

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

## **Regular Meeting**

September 6<sup>th</sup> 2022

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**

Meeting minutes from the August 1<sup>st</sup> 2022 Public Bid Opening, August 1<sup>st</sup> 2022 Regular Meeting, and August 15<sup>th</sup> 2022 Special Meeting were prepared and distributed by Clerk F. Garner.

**Motion:** Trustee R. Stookey   **2<sup>nd</sup>:** Trustee A. Scharf

**Discussion:** Trustee J. Lougeay made mention of a spelling error.

**Vote:** All voted yes

**Carried**

### **Discussion and Approval of Bills**

The monthly bills were examined by the Board of Trustees.

**Motion:** Trustee J. Lougeay   **2<sup>nd</sup>:** Trustee A. Scharf

**Discussion:** Trustee J. Lougeay asked if anyone had booked the meeting hall for rental. Supervisor M. Bagby answered no. Trustee J. Lougeay then questioned a Highway Department bill. Trustee J. Lougeay also expressed dissatisfaction with the progression of the park master plan. He suggested a larger sample size of residents be surveyed. Trustee D. Weaver mentioned a bill for a recent air conditioning repair. It was his belief the Township had been overcharged for the small amount of work performed. Furthermore, Trustee D. Weaver stated he believed the Township should have a heating and cooling service contract in place. Supervisor M. Bagby stated there is currently a service contract in place.

**Vote:** All voted yes

**Carried**

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Late bills had come in for the County Aid Bridge and Permanent Road Funds.

**Motion:** Trustee J. Lougeay 2<sup>nd</sup>: Trustee A. Scharf

**Discussion:** None

**Vote:** All voted yes **Carried**

### **Public Participation**

Ms. Daphne Sumner and representatives from the Concordia United Church of Christ (John and Joan Mier, Becky Avara, and Edgar Stallmann) expressed thanks for being nominated for the Stookey Standout award.

### **Eagle Scout Project Presentation**

Mr. Allan Rick presented to the board his plans for a memorial to be designed in Stookey Park. The project is scheduled to be of no cost to the Township.

- **Discussion and Approval of Project**

**Motion to Approve:** Trustee A. Scharf 2<sup>nd</sup>: Trustee J. Lougeay

**Discussion:** The Board of Trustees made various suggestions on how Mr. Rick could improve his proposal. Trustee D. Weaver mentioned the selling of engraved bricks to pay for the project.

**Vote:** All voted yes **Carried**

### **Recognition of Stookey Standouts**

Ms. Daphne Sumner and representatives from the Concordia United Church of Christ were recognized and applauded by the Board of Trustees.

### **Committee Reports**

- **Parks & Rec**

Supervisor M. Bagby stated Mr. Vance Vyers could not be present at the meeting. The second meeting on the Stookey Athletic Park master plan took place in August. The next meeting had been set for October 13<sup>th</sup>.

- **Law Enforcement**

Trustee J. Lougeay asked Commissioner B. Reed to update the board on his efforts in mounting radar signs within Stookey. Commissioner B. Reed stated he had not received much help from the County Engineer. He then suggested using a trailer mounted radar sign. Trustee J. Lougeay stated when pricing radar signs, he had found the trailer mounted signs to cost a considerable amount more than the pole mounted signs. He then suggested building a trailer mounted sign.

- **Lighting & Zoning**

Trustee A. Scharf stated the committee had decided to replace streetlights at the corners of Dover Drive and Berkshire Drive, as well as the corner of Fern Drive and Villa Drive. Another streetlight request at 10 Howard had been denied by the committee. Trustee A. Scharf then mentioned a large amount of trash present on Princeton Drive. He stated the county had been informed about the problem. Trustee D. Weaver mentioned the possibility of having a large item pickup for residents.

### **Highway Commissioner's Report**

Many of the jobs caused by the recent storm had been completed. The final grass cutting for the year had been scheduled. The department was having a problem with stop signs being stolen in rural areas. A bond rating call with Standard & Poor had taken place and gone well. He then showed pictures of recently completed road projects.

### **Supervisor's Report**

Supervisor M. Bagby along with District #175 School Board Members had recently contacted The Illinois Commerce Commission to deal with the flooding issue at the corner of Westchester Drive and S. 74<sup>th</sup> Street. There was a sewer line break near the Knollwood Lift station. The break was not covered by insurance. The repairs were completed by the sewer department.

### **Discussion and Approval of New Stookey Standouts**

Anchor of Life Assembly of God Church, Ogles Neighborhood Watch, School District #175 and Ms. Beth Hitchcock were nominated by Trustee A. Scharf and the Lighting and Zoning Committee.

**Motion:** Trustee J. Lougeay   **2<sup>nd</sup>:** Trustee R. Stookey

**Discussion:** None

**Vote:** Trustee D. Weaver abstained; all others voted yes - **Carried**

### **Discussion of Possible Trash Carrier Referendum**

The question of should the Town of Stookey secure the service of a single trash collector service had been brought up by the Board of Trustees. For the board to submit a request for proposal for a single trash hauler, a public referendum would have to be passed by a majority of Stookey Township voters. The question was asked of the board, as well as the residents present at the meeting.

The consensus of attendees was to move forward with the process of obtaining a single trash collection service.

### **Discussion of Possible Power Consolidation Referendum**

The question of should the Town of Stookey secure an energy broker in order to lower the cost of powering homes was put before the Board of Trustees. The process would entail the passage of a public referendum by Stookey Township voters. Attendees of the meeting were also asked for their opinions.

The consensus of attendees and board members was split with some in favor and others opposed. The issue was therefore tabled.

### **Discussion and Approval of Streetlight Improvement**

The Lighting and Zoning Committee has recommended new streetlights be placed at the corners of Berkshire Drive and Dover Drive, as well as the corner of Fern Drive and Villa Drive.

**Motion:** Trustee R. Stookey 2<sup>nd</sup>: Trustee J. Lougeay

**Discussion:** Trustee D. Weaver questioned the cost of the new streetlights. Trustee A. Scharf answered the cost would be approximately \$500.

**Voted:** Trustee D. Weaver vote no; all others voted yes - **Carried**

### **Discussion of Healthcare Renewal**

Stookey Township received notice stating the current health insurance plan would not be available for renewal for the year 2023. The question of whether to continue with the Township's current insurance broker (Gallagher) or to choose another was to be debated.

Trustee R. Stookey stated broker agencies could give quotes on the same insurance products. He also stated he would prefer having a local entity. Trustees J. Lougeay and D. Weaver suggested the Township receive a quote from another provider. Supervisor M. Bagby ended the discussion by agreeing to receive a quote from another provider.

### **Discussion of Paving Project at Town Hall**

An agreement to accept a bid to pave the township property at 313 Eiler Road had been previously voted on. However, the chosen contractor refused to sign a contract to complete the job. The question of bidding out the project a second time was put before the board. Trustee D. Weaver stated he had spoken with multiple company representatives who would like to bid on the project. Trustee J. Lougeay agreed the project should be put up for bid a second time.

### **Discussion and Approval of Town Council & Rates**

Stookey Township and law firm Sorling Northrup had recently agreed to end business dealings, except for work being performed for the Highway Department. The hiring of a new law firm was put before the board. Supervisor M. Bagby requested a motion to accept an increase in hourly pay to Ford Harrison, LLP and to agree to take on OKGC Law, LLC as legal counsel.

**Motion:** Trustee J. Lougeay 2<sup>nd</sup>: Trustee R. Stookey

**Discussion:** Supervisor M. Bagby gave quotes of hourly rates from law firms OKGC Law, LLC and Ford Harrison. Ford Harrison had recently increased their rates.

**Vote:** All voted yes **Carried**

#### **Discussion of Park Master Plan Update**

PDS had recently finished the second phase of completing the park master plan. The next phase would look at devising a layout for the park. The next porting of the plan is due to be completed for review by October 13<sup>th</sup> 2022. Trustee J. Lougeay stated he believed PDS was being paid a large sum of money and he was not seeing the value for it. Supervisor M. Bagby stated the recommendations of PDS did not have to be implemented unless the Board of Trustees voted to do so. Trustee D. Weaver agreed he was also skeptical of what PDS was suggesting the township implement. He suggested making small improvements to the property in order to save tax dollars.

#### **Discussion and Approval of Annual Audit**

The issue of the yearly audit was tabled due to possible litigation.

#### **Closed/Executive Session**

Supervisor M. Bagby requested a motion be made to adjourn to closed session at 8:08 pm.

**Motion:** Trustee D. Weaver 2<sup>nd</sup>: Trustee J. Lougeay

**Discussion:** None

**Vote:** All voted yes **Carried**

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Supervisor M. Bagby requested a motion to enter regular session at 8:39 pm.

**Motion:** Trustee R. Stookey 2<sup>nd</sup>: Trustee J. Lougeay

**Discussion:** None

**Vote:** All voted yes **Carried**

#### **Adjournment**

Supervisor M. Bagby requested a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:39 pm.

**Motion:** Trustee D. Weaver 2<sup>nd</sup>: Trustee R. Stookey

**Discussion:** None

**Vote:** All voted yes **Carried**