: Trustee J. Lougeay **2nd:** Trustee R. Stookey

Discussion: Trustee J. Lougeay questioned the increase cost in sewer plant upgrades. Supervisor M. Bagby stated the 460 lift-station project required an increase in funding.

Vote: All voted yes

Discussion and Approval of Mower Bids (park)

Stookey Township had requested bids for a new lawn mower. Two bids were considered for purchase: Exmark for \$10,519 total cost with a \$5,000 trade-in or John Deere for \$8,400 total cost with a \$3,500 trade-in.

Motion: Trustee J. Lougeay (Exmark) **2nd:** Trustee A. Scharf

Discussion: The Board of Trustees discussed various options regarding lawn mower warranties, maintenance, engine type and product life.

Vote: All voted yes

Discussion and Approval of Creation of Park Foundation (501c3) Resolution

Multiple park grant opportunities are only available for non-profit organizations. Stookey Township would pursue funding if such an organization is created.

Motion: Trustee J. Lougeay 2nd: Trustee R. Stookey

Discussion: None

Vote: All voted yes

Discussion and Approval of ILAWC Contract

After review by legal council, an agreement between Stookey Township and Illinois American Water had been reached.

Motion: Trustee A. Scharf 2nd: Trustee J. Lougeay

Discussion: None

Vote: All voted yes

Discussion and Approval of Sewer Disconnections

The resident located at 38 Knollwood Drive had not paid their severely overdue sewer bill for the property. Options for dealing with the matter were put up for board debate.

Discussion: Trustee R. Stookey stated he had been dissuaded from taking further action in talks with a Health Department official. Supervisor M. Bagby stated the resident's tax return could be collected by Stookey Township in order to pay the overdue sewer bill. Trustees A. Scharf suggested giving a 30-day notice to the resident and contacting county officials. Trustee J. Lougeay suggested filing suit to recoup the unpaid funds. Trustee D. Weaver stated receiving funds ordered by court judgement could be difficult. The consensus was to inquire about a possible legal recourse with the township lawyer.

Discussion of King's House future Use

The King's House property had recently been sold to a private company for the purposes of developing a mental health facility. A special use permit hearing was scheduled at Saint Clair County.

Discussion: Trustee D. Weaver stated various concern he and area residents had concerning having a mental health facility in his neighborhood. Trustee J. Lougeay stated increased traffic could be an issue with the development. Trustee A. Scharf stated there should be a place for people to receive treatment.

Discussion on Park Building and Future Improvements

Trustee J. Lougeay stated that after visiting the park building, he found it to be a fairly sound structure. He suggested repairing the roof and preserving the building with various modifications. Trustee A. Scharf suggested repairing the building temporarily to maintain equipment and further investigate the matter. Supervisor M. Bagby stated multiple problems with the structure. Repairing the building and meeting property code requirements could cost as much a \$100,000.

Discussion and Approval of Agenda for Annual Town Meeting

The 2023 Annual Town Meeting had been scheduled for April 11, 2023 at 7:00 pm.

Motion: Trustee A. Scharf 2nd: Trustee R. Stookey

Discussion: None

Vote: All voted yes

Closed/Executive Session

A motion was made to end open session at 8:31 pm.

Motion: Trustee R. Stookey 2nd: Trustee J. Lougeay

Discussion: None

Vote: All voted yes

A motion was made to reenter open session at 9:15 pm.

Motion: Trustee J. Lougeay 2nd: Trustee R. Stookey

Discussion: None

Vote: All voted yes

Discussion and Approval of Employee Compensation

After reviewing recent employee evaluations, the Board of Trustees deliberated increasing Stookey Township employees Crystal Geyer to a rate of \$29.43/hr., Beth DeShae to \$23.43/hr., Todd Horn to \$20/hr. and George Vineyard to \$20/hr. effective April 1, 2023.

Motion: Trustee J. Lougeay 2nd: Trustee A. Scharf

Discussion: None

Vote: Trustee D. Weaver abstained. All others voted yes. The motion carried.

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 9:17 pm.

Motion: Trustee R. Stookey 2nd: Supervisor M. Bagby

Discussion: None

Vote: All voted Yes