

SENECA TOWNSHIP
Regular Monthly Meeting
October 9, 2012

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Seneca Township Board of Trustees was called to order at 7:00 pm 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, Assessor Paul Bockman, Road Commissioner Scott Swanson, and Clerk Dawn Seemann. Absent Officials: None.

Guests in Attendance: Jack Donoghue, Dave Seemann, Norm Kisse, Jay Lampe, and Conrad Schultz.

Public Speaking: Residents from Seneca Township spoke to the board regarding a resident on Dunham Road in Union starting/running a tree service business without proper permits. Mr. Seemann informed the board the property owner has large amounts of trees/logs, and mulch on the back of the property, and had put a sign up in his yard advertising the tree service, but has since taken it down. He stated the concerns the residents have include such things as:

1. Groundwater – due to shallow water tables that fluctuate between 5' and 10'
2. The property owner widened his driveway to provide access for large trucks, which leads to traffic safety issues, and the culvert was put in with materials not approved – asphalt grindings were used instead of the required Grade 9 material
3. Public Safety, which concerns fire hazards due to the enormous size of the mulch pile
4. The property consists of a narrow 6 acres of land approximately 190' wide that is surrounded by neighboring homes
5. Their main concern is protection of the neighborhood

Currently the pile of tree logs are stacked 8'to10' high and are yards long. There is also a tub grinder on site to make mulch, and may have the capabilities to dye the mulch which lead to groundwater concerns. With regards to the tub grinder, this will contribute to noise and air pollution.

- Mr. Lampe voiced his concerns about the copious amounts of mulch the property owner has which is approximately 100 yard long and 16' high. He spoke with Union Firemen regarding the control of putting a fire out on this mulch pile should one occur. He was told there would be no way they could control a fire in that pile of mulch. The logs piled on the property are about 70' from Mr. Lampe's house and is concerned about fire

spreading to his home. He stated the property owned receives at least 6 loads of mulch per day on a 53' truck. He is concerned about the safety of his home and family (he has a 7-year-old son). Supervisor Kagel asked Mr. Lampe if the mulch steams? Mr. Lampe stated "Yes it does." Trustee Dahlfors said, "This indicates they are possibly making compost." Seemann added, "If that's the case, then air quality concerns come in." Kagel asked Mr. Lampe if the county has looked into this? Mr. Lampe said there is something on file at the county but hasn't seen anyone from the county there and wondered why we can't stop the import of logs and mulch until permits are obtained?

- Mr. Kisse informed the board that the Health Department was supposed to check mulch samples. In addition, they researched the trucking company's website (Ramirez Trucking) and learned they reclaim lumber and bring in logs from 5 states. It is illegal to bring wood across the state line.
- Road Commissioner Swanson stated he called the McHenry County Planning and Development Department and was told they are watching them and that they were informed they need to apply for a Conditional Use Permit (CUP). Swanson recommended they call the P&D everyday to file a complaint.
- Seemann added that they want to be "proactive at this end and be on a partnership with the township board." He is concerned that should the business be allowed to operate it could affect the township, Village of Union, and the City of Marengo.
- Kagel stated that as a township, the only thing they could do is make a recommendation to the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) which will force a ¾ majority vote instead of a simple majority vote for it to pass. He wants to know immediately if the residents get a hearing notice.

Minutes: O'Leary motioned to approve the September 11, 2012 Regular Monthly Minutes as presented. Second by Dahlfors. Motion passed.

Audit of Current Bills:

Road District – Dahlfors motioned to approve the Road District bills for the payment for the period of September 12, 2012 through October 9, 2012 in the amount of \$12,444.49. Second by Mathews. Voting yes: Bartman, Mathews, Dahlfors, O'Leary, Kagel. Voting No: None. Motion passed.

Town Fund – Mathews motioned to approve the Town Fund bills for payment for the period of September 12, 2012 through October 9, 2012 in the amount of \$9,230.67. Second by Dahlfors. Voting yes: Bartman, Mathews, Dahlfors, O'Leary, Kagel. Voting No: None. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Mathews motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report for the period of September 1, 2012 through September 30, 2012, as listed below. Second by Bartman. Voting yes: Bartman, Mathews, Dahlfors, O'Leary, Kagel. Voting No: None. Motion passed.

Checking	Prev. Bal.	Transfer Funds	Expenses	Income	Ending Bal.
Town Fund	\$139,896.81	0	(\$19,270.93)	\$71,090.72	\$191,716.60
Road & Bridge	\$45,929.51	0	(\$11,824.25)	\$40,410.98	\$74,516.24

CD	Prev. Bal.	Transfer Funds	Expenses	Income	Ending Bal.
Road & Bridge	*\$126,638.57	0	0	0	\$126,638.57

Money Market	Prev. Bal.	Transfer Funds	Expenses	Income	Ending Bal.
General Assistance	\$101,169.43	0	(\$100.00)	\$843.30	\$101,912.73
Perm Hard Road	\$180,852.19	0	(\$2,388.50)	\$54,128.43	\$232,592.12
Bldg & Maintenance	\$29,678.78	0	0	\$11,976.05	\$41,654.83

*Kagel mentioned the Road & Bridge CD will mature later this month. Swanson will look into current rates.

General Assistance Report: Kagel received calls from 2 residents needing Emergency Assistance. Only one picked up an application.

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

Road Commissioner's Report: Swanson has been busy finishing up the 3rd mowing of the year. In addition, he informed the board that he has been notified by the State of Illinois that a survey is being done regarding a stoplight at the intersection of Dunham Road and Rt. 176. He will keep us updated.

Assessor's Report: Bockman stated there have been over 100 tax assessment appeals. The hearings for these will be scheduled in 2-3 weeks for Seneca Township.

Supervisor's Report: Kagel reported the annual audit has been completed. Two concerns were addressed: 1. No invoice for the Road District summer seminar, and 2. The payment for salt had no signature on a bill.

- Kagel gave the board a copy of the Annual Treasurer's Report for last year for their records.
- The 2nd quarter Budget vs. Actual Report for all funds through October 7, 2012 was given to the board for their records.

Adjourn: At 8:03 pm Dahlfors motioned to adjourn tonight's Regular Monthly Meeting.
Second by Bartman. Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dawn Seemann
Township Clerk