

March 11, 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 Thomas Dahlfors and Michael O'Leary, Road Commissioner Robert Helfers, Assessor Donald Andrews, and Clerk Dawn Seemann.
Absent Officials: Trustees Rosemary Bartman and Susan Mathews.

Guests in Attendance: Robert Pope, Art & Patti Schueler, Tom Zanck, Roy Kunz, Paul Lawrin, and Kim Watts.

Public Speaking: Paul Lawrin voiced his opinion regarding the Bockman Road parcel (Purdom petition). He stated he doesn't have a problem with the petition, but is concerned about the property behind it and what will be done with it in the future. He questions the future plans with regards to possible development and water issues. He stated that, "He just wants to know what is actually going on and doesn't want to be misled."

- Roy Kunz also spoke about the Purdom petition stating that he doesn't have a problem with it either, but does question why there is a 90 foot easement running between the parcels. He's worried it could become a "superhighway."

Approval of Minutes: Dahlfors motioned to approve the February 12, 2008 regular monthly minutes as presented. Second by O'Leary. Helfers amended the minutes on page two under the Road Commissioner's Report by correcting the accounts the funds were transferred from and to. Dahlfors approved the minutes with amendment. Second by O'Leary. Motion passed.

- O'Leary motioned to approve the January 24, 2008 Special Meeting Minutes as presented. Second by Dahlfors. Motion passed.

Audit of Current Bills:

Road District - O'Leary motioned to approve the Road District bills for payment for the period of February 13, 2008 through March 11, 2008 in the amount of \$10,752.12. Second by O'Leary. Voting yes: 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 February 13, 2008 through March 11, 2008 in the amount \$20,730.27. Second by O'Leary. Voting yes: Dahlfors, O'Leary, Schuster. Voting no: None. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: February 1, 2008 through February 29, 2008, as listed below:

Illinois Fund - O'Leary motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report for the Illinois Fund for the period of February 1, 2008 through February 29, 2008. Second by Dahlfors. Motion passed.

Illinois Fund	Previous Balance	Trans to Prime	Expenses	Income	Ending Balance
General Assistance	\$25,088.40	0	0	\$51.54	\$25,139.94
Town Fund	\$124,996.08	0	\$6,258.63	\$258.63	\$118,996.08
Road & Bridge	\$122,166.34	0	\$8,364.19	\$3,750.41	\$117,552.56
Permanent Hard Road	\$102,916.50	0	\$1,252.62	\$210.58	\$101,874.46
Building & Equipment	\$32,253.81	0	0	\$66.27	\$32,320.08

Prime Fund –Dahlfors motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report for the Prime Fund for the period of February 1, 2008 though February 29, 2008. Second by O'Leary. Motion passed.

Prime Fund	Previous Balance	Trans Between Funds	Expenses	Income	Ending Balance
General Assistance	\$74,738.78	0	0	\$196.86	\$74,935.64
Town Fund	\$263,258.14	0	0	\$693.42	\$263,951.56
Road & Bridge	\$120,825.32	0	0	\$318.25	\$121,143.57

- **Prime Fund Transfers:** Dahlfors motioned to approve the transfer of \$55,201.31 from the Road District Road & Bridge fund to the Permanent Hard Road fund. Second by O'Leary. Voting yes: Dahlfors, O'Leary, Schuster. Voting no: None. Motion passed.

- O'Leary motioned to approve the transfer of \$21,980.73 from the Road District Building & Equipment fund to the Permanent Hard Road fund. Second by Dahlfors. Voting yes: Dahlfors, O'Leary, Schuster. Voting no: None. Motion passed.

- The transfer of funds from the Town Fund to the Building Fund was postponed until the next meeting.

General Assistance: Schuster reported that she has another case but no decision has been made.

Clerk's Report: Seemann informed the board that the Economic Interest Statements were mailed on 3/7/08 and everyone should be receiving them soon if they haven't already. They must be filled out and mailed back the county clerk by May 1st to avoid a fine.

Road Commissioner's Report: Helfers stated that he was glad to see the warmer weather.

- The salt order for 2008-2009 was placed. Helfers ordered 500 ton last year and the same amount was ordered this year. He is planning on going back to the sand/salt 1:1 ratio. This will give us approximately 1000 ton of product to treat the ice and snow with. Helfers added that we went through approximately 1200 ton of salt this year. Last year the sand cost was approximately \$4.00/ton and salt had the cost of approximately \$50.00/ton. Helfers said this year's salt bid won't be known until the fall. - The blacktop program has begun. Helfers stated he has been made aware that the bridge on Highbridge Road needs to be repaired. He was given an approximate cost of \$40,000 to \$60,000 to repair the bridge.

- The roads were posted today.

- Helfers informed the board that the roads are the roughest he's ever seen. This is due to the amount of frost that is under them.

- Schuster responded to a letter she received from Attorney Terrance McKenna regarding a Seneca Township resident wanting to install a streetlight at the intersection of Deerpass and Collins Roads at the resident's expense. The letter stated the township's denial of such a request for liability reasons.

Assessor's Report: Assessor Andrews stated that he is keeping up with the correspondent permits. He informed the board that he wasn't able to do any measuring due to health reasons, but stated that he feels he is not that far behind.

- Schuster offered the suggestion to him that should he feel the need, he should ask for help with the Assessor duties.

Andrews stated he will get a copy of the certificate required by the state for Clerk Seemann to put on file.

Planning Commission: - Information/review/action

A. **Commission Activity Report – Committee review/action on pending petitions:** The committee had no pending petitions to review.

B. **Attorney Tom Zanck – Request to address the board regarding potential zoning petition:** Schuster explained to the petitioners and Attorney Zanck that because no petition has been

brought before the board, we will only be able to listen. No consensus could be made at tonight's meeting. Attorney Zanck then proceeded to speak on behalf of Art & Patti Schueler regarding their contract to purchase land to which they would like to rezone to E5 Estate and build 12 homes on. Eleven of the lots will be 1-2 acres, and the other lot will be 5 acres. The McHenry County Defenders were also invited to input their opinions/suggestions regarding this issue. It was noted that under the conservation design concept of the subdivision ordinance the petitioners must allocate 70% of their property as open space. Attorney Zanck stated that approximately only 30 acres of this land is buildable. The rest is wetland/flood plane. Upon completion of his presentation, Attorney Zanck stated the reason for coming to our meeting tonight was as a "courtesy" so we could have a heads up as to what the petitioners are planning to do prior to taking out a petition. He feels they should be filing a petition within 10 days. The Seneca Township Planning Commission will receive the information regarding the petition when it is available.

- C. **Township Land Use Plan** – Nothing to report this month.
- D. **Petitions to be considered for action and/or review by the town board:**
 - a. **Petition #07-50 – Rick Bellairs – Menge Rd. Property – A1 to E5 Estate** – This petition has been withdrawn from the ZBA agenda.
 - b. **Petition #07-? – Sam & Cindy Romano – Garden Valley Rd. A1 to A1C** – The county board unanimously approved this petition with a 15-year conditional use permit.
 - c. **Petition #80-01; #80-02; #80-03; #80-04 – Melvin & Donald Purdon petitions** – The ZBA voting meeting for these petitions will be on March 25th at 9:00 a.m.
- E. **Update – Misc. Zoning Matters:** Nothing this month.

Old Business: Information/review/action

- A. **Building Project– update** The board reviewed the final plans. A few additional changes were suggested. Schuster noted these changes and will bring them to the architect's attention. Dahlfors motioned to accept the plan as presented with the changes discussed, review paperwork with the attorney, and engage ALA to move forward with the bid package. Second by O'Leary. Voting yes: Dahlfors, O'Leary, Schuster. Voting none: Motion passed.

New Business: Information/review/action

- A. **Legislation – TOI Perspective** Nothing to discuss this month.
- B. **Pandemic Flu/Emergency Services Committee – update:** Schuster stated that she had submitted the draft copy of our Pandemic Flu/Emergency Plan to the county.
 - Schuster and the committee continue to work on the plan.
 - A presentation of the plan will be held at the Annual Town Meeting by the Health Department.
 - Schuster feels it is necessary to get another newsletter out prior to the Annual Town Meeting that will include information about the Pandemic Flu presentation.
- C. **Annual Town Meeting Agenda – review & adopt:** O'Leary motioned to accept the Annual Town Meeting agenda. Second by Dahlfors. Motion passed.

Public Speaking: Roy Kunz offered to volunteer his services to the township if needed on Saturday afternoons.

- Paul Lawrin informed the board that he does pressure washing and will offer this service to the township if we ever need anything pressure washed. He also again stated his opinions about the Purdom property saying he feels like they are being misled. He is worried about flooding if a subdivision goes in on that property.

Other:

- Schuster received a letter from McHenry County Water Resource Manager, Cassandra McKinney. They are looking for government property to place water wells so they could monitor such things as the quality

and quantity of water, etc. Schuster would like the board to think about putting a well on the town hall property.

- Schuster informed the board that once again there is legislation being proposed to abolish townships. If it passes, it would take a $\frac{3}{4}$ vote from the registered township voters to pass and abolish the township.

Motion to Adjourn: At 8:31 p.m. O'Leary motioned to adjourn tonight's regular monthly meeting. Second by Dahlfors. Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dawn Seemann
Township Clerk