

June 12, 2007

The regular monthly meeting of the Seneca Township Board of Trustee was called to order at 6:18 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, Assessor Donald Andrew, and Clerk Dawn Seemann.

Guests in Attendance: Wawanna Widoff.

Public Speaking: None.

Approval of Minutes: Dahlfors made a motion to approve the May 8, 2007 Regular Monthly Minutes as presented. Seconded by Mathews. Motion passed.

- Bartman made a motion to approve the May 29, 2007 Special Meeting Minutes as presented. Seconded by Dahlfors. Motion passed.

Audit of Current Bills:

Road District – Dahlfors made a motion to approve the Road District bills for payment for the period of May 9, 2007 through June 12, 2007 in the amount of \$12,281.33. Seconded by O'Leary. Voting yes: Bartman, Mathews, Dahlfors, O'Leary, Schuster. Voting no: None. Motion passed.

Town Fund– Mathews made a motion to approve the Town Fund bills for payment for the period of May 9, 2007 through June 12, 2007 in the amount of \$6,604.07. Seconded by Dahlfors. Motion passed. Voting yes: Bartman, Mathews, Dahlfors, O'Leary, Schuster. Voting no: None. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: May 1, 2007 through May 31, 2007, as listed below:

Illinois Fund: Dahlfors made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report for the Illinois Fund for the period of May 1, 2007 through May 31, 2007. Seconded by Bartman. Motion passed.

Illinois Fund	Previous Balance	Trans to Prime	Expenses	Income	Ending Balance
General Assistance	\$23,514.68	0	\$1,130.00	\$98.90	\$22,483.58
Town Fund	\$70,416.87	0	\$14,282.09	\$1,296.33	\$57,431.11
Road & Bridge	\$88,630.87	0	\$12,593.03	\$7,986.49	\$84,024.33
Permanent Hard Road	\$78,290.47	0	\$862.16	\$337.63	\$77,765.94
Building & Equipment	\$7,712.32	0	0	\$33.27	\$7,745.59

Prime Fund – Mathews made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report for the Prime Fund for the period of May 1, 2007 through May 31, 2007. Seconded by Dahlfors. Motion passed.

Prime Fund	Previous Balance	Trans Between Funds	Expenses	Income	Ending Balance
General Assistance	\$72,013.83	0	0	\$318.33	\$72,332.16
Town Fund	\$253,659.74	0	0	\$1,121.29	\$254,781.03
Road & Bridge	\$116,420.05	0	0	\$514.63	\$116,934.68

General Assistance: Schuster reported that she had two calls this week. One call was regarding a cancer case. To date, no applications have been received.

Clerk's Report: Seemann has nothing to report this month.

Road Commissioner's Report: Helpers reported that last year the Lung Association really abused our roads during their annual bike ride with painting them up, throwing litter on them, and no one was policing it. Due to this ongoing issue with this and other organizations the Township Road Commissioners have created an ordinance and permit fee for organizations who want to use township roads. This ordinance enforces rules that include, but are not limited to, no painting on our pavement, if you put up signs you take them down, and pick up your litter. Four townships are included in this ordinance: Marengo, Dunham, Chemung, and Seneca. Helpers added that after this ordinance was passed the Lung Association was again here marking up Seneca Township Roads. The Marengo Township Road Commissioner caught them and told them they can't do that anymore and explained that they need to obtain a permit, which Helpers explained upset the organization, but they did follow up with purchasing the permit. The ordinance was reviewed by an attorney. Seemann will post the ordinance on our township website and submit it to the Northwest Herald newspaper for publishing. Mathews suggested possibly posting signs on the roads to inform people of this ordinance.

- This year's paving program will begin after July 1st. The only road being paved this year is Collins Road. Helpers explained that this is due to the extreme cost of blacktop this year. The cost to pave Collins road is \$73,000 for one and a-half miles of road. He added that a special third bid letting was offered this year and therefore, since the Kishwaukee Estates subdivision roads were in such bad shape he decided to get a bid on the paving for those roads, which came in at \$40,000. The total charge for approximately two miles of road is \$113,000. Helpers added that he used to be able to do five miles of road for about that price, and said it will be worse next year. The last bid he had for blacktop was approximately \$49/ton.

- Helpers informed the board that he is still working with the state and county with regards to getting the required amount of motor fuel tax for our roads. He stated that he has been fighting to get this corrected for more than a year. He is supposed to get paid for forty miles of road and is currently only getting paid for thirty-six.

Assessor's Report: Assessor Andrews stated that the county is "late on everything" this year. Normally by the end of May he receives the new tax assessment book and hasn't yet. He also hasn't received the equalizer estimate for this year or the farm reports. He said he is doing a lot of picture taking. He added that every four years he has to visit every parcel.

Planning Commission: - Information/review/action

- Schuster was approached by Barb Wheeler, McHenry County Planning & Development Department Committee Chairman, who said she is ready to meet with people to discuss their concerns. Schuster will try to set up a meeting with her.

- A. **Commission Activity Report**– There is no report tonight, but they did meet.
- B. **Petitions to be considered for action and/or review by the town board:**
 - i. **Petition – 07-34 Kohley: A-1 to R-1:** 600' S. of Perkins & Franklinville Roads – We had questioned the rationale for the R-1 request rather than an A-2 with variances. Schuster stated that the county board members are questioning that too. This petition will be on the ZBA voting meeting on June 26th.
 - ii. **Romano Petition** – None of these petitions have been filed yet. This petition is for a photography studio.
 - iii. **Information** was given to the board regarding a proposed subdivision on Menge Rd.
- C. **Update in Petitions Pending County Board Action:**
 - i. **Petition #07-? – Enbridge Energy Limited** – 4204 Franklinville Rd., Union, IL – CUP - This petition is on the agenda for the ZBA voting meeting on June 26th. Schuster stated there is a lot of opposition due to groundwater concerns.
 - ii. **Petition #07-08 – Merryman Aggregate LLC** – South St. – CUP – This petition is still pending. Ms. Wawanna Widoff spoke to the board regarding this petition and her concerns. She brought copies of some research information for the board to review. Ms.

Widoff included a list of the County Board members' names & phone numbers with the information she provided. The group for which she represents has a website for anyone to visit if they would like to read about the gravel pit and how it will affect this area. The website address is: www.notforpit.com. In addition, a petition with 1000 signatures against the Merryman Aggregate pit in Seneca Township was presented to the ZBA by this group of concerned citizens.

- Schuster told the board that a reporter had approached her and asked her for copies of some issues we have in the township because he is very interested in them.

Old Business: Information/review/action

- A. **Building Project– update** – Schuster let the board know that no decisions have been made by the architect on our questions from the special meeting held on May 29th.
 - Helpers stated that there is a 200 amp service that we are being charged for that hasn't been used for a long time. He feels it would be beneficial to utilize this existing 200 amp service rather than put in a second service since this one already exists. He added that the town hall and the road district each stand by itself as far as the electric is concerned.
- B. **Review of the Annual Town Meeting** – Nothing to discuss.
- C. **Citizens Audit Committee – nominations** – We still need three people to audit our books. Please let Seemann know who would be interested as soon as possible.
 - Schuster stated that some townships feel the need for CPA audits every year. Last year we paid approximately \$5,000 for this audit. She asked the board how they felt? The board felt that the normal every four year CPA audit and the other three years having the three resident annual audit is sufficient.
 - Another issue Schuster asked the board about was whether they wanted her to continue using the 3-part vouchers for the bills or begin doing them on the computer? The board felt the way she is doing it is the safest, most efficient way to do the bills at this time.
 - Schuster recently went to a Supervisor's Training Seminar and at that seminar the procedures to follow when the Supervisor is no longer able to carry out their duties were discussed. Schuster passed these procedures on to the board.
- D. **McHenry County 2030 Planning participation** – Copies of a letter regarding the McHenry County 2030 Plan were given to the board for review. Schuster feels it is extremely important to participate in this plan.
- E. **Emergency Services – Township role / follow-up** – Information was given to the board for their records.
- F. **Imagine McHenry County** – Schuster gave the board copies of the recap of the survey from the Imagine McHenry County group. This information could help our planning commission with our land use plan update.

New Business: Information/review/action

- A. **Legislation – TOI Perspective** – House Bill 35737 reads, "Provides that the township supervisor and clerk shall be notified when a municipality annexes township territory." This bill has passed the House and unanimously passed out of the Senate Local Government Committee. Schuster felt this was good information for the board.
 - Bartman read the question: "Can a township board member (elected official) receive payment for attending the annual meeting?" The answer was, "No: At the time of the annual town meeting, board members are attending the meeting as a resident of the township, not as a board member." Bartman felt the fact that board members attend as a resident and not as a board member was an important statement to address. The Seneca Township board members have never been paid for Annual Town Meetings.
- B. **Prevailing Wage Ordinances – adopt** – O'Leary made a motion to approve the Road District and Town Fund Prevailing Wage Ordinances. Seconded by Dahlfors. Voting yes: Bartman, Mathews, Dahlfors, O'Leary. Voting no: Schuster. Motion passed.

- C. **Investment Policy – Update/adopt** – Dahlfors made a motion to update and adopt our Investment Policy. Seconded by Mathews. Voting yes: Bartman, Mathews, Dahlfors, Schuster. Voting no: O’Leary. Motion passed.
- D. **Ethics Ordinance – Update/adopt** – Dahlfors made a motion to update and adopt our Ethics Ordinance. Seconded by Mathews. Voting yes: Bartman, Mathews, Dahlfors, O’Leary, Schuster. Voting no: None. Motion passed.
- E. **TORIMA – Risk Management Bond / & related matters** – Information was given to the Board for their records.
- F. **McHenry County – Inoperable Vehicle Ordinance** – Schuster informed the board that McHenry County will be updating their Inoperable Vehicle Ordinance next Tuesday. This will help us get more resolution with our issues. The Sheriff’s department enforces this ordinance.
- G. **Newsletter / topic suggestions** – Schuster asked for suggestions for the newsletter. The following were suggested: Updates on the building addition; Resolution for rally permits required; Addressing specific zoning issues; Junk Vehicle Ordinance; Credit Card fraud. Any other suggestions should be e-mailed to Schuster.

Other:Information/review/action

- The Reforest McHenry County Project group has sent a letter asking for donations of such things as five-gallon buckets, shovels, 6’ steel posts, or sponsoring of a tree. This is the group that contacted us regarding them planting Oak trees on the town hall property if we were interested. The group will be having various groups such as the boy scouts help with planting Oak trees. For more information contact Executive Director Lisa Haderlein at 815-337-9502.

Motion to Adjourn: At 9:15 p.m. Dahlfors made a motion to adjourn tonight’s regular monthly meeting. Seconded by Bartman. Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dawn Seemann
Township Clerk