

## **Regular Monthly Meeting**

**May 8, 2023**

The May Regular Monthly Meeting of the Seneca Township Board of Trustees was called to order at 6:38 pm by Supervisor Josh Brown at the Seneca Township Building located at 16506 Garden Valley Road, Woodstock, Illinois.

**Officials in Attendance:** Supervisor Josh Brown, Trustees Rosemary Bartman, Gina LeFevour, Gerald Gieseke, and Denise Sass, Assessor Tammy Benitez, Road Commissioner Scott Swanson, and Clerk Dawn Seemann. Absent Officials: None.

**Guests in Attendance:** Sheldon Soldwisch, Jack Lampe, Becky Lampe, Nancy Schiller, Lamar Schiller, Susan Handelsman, Gorjanne Farrell, Mark Farrell, Vicki Zilbert, George Hossmann, Jay Lampe, Dave Drake, Mike Zibert, Sandy Schultz, Joy Ganvik, Stefan Ganvik.

**Assessor's Report:** Benitez informed the board she has been continuing to do Sales Ratio studies of the neighborhoods, inputting sales and permits, answering County questions she received, and doing site visits. On May 5th, the tax bills were mailed, and on Monday afternoon she started receiving calls, mostly from seniors that hadn't filled out their Senior Freeze forms in 2022.

**Public Speaking:** Seneca residents spoke about their concerns regarding Amp Solar Development, Inc. that is proposed along O'Cock Road in Union, IL. Joy Ganvik explained where the proposed location for the solar farm is. The main concerns are its location being across from and behind homes, and the effects it will have on the residents and the community. Ms. Ganvik spoke about the views the residents will have to look at out their windows, the risks to the water supply, the risk of solar fields catching fire and fire departments only able to watch them burn, which causes toxins to leak into the atmosphere. She also spoke about the constant low hum it makes, and the fact that the panels turn as the sun moves creating the sun to reflect and shine directly into windows, all of which will impact everyone in the area and their future with regards to such things as the lowering of their property values. Ms. Susan Handelsman spoke about the concerns with the "End of Life" for the solar farm and the risks that it would cause if it is not removed and just left there to rot. She mentioned that there are Federal Laws regarding things that could be done and steps to follow to protect the community. Josh Brown spoke as a resident stating solar farms have a 8-10 year life, and stated there are filaments that break down, creating a dust that goes into the ground that cannot be removed. Gina LeFevour spoke as a resident there is a 10 point code that needs to pass in order for something to get approved before it can be built. She will bring in these points to the next meeting for review. She added that a massive crowd needs to attend the next county hearing. She feels this is an issue that needs to be fought. The residents don't want the solar farm in the middle of town, especially with houses surrounding it. They would like very strict end of life conditions and requirements, should it pass, as well as some sort of berm to hide it. The residents have asked the township board to help with opposing the solar farm. Ms. Ganvik mentioned that their group has sent a letter to the farmer asking him to choose another place so it is not

near or around homes. They have not heard back from him. In addition, the Village of Union has sent a letter to the county opposing the farm.

- The next hearing for the solar farm is scheduled for May 17th at 1:30pm.

**Audit of Current Bills:**

**Road District** - Brown motioned to approve the Road District bills for payment for the period of April 12, 2023 through May 9, 2023 in the amount of \$21,869.96. Second by Bartman. Voting yes: Bartman, LeFevour, Gieseke, Sass, Brown. Voting no: None. Motion passed.

**Town Fund** - Brown motioned to approve the Town Fund bills for payment for the period of April 12, 2023 through May 9, 2023 in the amount of \$13,914.90. Second by LeFevour. Voting yes: Bartman, LeFevour, Gieseke, Sass, Brown. Voting no: None. Motion passed.

**Minutes:** Brown motioned to approve the April 11, 2023 Regular Monthly Minutes as presented. Second by LeFevour. Motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Brown motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report for the period of April 1, 2023 through April 30, 2023, as listed below. Second by Sass. Voting yes: Bartman, LeFevour, Gieseke, Sass, Brown. Voting no: None. Motion passed.

Checking	Prev. Bal.	Transfer Funds	Expenses	Income	Ending Bal.
Town Fund	\$134,455.20	0	(\$14,100.96)	\$1,797.94	\$122,152.18
Road & Bridge	\$225,720.33	0	(\$12,502.86)	\$3,513.67	\$216,731.14

Money Market	Prev. Bal.	Transfer Funds	Expenses	Income	Ending Bal.
General Assistance	\$101,293.12	0	0	\$91.12	\$101,384.24
Perm Hard Road	\$171,522.25	0	0	\$152.54	\$171,674.79
Bldg & Maintenance	\$28,601.78	0	0	\$25.73	\$28,627.51

**General Assistance Report:** Brown has nothing to report this month.

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

**Road Commissioner's Report:** Swanson reported he has been doing regular maintenance , patching holes, and getting ready to mow the right-of-ways.

**Old Business:**

- A. **Newsletter** - LeFevour informed the board that the newsletter has been sent out.

**New Business:**

- A. Town Fund and Road District 2023-2024 budgets** - Brown motioned to approve putting the Town Fund and Road District budgets on display for 30 days prior to the June 13, 2023 Regular Monthly Meeting. Second by Bartman. Motion passed. Seemann will submit the Budget Hearing Notice in the newspaper.
- B. Conditional Use permit O'Cock Rd. Amp Solar Development** - The board discussed the solar field issue in depth. The board asked Supervisor Brown to draft a letter to the county opposing the amp solar development stressing the detrimental effects it would have to the residents and community. This letter will require a  $\frac{3}{4}$  vote for it to pass.

**Decennial Committee Meeting:** Decennial Committee Meeting #1-Committee members. A separate report for these committee meetings will be generated and filed with the county board upon conclusion of the required three meetings. The purpose of this 1st meeting is to form a committee that includes the Township Supervisor, Township Trustees, and two appointed residents. The Township and Road District will be filing a joint report. Supervisor Brown appointed Scott Swanson as the Township resident representative and Denise Swanson as the second resident for the Township, and Road Commissioner Scott Swanson appointed Dawn Seemann as the Road District resident representative. Brown explained the purpose behind the Decennial Committee on Local Government Efficiency Act, 50 ILCS 70/1, and informed the committee they have 18 months to conduct three meetings. He added the Second meeting will be taking the information that's been gathered and compiling it into the report, and at the Third meeting the committee will finalize and approve the report. Information will be gathered for such topics that include, but not limited to, 1) Intergovernmental Agreements - which includes township General Assistance, and sharing Road District equipment and help as needed; 2) Interaction with residents, including a newsletter to keep residents informed; 3) Open Meeting Act and Foia information. Brown motioned to have the second Decennial Committee Meeting during the October Regular Monthly Meeting. Second by LeFevour. Motion passed. At 7:44pm Brown motioned to adjourn the 1st Decennial Committee Meeting. Second by Sass. Motion passed.

**Supervisor's Report:** Brown brought a sample of the Application for Senior Citizen Homestead Exemption for residents 65 and older.

- Brown informed the board regarding a TOI Trustee Workshop scheduled for July 14, 2023 at the Radisson Hotel in Rockford. Bartman might be interested in going. At this point, no other trustee is interested in attending.

**Adjourn:** At 7:59pm Bartman motioned to adjourn the May regular monthly meeting. Second by Brown. Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dawn Seemann  
Township Clerk

