

SENECA TOWNSHIP
Regular Monthly Minutes
September 9, 2008

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 (late), Road Commissioner Robert Helfers, Assessor Donald Andrews, and Clerk Dawn Seemann. Absent Officials: None.

Guests in Attendance: Scott Swanson, Marilyn Kelly.

Public Speaking: None.

Minutes: Dahlfors motioned to approve the August 12, 2008 regular monthly minutes as presented. Second by Mathews.

- Schuster amended the Treasurers Report Illinois Fund Town Fund Expenses from \$5,675.91 to \$5, 517.55, and the Ending Balance from \$136,151.13 to \$136,309.49. Motion passed with amendments.

Audit of Current Bills:

Road District – Mathews motioned to approve the Road District bills for payment for the period of August 13, 2008 through September 9, 2008 in the amount of \$9,448.90. Second by Bartman. Voting yes: Bartman, Mathews, Dahlfors, Schuster. Voting no: None. (O’Leary not present at this point.)

Town Fund – Dahlfors motioned to approve the Town Fund bills for payment for the period of August 13, 2008 through September 9, 2008 in the amount of \$29,941.52. Second by Bartman. Voting yes: Bartman, Mathews, Dahlfors, Schuster. Voting no: None. (O’Leary not present at this point.)

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

Illinois Fund – Bartman motioned to approve the Treasurer’s Report for the Illinois Fund for the period of August 1, 2008 through August 31, 2008. Second by Dahlfors. Motion passed.

Illinois Fund	Prev. Bal.	Trans/Prime	Expenses	Income	Ending Bal.
General Assistance	\$25,176.77	0	0	\$168.74	\$25,345.51
Town Fund	\$136,309.49	0	\$7,478.47	\$10,014.37	\$138,845.39
Road & Bridge	\$138,123.77	0	\$3,169.12	\$8003.78	\$142,958.43
Permanent Hard Road	\$144,831.09	0	\$2,271.46	\$7,021.70	\$149,581.33
Building & Equipment	\$46,935.07	0	\$2,859.64	\$1,788.69	\$45,864.12

Prime Fund – Dahlfors motioned to approve the Treasurer’s Report for the Prime Fund for the period of August 1st through August 31, 2008. Second by Mathews. Motion passed.

Prime Fund	Prev. Bal.	Trans/Funds	Expenses	Interest Income	Ending Bal.
General Assistance	\$75,696.52	0	0	\$138.49	\$75,835.01
Town Fund	\$266,631.70	0	0	\$487.84	\$267,119.54
Road & Bridge	\$122,373.63	0	0	\$223.90	\$122,597.53

General Assistance Report: Schuster had one case to address this month.

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

Road Commissioner's Report: Helfers reported that initially our township wasn't going to be able to get any salt through the state purchasing program, which we have been participating in; however, National Salt suddenly found 10,000 tons of salt on the ground down in Lamont along the canal. Helfers stated that last year we paid \$41 per ton delivered for salt. This year the lowest price for salt he could find is \$119/ton plus trucking. When Helfers figured up his budget for this year, he budgeted for \$60/ton because of it being \$41/ton last year. He stated the price of salt could go as high as \$200 - \$250 /ton.

- Helfers found he could purchase road gravel for \$4.55/ton. Birdseye, which is a washed sand product and is very scarce these days, has a cost of \$8.00/ton. Helfers had ordered about 190 ton of Birdseye as soon as he heard we weren't going to get any salt. With the price of salt today and with what Helfers has budgeted he could only afford 10 semi loads this year. He will be mixing the salt 1:1 with Birdseye. According to the Farmer's Almanac, this winter will be severe with a below normal cold. Icy roads will be more prevalent this year. Helfers said our state representatives are investigating the salt situation.

- The recent bicycle event scheduled to take place the end of August was cancelled due to a \$3 million bond that Seneca and the surrounding townships were asking from the bike club. The head of the bike club stated that "Seneca Township is very hostile to bike riders..." There are no hard feelings among the township road commissioners due to the bike club's cancellation.

- Schuster received a letter from Robert Blue asking for blinking red stop lights or rumble strips at the intersection of Franklinville, Perkins, & Garden Valley Roads, due to a recent fatal accident there. There have been two reported fatalities at that intersection in two years.

- Schuster received a letter addressed to Helfers from the Health Department that talks about leaf season coming up. They're asking for help from the townships to help finance or take care of the leaves. The county is finding that people can't get rid of the leaves due to their non-burn ordinance. The consensus of the township board is that this is a county program. Helfers is beginning to get calls from surrounding subdivisions asking him for brush pick up. He has never received calls about this before the county had their non-burn ordinance.

- The property owner on Collins Road that has been trying to get a street light installed at the intersection of Collins & Deerpass Roads has contacted lawyers, state representatives, etc. to try to get his way. Schuster stated she has been addressed by "every legislator this man could reach." Helfers has also had calls. Helfers said the answer is and always will be "no." There has only been one accident at the intersection per facts he has received from the Sheriffs Department. Accident information was also faxed to the township regarding the intersection of Deerpass & Collins Roads. In addition, Schuster has received calls from the neighbors of this person complaining of the amount of light given off from his property. Planning and Development has been contacted, who in turn contacted Com Ed.

Assessors Report: Andrews reported that he no longer enters the tax assessment information into the county's computer because the county has a new system and they can't allow the individual assessors to enter that system because they would have access to other townships and be able to change the information from townships other than their own. He stated that when he used to enter the tax assessments himself into the computer the county didn't have too many complaints. Now that the county requires that they do it themselves they complain about every little thing. The tax assessments are ready for publishing and will be published soon in the Woodstock Independent. Tax Assessment cards will be sent to the residents as well.

Planning Commission Report: Information/review/action

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

The planning commission did not meet this month. No report.

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

a. Petition #08-51 – Michael & Cynthia Winters – 618 Blackhawk Ln. – Marengo – Variance for building height from subdivision covenants of 20' to 27'; and, coverage from 1,974 to 2,840 sq ft.: The board discussed this petition and felt it is "totally out of place" and goes against the subdivision covenants. This petition hearing is set to go before the variance officer on 9-15-08. Dahlfors motioned Schuster to draft a letter to the McHenry County hearing officer stating we are not in agreement with the variance the petitioner is asking for because it is not suitable for the area, and is not compliant with the covenant subdivision code. Second by Mathews. Voting yes: Bartman, Mathews, Dahlfors, Schuster. Voting no: None. (O'Leary still not here at this point.) Motion passed.

C. Zoning Petitions – status:

- a. Merryman Petition –** The court date for this petition has been moved to September 24, 2008.
- b. Petition #08-13; John & Kristine Benoit – A1 to A1C Commercial Kennel:** The county board agenda comes out a week from tonight and this petition may be on that agenda. The ZBA voted 6/0 against.
- c. Petition #08-21; Shinichi Kawayoke – A2 to A2C – indoor & outdoor storage of commercial equipment and a wholesale/retail business (limited):** Both the ZBA & County Board approved this petition.
- d. Petition #08-38; Susan Singleton; Request for a variance:** Schuster has no additional information regarding this petition at this point.
- e. Petition #08-30; Steven & Susan Schmieding; Request for a variance:** Our attorney twice ran into the Schmieding attorney and discussed this issue. The results of the conversations were that the Schmieding's would not be coming back to the town board.

Old Business: Information/review/action

A. Building Project – Update: The building addition has begun. The contractor had dropped off samples of outdoor bricks for us to decide on. The bricks we chose at the last meeting were indoor bricks. After discussion of the colors previously decided on for the siding, fascia, shutters, etc., the color and style decided on for the bricks was Fawn Southern Ledge Stone. The roof color chosen was Barkwood.

- Discussion took place as to the best way to have the temporary driveway installed for

the most economical cost. Following this discussion, Mathews motioned to direct O'Leary and Helfers to find the best price for the driveway base from Garden Valley Road to the SE corner of the existing parking lot, and proceed with the project. Second by Dahlfors. Voting yes: Bartman, Mathews, Dahlfors, O'Leary, Schuster. Voting no: None. Motion passed.

B. Audit Committee – Two of our guests in attendance tonight graciously offered to audit this year's books. Seemann will contact them and set up a date and time before the end of this month to conduct the audit.

New Business: Information/review/action

A. Legislation – TOI Perspective: Our TOI lobbyist just passed away.

B. City of Woodstock – development & watershed issues – Robert Pope: Robert Pope has been watching the City of Woodstock and some of the development information that has been coming out, and has serious concerns about the water on Steig Road, South Street, and around Dakota Ridge. He was wondering if there was anything we could do at the township level to let the city know that what they do does affect residents "down stream." Schuster suggested possibly drafting a letter to the City of Woodstock to ask them to be aware of the fact that their actions do create problems for us out in the rural areas. We've seen more water running across the township. There will be more water run-off with new subdivisions. Schuster would like the board to think about suggestions. This issue is tabled until the next meeting, and we'll have Bob inform the board about the main issues he's concerned about. He is not here tonight.

Other: Information/review/action

- Mathews questioned the NIMS training? Schuster explained that our Pandemic Flu/Emergency Plan covers this issue.

Adjourn: At 9:01 p.m. Dahlfors motioned to adjourn tonight's regular monthly meeting. Second by O'Leary. Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dawn Seemann
Township Clerk