

Minutes of The
October 1, 2024 Regular Meeting
Of Sugar Grove Township
Kane County, Illinois

CALL TO ORDER: Supervisor Rowe called the meeting to order at 6:08 pm followed by Roll Call and the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Present were Trustees Jon Bobbe, Jerry Elliott, Phil Silagi, Lewis Medina, Supervisor Tom Rowe, Assessor Curt Karas, Road Commissioner Musser and Clerk Marion Bond.

Also Present: Bridget L. DiBella.

Supervisor Rowe stated introduced the Township's newest employee, Bridget DiBella who will be the new office assistant and bookkeeper. He asked her to share her background. She said she was born and raised in Sugar Grove. She and her husband own their own business – Antenna Installation Service which was started by her father in 1963.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Supervisor Rowe asked for a motion to review and approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from September 3, 2024. Motion by Trustee Elliott, second by Trustee Bobbe. Trustees Bobbe, Elliott, Medina, Silagi and Supervisor Rowe voted aye to approve 0 nay. Motion Carried.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:

TOWNSHIP: Trustee Medina motioned and Trustee Bobbe seconded the motion to review and approve the September Town accounts payables. Supervisor Rowe pointed out ck#19583 to Swanson Quality Service in the amount of \$3225.00 stating that was for all of 2024 including some extra hours for training services. He also pointed out ck#19599 to Newkirk & Associates, stating that is the final bill for the audit. Trustee Elliott what period of time was covered by ck#19588 To Blue Cross/BlueShield for\$ 18,552.33. Supervisor Rowe said that was for a month. He expects to get new rates sometime in October and will review at the November meeting. Assessor Karas inquired about ck\$19601 & 19602. Supervisor Rowe said #1902 was renewal of the Adobe license. Mr. Karas said both checks had been charged to the Assessor's fund. Supervisor Rowe asked how he determined that. Mr. Karas explained that the Township fund is designated as 1-11 while the Assessor's fund is 1-12. Supervisor Rowe said that those should be township and will be corrected. Supervisor Rowe asked if there were any further questions on the report, there being none he asked for a vote. Trustees Bobbe, Elliott, Medina, Silagi and Supervisor Rowe voted aye. 0 nay. Motion Carried.

ROAD & BRIDGE: Trustee Medina motioned and Trustee Elliott seconded the motion to review and approve the September Road and Bridge accounts payable. Supervisor Rowe said that it was discovered today that were duplicate checks to Builders Paving. Check #13001 will be approved and ck#13022 will be voided. Commissioner Musser said ck#13003 to the Village of Sugar Grove was for Merrill New. Trustee Elliott asked about ck#13006 to West Side Tractor in the amount of \$\$5464.03, Commissioner Musser said that was for the rest of the thumb. Commissioner Musser said ck#13007 to The Village of Sugar Grove was for sidewalk work. Supervisor Rowe asked if there were any further questions on the report, there being none he

asked for a vote. Trustees Bobbe, Elliott, Medina, Silagi and Supervisor Rowe voted aye. 0 nay. Motion Carried.

PAYROLL REPORT: Supervisor Rowe brought attention to the Payroll report for the month of September, noted on the back of each report was the PTO report that Patti Kleckner has been added to that report.

PROFIT & LOSS REPORTS: Through September 30, 2024 reflecting six months of the Fiscal year. Assessor Karas pointed out account 603 on page 3 showing that we have expended \$9933.33 Assessor Karas said it should be four months at the old rate and one month at the new rate. Karas will prepare the journal entries for Jim. The software contract covers July 1 to June 30. Trustee Elliott asked about 652 on page 2, noting that it was 1502.5% for Operating supplies saying that seemed awfully high. Supervisor Rowe said \$16.00 was budgeted but \$24.40 was spent. He will look into that charge.

QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT 9.30.24

Supervisor Rowe pointed out the Road District CD at 1st Secure Bank in the amount of \$252,085.07 which had a maturity date of 9.29.24 with a ten-day period to move or renew. He explained that those funds were being moved to the money market so that Road District would have the funds to purchase or lease 220 Main Street. Supervisor Rowe pointed out that the Township has one more CD that will mature in 2024 at Old Second, and the Community Building has One at 1st Secure and one at Wintrust. All the others will mature in 2025. He asked for a motion to approve the Quarterly Financial Report. Trustee Bobbe motioned, Trustee Elliott seconded. Trustee Elliott made a comment that perhaps the CDs should be less. Supervisor Rowe said the auditors are aware and did not have a problem. Assessor Karas commented that they should have 2-1/2 times the operating budget in reserve. Supervisor Rowe called for a vote. Trustees Bobbe, Elliott, Medina, Silagi and Supervisor Rowe voted aye. 0 nay. Motion Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: Supervisor Rowe shared an invitation to the Conley Outreach Chili Cook Off on October 19 beginning at 2:00 pm at Kuiper's Family Farm in Maple Park. He also received a Thank-you letter from the Village of Montgomery for our donation to the River Run event. And a flyer from Kane County CASA regarding their Super Heroes Luncheon on November 6th at Waubensee Community College. He will register anyone who wants to attend. Trustee Silagi reported on the Kane County Casa event at Bureau Gravity in Aurora, stating that the facility had been renovated very well and the 3rd floor event center was a very nice space overlooking downtown Aurora. The hors d'oeuvres were very good, especially the mushroom caps. Assessor Karas complimented the open bar.

REPORTS:

Supervisor's Report: Supervisor Rowe presented a written report of his activities for the last month:

1. Senior/Disabled Transportation Update:

- A total of **154** residents are registered for the transportation program as of **9/30/24**
- A total of **72** rides were given in the month of September
- A total of **5,187** rides have been taken from 9/1/18 thru 9/30/24

2. Senior Lunch Update – the monthly senior lunch was held on September 24th at the Community Building. Breakfast for Lunch was served to approximately 60 seniors and volunteers. Modern Woodman of America sponsored this month's lunch with a \$500 donation.

3. **Kiwanis Club Sips with Santa** – The Kiwanis Club of Sugar Grove Township will be holding its 3rd annual Sips with Santa event on October 16th from 5:30-8:00pm at Rosewood Farms. The event includes sampling 10 holiday cocktail drinks with take-home recipes. Proceeds from the event go to the Kiwanis Scholarship Fund.
4. **Bliss House Repairs** – Azemi & Sons are planning to repair the south side of the front porch and paint the Exterior of the building first week of October.
5. **TOI Annual Educational Conference at a Glance** – Nov. 11-13 2024 @ Springfield.
6. **Cemetery Update** – Image Monuments completed work on 12 headstones last month. The \$4,000 invoice will be split between the Township and the Cemetery Association.
7. **Sugar Grove LLC Update** – the Village of Sugar Grove held their September board meeting on September 10 and voted to approve an Annexation Agreement, establish a Tax Increment Financing District (TIF), and a Planned Development District (PDD) with Crown Community Development. Note: there will be Data Centers but not warehouses.
8. **Office Support Update** – our new office assistant Bridget DiBella started on Sept. 10th and has been training with Jim and Kim from Swanson’s throughout the month of September. Jim’s last regular day will be October 1st but will be available as needed going forward.
9. **2025 Election Documents** – copies of the April 1, 2025 election documents are included in your packet. Candidates will need to submit Statement of Candidacy, Independent Candidate Petitions (No. P-3), Statement of Economic Interest Receipt & Loyalty Oath (optional). Candidates may begin circulating petitions August 20th and will need a minimum of 129 signatures and filed with Town Clerk by November 18, 2024.

Assessor: Assessor Karas reported that there will be three new subdivisions coming; one at Galena & 56 with 332 homes, property west of Settler’s Ridge, and something on Denny & Bliss.

Road & Bridge: Commissioner Doug Musser reported that he and Bill are going to an Illinois Mutual Aid Network (MAN) Seminar on October 22 & 23. The Annexation to Aurora on North Barnes from Railroad up to Midfield means that 2.9 miles will no longer be the responsibility of the Road district, but they will continue to plow it with an IGA. They are doing more shouldering work, one more round of mowing before winter, some stump grinding, clearing brush, moving equipment from Bus Barn so that Food Pantry can start on their work. Doing maintenance. Going to piggyback with Aurora for work on south Barnes to Aurora line. Got the roads in for next year. Doing reclamation on Prairie, doing the Village part at 47 & Dugan. Doing south Mighell, and Ka De Ka, the Village is helping with KaDeKa. Flagger training with the county on Oct. 17th. The Electrical Line seminar was cancelled, Instructor was sick, but will be held in November. The frost detector cameras are in should be in a couple of weeks and County will help install them. Went up to Huntley to check out Henderson who sets up trucks like Bonnell. Bonnell is booked to 2026. Truck coming in 2nd Quarter of ’25 and Henderson can set up truck by October- November next year. Supervisor Rowe asked if there were plans to widen Rt. 47. Commissioner Musser said that there have been engineers in the Village looking at and around the railroad trestle which is the biggest problem to widening 47 through the Village.

Trustee Reports:

Water Authority –Trustee Elliot reported that the three monitoring wells normally measuring 10ft head levels are now ranging 11 to 13 ft but but typical of head levels for the months of September through December dry periods. The S curve well on Prairie Street is at 29 ft and Ratos well is at 41 ft. head level. Note this Ratos head is presently at 675 elevation or three feet above the basement floor of some Mallard Point homes 1500 feet away. Blackberry Creek is running low at 4,150 Gal/Min. Mean average flow is 10,300 Gal/Min. The lowest (2005) level was 160 Gal/Min. Rainfall for last 30 days is 3.0 inches of rain. The watershed of Blackberry Creek and Fox River are very reflective of each other. Fox River is also low at this time. Shallow

Aquifer Head level draw down due to Aurora Well 101 pumping 700 gal/min, or 1 million gal/day, measured at Prairie Street Elliott well monitor has registered 22 consecutive days of pumping at this shallow well source. Questions to ISWS yesterday: With Fox River being low, is it customary for Aurora to switch water sources from the river to local shallow wells? Also, will this change of water source to shallow wells be the case when the proposed Fox River dams are removed causing the river to much more shallow in drought periods? He has not received answers to those questions yet. Trustee Silagi asked how much lower was the Elliott well when Aurora did the pumping. Trustee Elliott responded that his well drops 3.5 feet but usually comes back within a day and a half. Trustee Silagi responded that he was probably safe because he's closer. Elliott responded that the key point was that the group that was going to suffer the most was Silagi's area because the water level at Aurora's well drops 65 ft. when they pump. They pump 53% of their water from the river.

Airport – Trustee Medina said the meeting is next week.

Community Building – Trustee Bobbe said he was out of town.

Mental Health – Trustee Silagi – will meet later this month.

Clerk – No Report. Candidate packets are due in November.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a. Blackberry Creek Bike Bridge Update – The manufacturing of bridge won't be done until next year. Installation will probably be in spring of 2025.
- b. Between Friends Food Pantry – Supervisor Rowe included a drawing of the plans for the food pantry. They have submitted plans to the Village and applied for permits. Rowe expects to see work beginning around the first of November.
- c. Consideration and Potential Approval of TOKC 43rd Annual Dinner Reservations – The dinner will be at the Lincoln Inn on October 23 and RSVP are due by October 11. Tom, Marion and Jerry will go. Batavia township is in charge. Let Tom know if you want to attend. Township will pay the \$20 fee. Supervisor Rowe asked for a motion to approve the expenditure. Motion by Medina, second by Silagi. Supervisor Rowe called for a vote. Trustees Bobbe, Elliott, Medina, Silagi and Supervisor Rowe voted aye. 0 nay. Motion Carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Consideration & Potential Approval Newkirk & Associates FY25 Audit Proposal – Supervisor Rowe said that fees have gone up and they gave a three-year proposal with the Treasurer's report as a separate item. He asked if the Board wanted to go out for other bids, or approve Newkirk one year at a time? He said it is not mandatory that we submit the Treasurer's Report every year, and he thinks we'll be able to do the Treasurer's report in house with Bridget on board. The cost is split between the Township, Road District and Community Building. 40% each Township and Road, 20% Community Building. Supervisor Rowe said it could be tabled to November meeting. Trustee Bobbe suggest we go out for other bids to compare. Supervisor Rowe will get two more bids. Trustee Elliott asked who he would ask for bids. Rowe suggested Lauderback, as they do a lot of government entities in the area. Trustee Silagi asked about Knutte & Associates. He also asked at the last Supervisor's meeting and was given a firm in Downer's Grove that does Township audits. He will get at least three bids. Tabled.
- b. Consideration & Potential Approval to purchase 220 Main Street Sugar Grove – Supervisor Rowe explained that the owner has again changed the deal and now says he has two interested parties and is looking for the highest bid and asked Commissioner Musser to explain. Commissioner Musser said he started the discussion in February and there has been a lot of back and forth and delays on the owner's part. Last Friday the owner told Road district there are two other interested parties. The Road District has

offered \$275,000, 1500 for month's rent, would pay the survey and closing costs. Road district lowered their offer to \$250,000 with no survey, no closing costs, no rent. But has not heard back. He said that the Village was one interest party but he has been told by Brad and Konen that they are not going to bid against the Road District. In the mean time Doug has had two contractors looking at expanding their Building C. Both the Township and Road District own property there. They will get three bids. There will be prints drawn up, Prints will probably be about \$15,000 so it will just be construction and labor, permits, zoning. Probably won't be started until April so will be in new fiscal year. The addition will be 30 X 40 and won't go as high as the other building. There will be a wash bay. He asked the pantry architect if it was possible to do the remodel for \$250,000-\$280,000 and was told yes, probably less. Supervisor Rowe said one option to move stuff out of the way of food pantry was to use the middle bay of the bus barn and Debbie has already agreed. It would be for one winter.

- c. Review Compensation of Township Officials for the Four-Year term beginning 5/19/25. Included in the packet is the current Resolution 2020-C. The township has to approve the CB Board of managers even though it is set by the state at \$500/yr. Also included is a spreadsheet showing the Kane County Townships salaries for various officials and the TOI 2024 Salary Survey. When salaries are approved board must also approve benefits, health insurance, vehicles, phones, IMRF. Supervisor Rowe says he is fine if we hold where we're at but would like to hear from Curt and Doug. Curt said that compensation should include benefits. Doug said he was looking for 6%, 6%, 4% 4% and keeping the levy where it's at. Assessor said inflation is about 6%. Supervisor Rowe said that if the spreadsheet is updated he will send copies to the board. There was continued discussion of inflation rates. Vote will be at November meeting. Trustee Elliott asked what the levy would be next three years. Supervisor Rowe said we have kept the levy flat for 11 years and his goal would be to keep it flat. Trustee Silagi said that because we have significant reserves, we can't raise the levy until the funds have been spent or there is a plan in place to reduce them.

Adjournment: Trustee Silagi motioned, Trustee Bobbe seconded, voice vote carried. Meeting Adjourned at 7:56 pm.

Next Regular Meeting will Tuesday, November 5th at 6:00 pm.