

## September 11, 2007

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

**Guests in Attendance:** Robert Pope, John Bertram.

**Public Speaking:** None.

**Approval of Minutes:** Dahlfors motioned to approve the August 14, 2007 regular monthly minutes as presented. Second by O'Leary. Motion passed.

### **Audit of Current Bills:**

**Road District** - Dahlfors motioned to approve the Road District bills for payment for the period of August 15, 2007 through September 11, 2007 in the amount of \$4,928.83. Second by Bartman. Voting yes: Bartman, Mathews, Dahlfors, O'Leary, Schuster. Voting no: None. Motion passed.

**Town Fund** – O'Leary motioned to approve the Town Fund bills for payment for the period of August 15, 2007 through September 11, 2007 in the amount of \$20,209.58. Second by Dahlfors. Voting yes: Bartman, Mathews, Dahlfors, O'Leary, Schuster. Voting no: None. Motion passed.

- Schuster received a late invoice from F.S. in the amount of \$797.29. Bartman motioned to approve payment on this bill prior to next month's meeting. Second by Dahlfors. Voting yes: Bartman, Mathews, Dahlfors, O'Leary, Schuster. Voting no: None. Motion passed.

- Schuster received an invoice from Attorney Robert Wagner, which if through the end of the month, in the amount of \$570.00. Dahlfors motioned to approve the bill for payment prior to next month's meeting. Second by Mathews. Voting yes: Bartman, Mathews, Dahlfors, O'Leary, Schuster. Voting no: None. Motion passed.

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

**Illinois Fund:** Mathews motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report for the Illinois Fund for the period of August 1, 2007 through August 31, 2007. Second by Dahlfors. Motion passed.

<b>Illinois Fund</b>	<b>Previous Balance</b>	<b>Trans to Prime</b>	<b>Expenses</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>Ending Balance</b>
General Assistance	\$23,715.40	0	\$130.00	\$152.43	\$23,737.83
Town Fund	\$108,203.29	0	\$6,857.09	\$5,123.98	\$106,470.18
Road & Bridge	\$123,999.44	0	\$4,546.10	\$4,896.07	\$124,349.41
Permanent Hard Road	\$123,364.79	0	0	\$3,613.65	\$126,978.44
Building & Equipment	\$21,705.35	0	\$5,415.00	\$867.64	\$17,157.99

**Prime Fund** – Bartman motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report for the Prime Fund for the period of August 1, 2007 through August 31, 2007. Second by Dahlfors. Motion passed.

<b>Prime Fund</b>	<b>Previous Balance</b>	<b>Trans Between Funds</b>	<b>Expenses</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>Ending Balance</b>
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General Assistance	\$72,965.39	0	0	\$319.21	\$73,284.60
Town Fund	\$257,011.52	0	0	\$1,124.40	\$258,135.92
Road & Bridge	\$117,958.38	0	0	\$516.05	\$118,474.43

**General Assistance:** No activity. Schuster will be attending a General Assistance seminar this month.

**Clerk's Report:** Seemann reported that the audit is complete. There were no problems.

**Road Commissioner's Report:** Helpers informed the board that a resident who accused the township road district crew of improperly removing trees from their property had settled with our insurance company, TOIRMA, for \$5,000.

- Last month Helpers had made reference to the inoperable vehicle ordinance that the county had passed. There are two places in Seneca Township that have several inoperable vehicles on the property. Helpers contacted the McHenry County Sheriff Department twice about this issue. He stated that it has been two weeks since he called and has not yet received a response back. Helpers will contact the Sheriff Department again.

- Schuster did a FOIA to the county asking for information about the storm water permits that were issued in the Dunham area. This was due to the water that was coming across the fields from there and stalling at the intersection of Dunham Road and the railroad tracks. There was a question about the trenches that were installed there. The FOIA went past the seven day deadline, and the county didn't give her any information. A meeting was then called by Union Village President Bob Wagner and Coral Township Supervisor Roger Naylor to discuss the area flooding. Schuster and Helpers attended this meeting, as did McHenry County Planning & Development Chair Sue Ehardt, Coral Township Road Commissioner and Supervisor, McHenry County Board members Mary McCann and Randy Donley, and Marengo Mayor Don Lockhart. The discussion included what could be done, what needs to be done, and how it could be accomplished. The Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources Water Division has done a review of that area and the conclusion is that they recommend a 100 acre retention pond between the two cities. Another issue was the water that was coming in from the east & southeast in this direction. The trenches along the railroad tracks are basically plugged, which backs the water up. Next week DNR, Union Village President Bob Wagner, and Marengo Mayor Don Lockhart are meeting to look into this to see what they can figure out regarding the flooding problem, and go from there.

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

**Planning Commission: - Information/review/action**

- A. **Commission Activity Report – Committee reviewed/action on pending petitions-** Schuster gave copies of a letter from the Planning Commission to the Board regarding their meeting.
- B. **New Petitions to be considered for action and/or review by the town board:**
  - i. **Petition #07-73: Holly Kohley – at Franklinville & Perkins Rds – variations:** The Seneca Township Planning Commission voted to deny this petition due to lack of information. The ZBA approved the petition, which is now going to the county for the final vote. After discussion of this petition among the Board, Mathews motioned to advise Schuster to draft a letter to the Zoning Board of Appeals with our position to approve the petition with A1 zoning and a variance. Second by Dahlfors. Voting yes: Bartman, Mathews, Dahlfors, O'Leary, Schuster. Voting no: None. Motion passed.
  - ii. **Petition #07-50: Rick Bellairs – Menge Rd. property – A1 to E5 estate:** The E5 zoning and the lack of petitioner provided material was an issue with the Board. Seneca Township Planning Commission members had gone to the county prior to the meeting for additional information and there wasn't any available. The surrounding neighbors are fighting this petition. There is no information as to why the petitioner wants to rezone to E5. A1 is surrounding the property. Approving this petition would be considered spot zoning. The McHenry County Soil and Water Conservation District says the property is a wet land. Upon conclusion of the discussion among the Board, O'Leary motioned to deny

petition #07-50 based on the Seneca Township Planning Commission recommendations and lack of information. Second by Dahlfors. Voting yes: Bartman, Mathews, Dahlfors, O'Leary, and Schuster. Voting no: None. Motion passed. Schuster will draft a letter to the ZBA with our recommendation to deny the petition.

iii. **Petition #07-?: Sam & Cindy Romano – Garden Valley Rd. A1 to A1-C:** There is no further information, and no hearing date has been set.

**C. Update on Petitions Pending County Board Action:**

i. **Petition #07-?: Enbridge Energy Limited – 4202 Franklinville Rd., Union, IL – CUP –** The ZBA voted 5 yes, 4 no on this petition. It now goes before the County Board without a recommendation. The County Board will vote on this petition on 9/18/07.

**Old Business: Information/review/action**

- A. **Building Project– update** Building Project – update Copies of the correspondence and final bid letter from the attorney was given to the board for review/discussion. The required prebid meeting was today. Eight contractors attended. Schuster took the documents to the county. The bid opening date is set for September 25, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. at the Seneca Township building.
- B. **McHenry County 2030 Land Use Planning Process – township input:** Schuster feels it is very important that we stay in touch and involved with the committee. Kane, Boone, Lake, and Dekalb counties will have representatives at the county meeting on September 27, 2007 at 6:00 p.m.
- C. **Veterans Assistance Five Year Plan – request for input:** No suggestions at this time.

**New Business: Information/review/action**

- A. **Legislation – TOI Perspective** Nothing to discuss this month.
- B. **Influenza Grant – application submitted** – Schuster submitted an application for this grant. We were told we would be presented with a \$5,000 grant.
- C. **Amended Open Meetings Act** – It is now legal for a five-member board to have two members talk to one another outside a legally noticed meeting.
- D. **TOI Survey** – If anyone has any thoughts or ideas for TOI they should let Schuster know.
- E. **West Nile case in county** – There has been one case of West Nile disease reported in McHenry County this year to date.
- F. **TOIRMA – Notice of building addition project** – Schuster contacted TOIRMA regarding the building addition, and was informed that we must contact them prior to the construction of the building addition.

**Other:Information/review/action**

- The Water Resource Task Force has scheduled a meeting. Schuster will forward the dates to the Board.
- Schuster attended the 1st ice control seminar at the McHenry County Transportation Department. She said it was very informative. Schuster has information available for review. There is another meeting scheduled for Friday at 9:00 a.m.

**Public Speaking:** John Bertram strongly addressed the Board regarding his concerns about Enbridge Energy Limited. He expressed his disappointment that our Board voted to recommend approval of their petition. He felt the notice and signage regarding the proposal was not proper. He was much concerned about the chance of water contamination. Schuster explained to Mr. Bertram what the process is that the Seneca Township Board must go through, as well as where we stand and what our responsibilities are. Seneca Township Planning Commission member Bob Pope stated that he understands Mr. Bertram's concerns, but felt that Enbridge presented their petition well. Schuster added that the Board approved the petition with stipulations. Mathews stated that Enbridge went above and beyond our recommendations to make it even safer.

**Motion to Adjourn:** At 9:15 p.m. O'Leary motioned to adjourn tonight's regular monthly meeting. Second by Dahlfors. Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dawn Seemann  
Township Clerk