

February 12, 2008

The regular monthly meeting of the Seneca Township Board of Trustee was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Supervisor Ersel Schuster at the Seneca Township Building located at 16506 Garden Valley Road, Woodstock, Illinois.

Pledge of Allegiance

Township Officials in Attendance: Supervisor Ersel Schuster, Trustees Rosemary Bartman, Susan Mathews, Thomas Dahlfors, Michael O'Leary, Road Commissioner Robert Helfers, and Clerk Dawn Seemann. Absent Officials: Assessor Donald Andrews.

Guests in Attendance: Don & Sharon Purdom, Robert Pope, Tom Zanck, and Mary McCann.

Public Speaking: None.

Planning Commission: - Information/review/action

As a courtesy to the petitioners and their attorney, Schuster asked the board if they minded moving item b letter "i" under Planning Commission up in the agenda and addressing the issue at this point? Dahlfors motioned to approve moving item "i" up on the agenda. Second by O'Leary. Motion passed.

1. New petitions to be considered for action and/or review by the town board:
 - i. Petition #80-01, #80-02; #80-03; and #80-04 – Melvin & Donald Purdom Petitions - Attorney Tom Zanck, representing the Purdoms, explained to the board what the petitioners are asking for and the reasoning behind it. He described the four 5.68 acre parcels that the petitioners would like to rezone from A-1 to A-2 in order to build a home on each parcel. Attorney Zanck used posters to help show the locations of the four parcels on the existing property. Following the presentation, Schuster stated that the board would resume the agenda as planned, and the petitioners were welcome to stay if they chose.

Approval of Minutes: Dahlfors motioned to approve the January 8, 2008 Regular Monthly Minutes as presented. Second by O'Leary. Motion passed.

- Approval of the January 24, 2008 Special Meeting Minutes was postponed.

Audit of Current Bills:

Road District - O'Leary motioned to approve the Road District bills for payment for the period of January 9, 2008 through February 12, 2008 in the amount of \$9,591.26. Second by Dahlfors. Voting yes: Bartman, Mathews, Dahlfors, O'Leary, Schuster. Voting no: None. Motion passed.

Town Fund– Dahlfors motioned to approve the Town Fund bills for payment for the period of January 9, 2008 through February 12, 2008 in the amount of \$17,010.83. Second by Mathews. Voting yes: Bartman, Mathews, Dahlfors, O'Leary, Schuster. Voting no: None. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: January 1, 2008 through January 31, 2008, as listed below:

Illinois Fund– O'Leary motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report for the Illinois Fund for the period of January 1, 2008 through January 31, 2008. Second by Dahlfors. Motion passed.

Illinois Fund	Previous Balance	Trans to Prime	Expenses	Income	Ending Balance
General Assistance	\$24,990.27	0	0	\$98.13	\$25,088.40
Town Fund	\$137,832.89	0	\$15,982.02	\$3,145.21	\$124,996.08
Road & Bridge	\$134,596.97	0	\$15,038.75	\$2,608.12	\$122,166.34
Permanent Hard Road	\$105,765.52	0	\$4,652.08	\$1,803.06	\$102,916.50

Building & Equipment	\$31,784.15	0	0	\$469.66	\$32,253.81
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Prime Fund – Dahlfors motioned to approve the Treasurer’s Report for the Prime Fund for the period of January 1, 2008 through January 31, 2008. Second by Bartman. Motion passed.

Prime Fund	Previous Balance	Trans Between Funds	Expenses	Income	Ending Balance
General Assistance	\$74,473.96	0	0	\$264.82	\$74,738.78
Town Fund	\$262,325.34	0	0	\$932.80	\$263,258.14
Road & Bridge	\$120,397.20	0	0	\$428.12	\$120,825.32

General Assistance: Schuster has nothing to report this month.

Clerk’s Report: Seemann informed the board that she attended the Marengo Community High School Board of Education meeting on January 14, 2008. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss participation between Seneca Township and the high school as part of the Pandemic Flu planning process. At that meeting the school board approved the use of the high school as an emergency shelter for Seneca Township residents.

Road Commissioner’s Report: Helfers stated that we are about out of salt. The problem is because of the high demand the salt is not readily available. The cost per ton has gone from \$40/ton when we first purchased it for this winter to \$140-\$150/ton. Helfers feels this is outrageous and will not pay that. He will mix Birdseye with the remaining salt we have for as long as he can. After which, he’ll just be spreading sand on the roads for traction. The estimated cost for fuel alone every time the plows go out is approximately \$250-\$300.

- The roads are getting rough due to the frost underneath the roads.
- Helfers received a quote for blacktopping 4 miles of road of \$370,000. The prep work and shouldering is done by our own township crew. This year just over 2 miles of road will be blacktopped at a cost of approximately \$165,000.
- Helfers stated that with the cost of blacktopping, salt, etc. going up, he’ll have no choice but to transfer funds from the Road & Bridge Fund and Building & Equipment funds in the township’s Prime Fund account into the Road District’s Permanent Hard Road fund to cover these costs. This will force a major tax increase in 2009 for the Road District.

Assessor’s Report: Assessor Andrews is absent tonight. No report.

Planning Commission: - Information/review/action

- A. **Commission Activity Report – Committee review/action on pending petitions:** The Purdom petitions were discussed.
- B. **New Petitions to be considered for action and/or review by the town board:**
 - a. **Petition #80-01; #80-02; #80-03, #80-04 – Melvin & Donald Purdom petitions:**
(Continued):
After further discussion regarding these petitions, Dahlfors motioned to approve the request for rezoning of these parcels. Second by Bartman. More discussion took place. After which, a roll call vote was taken: Voting yes to approve the request for rezoning: Dahlfors and Bartman. Voting no: O’Leary, Mathews, and Schuster. Motion failed.
- O’Leary motioned to deny the request for rezoning and directed Supervisor Schuster to draft a letter to the ZBA based on the points as outlined during the discussion. Second by Mathews. Voting yes to deny the request for rezoning: O’Leary, Mathews, Schuster. Voting no: Dahlfors and Bartman. Motion passed to deny the petition.

- b. **Petition #07-50 – Rick Bellairs – Menge Rd. property – A1 to E5 estate:** This petition was withdrawn from the ZBA agenda.
- c. **Petition #07-? – Sam & Cindy Romano – Garden Valley Road – A1 to A1-C:** The ZBA voted to approve the petition. Schuster gave copies of the transcript from the voting meeting to the board for their records.
- C. **Update – Misc. zoning matters:** Nothing this month.
- D. **Township Land Use Plan – Questionnaire Recap:** Schuster reported that approximately 80 to 90 questionnaires were completed and returned to her. She has started to lay out a grid to record the feedback. She is hoping to have the results ready for our next meeting.

Old Business: Information/review/action

- A. **Building Project– update** Schuster & O’Leary met with ALA yesterday. They discussed the changes that were discussed at the January Special Meeting. The preliminary drawings should be done by the end of next week. Helpers feels an onsite inspection of the roof while there is snow on it is important to show how the proposed roof line won’t work.

New Business: Information/review/action

- A. **Legislation – TOI Perspective** Nothing to discuss this month.
- B. **Town Budget 2008/2009 – Place on Display:** Dahlfors motioned to accept and place on display the 2008/2009 Town Fund Budget as of March 7, 2008 to be approved at the April 8, 2008 Budget Hearing meeting at 6:00 p.m. Second by O’Leary. Motion passed.
- C. **Road District Budget 2008/2009 – Place on Display:** Dahlfors motioned to accept and place on display the 2008/2009 Road District Budget as of March 7, 2008 to be approved at the April 8, 2008 Budget Hearing meeting at 6:15 p.m. Second by O’Leary. Motion passed.
- D. **Pandemic Flu/Emergency Services Committee – Update:** The committee will meet tomorrow night. Schuster started the work on the draft crisis plan. She also contacted the county to get an extension on the January 31st deadline. She asked the board if it was okay for her to send the completed draft plan to the county without the board seeing it first? They okayed her sending the plan to the county since it was only a draft.

Other:

- Schuster reminded the board about the Education Seminar TOI is hosting in Rockford on April 18th. All four trustees and Schuster plan on attending this seminar.

Motion to Adjourn: At 9:55 p.m. O’Leary motioned to adjourn tonight’s regular monthly meeting. Second by Bartman. Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dawn Seemann
Township Clerk