

SENECA TOWNSHIP
Regular Monthly Minutes
October 13, 2009

The regular monthly meeting of the Seneca Township Board of Trustees was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Supervisor James Kagel at the Seneca Township Building located at 16506 Garden Valley Road, Woodstock, Illinois.

Township Officials in Attendance: Supervisor James Kagel, Trustees Rosemary Bartman, Susan Mathews, Thomas Dahlfors, and Michael O’Leary, Road Commissioner Scott Swanson, and Clerk Dawn Seemann. Absent officials: Assessor Donald Andrews.

Guests in Attendance: Jerry S. Vennero, Cissy Sullivan, Tom Conway, Paul Bockman, Marti & Jude Schmidt, Terry McKenna, and Howard Hensley.

Public Speaking: None.

Minutes: Dahlfors motioned to approve the September 8, 2009 Regular Monthly Minutes as presented. Second by O’Leary. Motion passed.

Audit of Current Bills:

Road District - O’Leary motioned to approve the Road District bills for payment for the period of September 9, 2009 through October 13, 2009 in the amount of \$48,500.85. Second by Dahlfors. Voting yes: Bartman, Mathews, Dahlfors, O’Leary, Kagel. Voting no: None. Motion passed.

Town Fund - Bartman motioned to approve the Town Fund bills for payment for the period of September 9, 2009 through October 13, 2009 in the amount of \$21,587.76. Second by O’Leary. Voting yes: Bartman, Mathews, Dahlfors, O’Leary, Kagel. Voting no: None. Motion passed.

Treasurer’s Report: September 1, 2009 through September 30, 2009, as listed below:

Harris Checking	Prev. Bal.	Transfer Funds	Expenses	Income	Ending Bal.
Town Fund	\$80,741.12	\$56.49	(\$20,754.13)	\$59,700.59	\$119,744.07
Road & Bridge	\$163,882.89	0	(\$13,627.11)	\$32,960.42	\$183,216.20

Harris CD	Prev. Bal.	Transfer Funds	Expenses	Income	Ending Bal.
Road & Bridge	\$123,000.00	0	0	0	\$123,000.00

Harris Money Market	Prev. Bal.	Transfer Funds	Expenses	Income	Ending Bal.
General Assistance	\$102,438.57	(\$56.49)	(\$130.00)	\$784.23	\$103,036.31
Hard Road	\$91,781.37	0	0	\$43,939.30	\$135,720.67
Building & Maintenance	\$48,586.76	0	(\$9,926.39)	\$11,090.30	\$49,750.67

Dahlfors motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report for the period of September 1, 2009 through September 30, 2009. Second by Mathews. Voting yes: Bartman, Mathews, Dahlfors, O'Leary, Kagel. Voting no: None. Motion passed.

General Assistance Report: Kagel attended a 1-1/2 day General Assistance seminar in Rockford.

- One person picked up a general assistance application, but hasn't returned it.
- Kagel received a second opinion on our general assistance application and has since simplified it.

Clerk's Report: Seemann informed the board that she uploaded the Building Use Policy to the township website.

Road Commissioner's Report: Swanson reported that he purchased a mini backhoe. He took out a three-year lease, but plans on paying it off next year. It is a used machine that has less than 300 hours on it.

- Swanson and his crew will begin boom mowing tomorrow. He informed the board that he has talked to people prior to doing this so they are aware this will be taking place.
- Shouldering and ditching has been done, dirt has been spread around the side of the building, and the prep work for the blacktopping of the town hall driveway has been started.

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

Planning Commission Report: Information/review/action

- A. Commission Activity Report:** - The Planning Commission did not meet this month.
- B. Zoning Petitions for consideration, review, and/or action by the Town Board** - None.
- C. Zoning Petitions Status** - None.

Old Business: Information/review/action

A. Cissy Sullivan- Deerpass/Collins light: Ms. Sullivan voiced her concerns regarding her neighbor, Jerry S. Vennero, putting up a street light on the corner of Deerpass and Collins roads. Mr. Vennero has the sole responsibility of paying the electric bill and maintaining the street light. Ms. Sullivan is very upset that they weren't given any notice that it was going to be installed. Her main concern is the fact that the light shines directly into their home. Ms. Sullivan wrote to Supervisor Kagel and Road Commissioner Swanson after contacting Com Ed. She was informed by Com Ed that the light was approved by McHenry County and Seneca Township under the "Private Lighting" Rate 26 classification. In her opinion, this type of light does not fit under that classification. In addition to this light being installed, Ms. Sullivan also voiced her dismay with lights Mr. Vennero installed in May of 2008 that also shined directly into the east side of her home. Ms. Sullivan read directly from the Seneca Township minutes dated September 2008 that stated then Road Commissioner Robert said "the answer is and always will be 'no'" for the installation of that street light. Trustee Bartman referenced the minutes of March 2008 that stated, "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."

- Mathews informed Ms. Sullivan's that the township board did not know the street light was going up. They were not informed.
- Kagel feels this street light being installed is not setting a precedent because there are other lights of this type in Seneca Township that is not a township light. Examples were given.
- Mathews questioned why private citizens are allowed to put up that type of light on public easements?
 - Road Commissioner Swanson stated that he had a letter signed stating that there is no responsibility what-so-ever of Seneca Township, no issues, no liability, etc. with that street light. He added that the letter he signed doesn't mean he approved the street light.
 - Dahlfors stated that the township board had absolutely no say in the matter and that it falls to the Road District.
 - Kagel agreed, stating that the Road District doesn't answer to the Supervisor or the town board, adding the Road Commissioner is our entity - no one tells him what to do.
 - Ms. Sullivan was told by Com Ed that the bulb could be painted on one side or some sort of shield could be installed to limit the amount of light that shines into their home. The board feels at this point, that would be the route she should take.

B. Amending/Rewriting Elected Officials Payment Schedule: Kagel feels the Elected Officials Payment Schedule should run by the election term of office and not by fiscal year. Discussion took place. Kagel will draft a new payment resolution schedule and present it to the board at next month's meeting.

C. Blacktopping Driveway: Swanson received bids to put down a binder on the township driveway. A copy of the bids were given to Clerk Seemann. Due to lack of funds in the Town Fund, the Road District will pay for the work and the Town Fund will repay the cost to the Road District next fiscal year.

- Dahlfors motioned to accept the bid from Gavers' for the estimated cost of \$7,280.00 and not to exceed \$7,500.00, using Road District funds, to be paid back in full to the Road District using Town Funds during the next fiscal year. Second by Mathews. Voting yes: Bartman, Mathews, Dahlfors, O'Leary, Kagel. Voting no: None. Motion passed.

D. TOIRMA member survey: TOIRMA sent a letter to Supervisor Kagel looking for input regarding their services. The board stated they were satisfied.

Public Speaking: Jerry S. Vennero questioned whether or not the township had a "Welcoming Committee." He was told that there used to be one, but there isn't one anymore. He also defended his street light installation.

Supervisors Report: Kagel created a spreadsheet showing the Profit and Loss Budget vs. Actual expenses from April 1, 2009 through October 5, 2009, as well as a Balance Sheet as of September 30, 2009 showing all current assets and liabilities. Each board member received a copy of these for their records. Kagel stated the balance sheet he created will replace the Quarterly Financial Statement that Brown's Accounting used to do, saving the township \$375 a quarter.

- Brown's Accounting is working on the Treasurer's Report.
- Kagel informed the board that Harris Bank raised their FDIC fees for the Town Fund and Road and Bridge accounts. We have been getting charged for fees even though Kagel signed on with the agreement that there will be no fees at all. He is working on getting those fees reversed and credited back to the account.

Motion to Adjourn: At 8:55 p.m. O'Leary motioned to adjourn tonight's regular monthly meeting. Second by Dahlfors. Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dawn Seemann
Township Clerk