

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

November 1st 2021

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.

A moment of silence was observed for fallen Pontoon Beach, Illinois Police Officer, Tyler Timmins.

Discussion and Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the Regular October meeting minutes was made by Trustee R. Stookey and 2nd by Trustee A. Scharf. A vote was taken and all voted yes.

Discussion and Approval of Bills

Supervisor M. Bagby read the names of payees and amounts for the monthly bills. A motion to approve was made by Trustee R. Stookey and 2nd by Trustee A. Scharf.

Discussion: Trustee D. Weaver questioned the amount the Township was paying for paper towels, paper, kitchen benches and bottled water. He also questioned a bill for building repair at the Township Building. Trustee J. Lougeay questioned if there were lien waivers in place for building rehabilitation work being done at the township building.

A vote was taken and all voted yes.

The park maintenance fund is currently underfunded. The Supervisor requested funds in the amount of \$25,000 be transferred from the Town Fund to the Park Maintenance fund. A motion to approve was made by Trustee J. Lougeay and 2nd by Trustee A. Scharf.

Discussion: Trustee J. Lougeay questioned why the Park Maintenance fund was underfunded. Supervisor M. Bagby responded the previous Supervisor, D. Bone had transferred the Park Maintenance funds to the General Town Fund without board approval.

A vote was taken and all voted yes.

Public Participation

Mr. Tim Clark gave brief remarks about how much he liked the updated to the Town Hall. Trustee J. Lougeay then asked Highway Commissioner B. Reed who was in charge of maintaining the railroad overpass bridge on South 74th Street. Commissioner B. Reed responded it was the Saint Clair County's responsibility.

Discussion and Approval of the 2021 Continuing Disclosure of 2013 Park Bonds (2013) with Kevin Wills

Mr. Kevin Wills of the firm Bernardi Securities Inc. gave a synopsis of the 2013 Stookey Township park bond refinancing. Each year a report is generated called a continuing disclosure giving updates on the township and the performance of the bonds.

A motion to approve was made by Trustee R. Stookey and 2nd by Trustee A. Scharf.

A vote was taken and all voted yes.

Committee Reports

- **Parks & Rec**

Mr. Gary Green: The Parks and Rec. Committee had recently met with representatives from the

non-profit organization Heartlands Conservancy. Heartlands presented to the committee a proposal to create a park master-plan. A park resurfacing request-for-proposal has been issued. Bids for the resurfacing project are now incoming.

Trustee D. Weaver questioned the amount of Heartlands Conservancy master-plan proposal. Mr. Green responded the range is from \$37,000 to \$43,000. Trustee D. Weaver then asked what the Heartlands Conservancy planned to create. Mr. Green stated the Conservancy would look at Stookey Township as a whole to put together a master-plan for present and future park projects. The committee is looking into a grant issued by the Metro East Parks and Recreation District to pay 40% of the cost of creating a park master-plan.

- **Law Enforcement**

Trustee J. Lougeay and Supervisor M. Bagby met with Saint Clair County Sheriff to discuss procedural changes. The Sheriff agreed to adopt the changes. Establishing a liaison officer, doing away with special patrol areas, doing away with special patrol timing and updating the monthly reporting were all agreed to.

- **Lighting & Zoning**

The committee has now created a form for tracking street light request and a form to report zoning violations. Conversations are ongoing with regard to the recognizing of positive residents and business owners in Stookey.

Highway Commissioner's Report

Commissioner B. Reed had recently totaled the number of significant highway projects within Stookey since his election. Of the 164 significant highway jobs, 141 have been completed by the Highway Department. Mowing for the year has been completed. A large project on Albany Station Road had recently been completed. The department is looking into buying a used F-350 pickup for use in snow removal.

Supervisor's Report

Supervisor M. Bagby stated an Annual Treasurer's Report had been filed. Town Hall repairs are near complete. Doors for the Hall have been ordered. Many residents have called to say how nice Stookey Park looks. There has been an incident of park vandalism. The accused were caught on camera and are being dealt with by the Sheriff's Department.

Discussion and Approval of ICRMT Insurance Renewal

Mr. Brad Drexler of Illinois Counties Risk Management Trust discussed options for the Stookey Board of Trustees to consider for the insurance policy renewal.

A motion to approve was made by Trustee R. Stookey and 2nd by Trustee A. Scharf.

Discussion: Trustee A. Scharf questioned a line item listed as, "Other." Mr. Drexler gave an explanation of instances where items or services would be listed as, "other," and the reasons why. A vote was taken and all voted yes.

Discussion and Approval of Township Healthcare Renewal

Mr. Brian Chrysler of Gallagher Insurance introduced Ms. Dawn Ninness. Ms. Ninness gave an overview of options for the Stookey Board of Trustees to consider in the renewal of the current healthcare plan.

A motion to approve the less expensive healthcare plan was made by Supervisor M. Bagby and 2nd by Trustee J. Lougeay.

A vote was taken and all voted yes.

Discussion of additional hours for Park Steward for Off-Season

The park is in need of services during the fall and winter months. Supervisor M. Bagby suggested to the board that limited hours be approved to pay the Park Steward as needed. With the coming winterization of the park restrooms, Supervisor M. Bagby suggested the rental of a portable restroom facility.

Discussion and Approval of Trash Cans & Pet Waste Stations for Park

The Parks & Rec Committee proposed the purchase of new trash cans and pet waste receptacles. The lowest bid for 15 trash cans and pet waste receptacles came to \$9,620.69. The final amount would come out to a lesser amount due to the Township being tax exempt.

Trustee R. Stookey made a motion to approve and Trustee A. Scharf 2nd.

Discussion: Trustee D. Weaver suggested the Township not purchase the proposed trashcans and pet receptacles. He thought it a waste of money and suggested the purchasing of a trashcan bonet to keep rain water from filling the trashcans.

A vote was taken. Trustees J. Lougeay and D. Weaver voted no. Trustees A. Scharf, R. Stookey and Supervisor M. Bagby voted yes. The motion passed.

Discussion and Approval of Public Censure Resolution

Due to the social media posting of false statements by Trustee D. Weaver, the Stookey Board of Trustees proposed a public censure. Supervisor M. Bagby read the censure resolution in full.

A motion to approve was made by Trustee A. Scharf and 2nd by Trustee R. Stookey.

Discussion: Trustee D. Weaver gave a rebuttal to the proposed censure.

A vote was taken. Trustee D. Weaver voted no. All others voted yes.

Discussion and Approval of Lighting & Zoning Forms

The Lighting and Zoning Committee has proposed the Board of Trustees approve a form to request a street light, as well as a form to report a possible zoning violation.

A motion was made by Trustee J. Lougeay and 2nd by Trustee R. Stookey.

A vote was taken. Trustee D. Weaver abstained. All others voted yes.

Discussion of Zoning Request

A request by the owner of the property listed at 109 Eiler Road has been made to zone it as, "heavy commercial." The decision is made by the Saint Clair County Board. The Stookey Trustee Board can however issue a statement of opposition. Trustee A. Scharf voiced his dislike of a possible zoning change. Trustee J. Lougeay also voiced concern with a rezoning request.

Discussion and Approval of Draft Tax Levy for Public Viewing

The Township has drafted a tax levy for public viewing and possible passage. There is to be a truth and taxation hearing before the December meeting. The announcement is to be published in the local newspaper. The amounts are \$580,000 for the Town budget and \$561,150 for the Road District.

Trustee J. Lougeay made a motion to approve and Trustee A. Scharf 2nd the motion.

Discussion: Trustee J. Lougeay questioned if the amount for the Road District was the maximum amount the board could levy. Commissioner B. Reed answered it was the maximum without a proposed public referendum.

A vote was taken and all voted yes.

A motion to end regular session at 8:18 pm was made by Trustee R. Stookey and 2nd by Trustee J. Lougeay.

A vote was taken and all voted yes.

Closed/Executive Session

Adjournment

A motion to enter back into regular session at 8:49 pm was made by Supervisor M. Bagby and 2nd by Trustee R. Stookey.

A vote was taken and all voted yes.

A motion to adjourn at 8:56 was made by Supervisor M. Bagby and 2nd by Trustee R. Stookey.

A vote was taken and all voted yes.