

SENECA TOWNSHIP
Regular Monthly Minutes
January 13, 2009

The regular monthly meeting of the Seneca Township Board of Trustees 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.

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

Guests in Attendance: Scott Swanson, Linda Moore, Jim Kagel, Bob Pope.

Public Speaking: None.

Minutes: Dahlfors motioned to approve the December 9, (15th) 2008 regular monthly minutes as presented. Second by O’Leary. Hearing no comments or corrections, motion passed.

Audit of Current Bills:

Road District – Mathews motioned to approve the Road District bills for payment for the period of December 10, 2008 through January 13, 2009 in the amount of \$7,427.95. Second by Dahlfors. Voting yes: Bartman, Mathews, Dahlfors, O’Leary, Schuster. Voting no: None. Motion passed.

Town Fund – Mathews motioned to approve the Town Fund bills for payment for the period of December 10, 2008 through January 13, 2009 in the amount of \$55,627.42. Second by Dahlfors. Voting yes: Bartman, Mathews, Dahlfors, O’Leary, Schuster. Voting no: None. Motion passed.

Treasurer’s Report: December 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008, as listed below:

Illinois Fund – Bartman motioned to approve the Illinois Fund for the period of December 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008. Second by Dahlfors. Motion passed.

Illinois Fund	Prev. Bal.	Trans/Prime	Expenses	Income	Ending Bal.
General Assistance	\$26,256.13	0	0	\$23.18	\$26,279.31
Town Fund	\$82,965.99	0	\$63,055.44	\$1,296.65	\$21,207.20
Road & Bridge	\$144,665.16	0	\$5,327.07	\$3,907.46	\$143,245.55
Permanent Hard Road	\$87,506.36	0	\$12,627.17	\$684.60	\$75,563.79
Building & Equipment	\$46,340.44	0	\$4,900.00	\$182.72	\$41,623.16

Prime Fund – O’Leary motioned to approve the Prime Fund for the period of December 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008. Second by Bartman. Motion passed.

Prime Fund	Prev. Bal.	Trans/Funds	Expenses	Int. Income	Ending Bal.
General Assistance	\$76,123.69	0	0	\$62.35	\$76,186.04
Town Fund	\$103,050.23	0	0	\$84.41	\$103,134.64
Road & Bridge	\$123,064.24	0	0	\$100.80	\$123,165.04

General Assistance Report: Supervisor Schuster had nothing to report this month.

Clerk's Report: Clerk Seemann informed the board and candidates in attendance who are running for township positions in the April Consolidated Election that the yellow Economic of Interest Statement must be filed after January 1, 2009 in order to be valid for the election. The candidates not present were informed of this by phone. In addition, she reminded them that the filing date for the petitions begins on Monday, January 19th from 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm at her home. The deadline to file is January 26, 2009 at 8:00 pm.

Road Commissioner's Report: Road Commissioner Helfers updated the board about the snow/salt situation. He stated that since the 1st of December through today (January 13th) they have put over 4500 miles on their trucks plowing snow. In addition, in that 44 days they've been out 37 times plowing, which is ahead of last year. Originally, he had brought in approximately 240 ton of rock salt for \$30,000, which is the amount he had budgeted, and he had about 220 ton of birdseye sand that they were mixing 1:1 with the salt to make it go farther, and in the last 3-4 weeks he had to haul in 272 ton of plain #2 sand because it was obvious he was going to be short for the rest of the winter. There is only one semi-truck load of salt left for the remainder of the winter. The #2 sand will now be mixed with the salt at a 2:1 ratio.

- The McHenry County Road Commissioners have a meeting Thursday and there will be someone there to inform them about the salt situation, what's available and what the costs are.
- Helfers is responsible to maintain 41 miles of road (82 lane miles).

Assessors Report: Assessor Andrews reported he had received three short sales (not a full sale – it means before the people lost it, they sold it) and one foreclosure in the last 5-6 weeks.

- Andrews is updating the assessment cards for next year. He feels next year will probably be the last year we use cards because everything will be on computer.
- Andrews bought some chairs for the assessor's office. He stated a new computer will have to be purchased, as well as tables and other supplies.

Planning Commission Report: Information/review/action

A. Commission Activity Report – Committee reviewed/action on pending petitions:

The planning commission did not meet this month. There is no report.

B. Zoning petitions for consideration, review and/or action by the town board:

- a. **Merryman Petition** – This case was supposed to be in front of Judge MacIntyre today, but one of the state's attorney members made the comment that Merryman's Attorneys had not filed their briefs. Therefore, the court date was continued again.

C. Zoning Petitions – status:

- a. **Petition #08-58- Teresa Krafcsin – 14606 W. South St., Woodstock: A1 to A1C** – This petition was denied by the county board.
- b. **Petition #08-55- Wilbur & Clifford Kamholtz – 19208 River Rd., Marengo: A1 to A2** – This petition was passed by the county board.
- c. **Petition #08-13- John & Kristine Benoit – A1 to A1C – Commercial Kennel:** Schuster will check into whether or not a permit was given.

- d. **Petition #08-30- Steven & Susan Schmieding – Request for a variance:** No ordinance has been filed. No permit has been issued. No other information at this point.
- e. **Petition #08-21- Kawayoke – CUP:** This petition was passed by the county board.
- f. **Petition #08-51- Michael & Cynthia Winters – Request for a variance:** A permit was seen in the window of the residence. Schuster has checked into this and has not received a response from the county as of tonight.

Old Business: Information/review/action

- A. **Building Project – Update / Letter of Intent – Driveway completion:** Schuster informed the board that they need to make a decision on the driveway issue. In order to get the occupancy permit we have to have a letter sent to the county indicating that we plan to finish the driveway off by a certain period. Our builder, Rosemann and sons, had told the inspector that he thought it would be somewhere around July-August. The board stated the date of August 31st would be a fair date of completion.
- In addition, the county also needs a notarized letter confirming a compliance date of the soil stabilization plan. Schuster explained that this means that the area where the soil has been dug up needs to have a date as to when we are going to either seed it or pave it. Per the original plans regarding the front parking area, it was determined to stabilize that area with grass until we make a final decision on that portion of the lot. Once these two letters have been sent to the courthouse we should be able to get the occupancy permit on the building for the offices.
- Prior to tonight's meeting, the board met at 6:00 pm at the townhall for the final walk-thru inspection of the addition to the townhall building. A number of items were discussed that need to be addressed with the builder. The board will make a list of these items and fax them to Schuster so she could forward them on to Rosemann & Sons.
- The water fountain that was originally going to be installed will now be replaced with a bottled water unit rather than having another unit using up power.

New Business: Information/review/action

- A. **Building – rental/public use:** Schuster has received a request from a church to use the townhall for public use for a church group. She will check into rental policies.
- B. **Legislation – TOI Perspective:** The TOI website program was addressed in the magazine. Schuster feels this may not exactly be what we are looking for.
- C. **Amend and Put on Display the 2008-2009 Town Fund Budget:** Schuster informed the board that the 2008-2009 budget was set up with estimates as to the cost of the building addition and now that we know the dollar amounts it needs to be amended to bring in the actual figures. Schuster explained to the board what she did to amend the budget. The amended budget will be on display until the hearing which will be set for 6:45 pm on March 10, 2009. Seemann will publish this hearing notice in the newspaper no less than 30 days prior to the hearing date.

Other: Information/review/action

- Schuster asked each board member to take a look at the TOI website and see what they think. She has checked into another place that could set up and maintain a website for us, and found that for \$39/month we could get a new website started. She asked the board how they felt about getting it this in motion. The board felt we should find out who else is using this company and get their opinions about the quality of support and the program itself prior to signing up. The current website we have will continue to be down for at least another month.
- Schuster drafted a newsletter for the board to review. She is open for additional suggestions that could be added to the newsletter.
- Information was received from the McHenry County Lincoln Bicentennial Birthday Committee inviting us to attend the "Abraham Lincoln Birthday Celebration."
- The McHenry County Extension Office sent information regarding local government education programs.
- The driveway invoice issue regarding the gravel is still in question. Schuster and O'Leary will be getting together to discuss this prior to asking the representative from that company to address the issue with us.

Motion to Adjourn: At 8:14 pm Dahlfors motioned to adjourn tonight's regular monthly meeting. Second by Mathews. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Seemann
Township Clerk