

RICHMOND TOWNSHIP
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

7812 S. RT 31 RICHMOND, IL

January 8, 2025

7:00 pm

PRESIDING: Supervisor Ron Kay

PRESENT: Trustees, Scott Freund, Kosta Iftica, Kara Lotz

ALSO PRESENT: Clerk Tammy Kay, Highway Commissioner Chris Gumm, Assessor Patricia O'Neill, Administrative Assistant Diana Benitez, 2 Assessor's Office employees

ABSENT: Tracy Dickens

R. Kay called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm, with the Pledge of Allegiance recited by all.

ROLL CALL: Freund, Iftica, Lotz, R. Kay were present, Dickens was absent, quorum established.

MINUTES: Lotz moved to approve the regular December 11th, 2024 meeting minutes, seconded by Freund, and passed by unanimous voice vote. Dickens was absent.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Victoria Harvey, Assessor's Office employee, stated she will graduate in May, hopes to continue working for the office.

TREASURER'S REPORT AND PRESENTATION OF BILLS FOR APPROVAL: R. Kay presented the reports and balances. He stated the problems with Quickbooks is ongoing and frustrating. Freund moved to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Lotz and passed with unanimous voice vote. Dickens was absent.

Township Warrant #25-1T in the amount of \$5,777.63 was presented. Freund moved to approve payment, seconded by Iftica and passed with Freund, Iftica, Lotz and R. Kay voting yes. Dickens was absent.

Road District Warrant #25-1R in the amount of \$111,513.07 was presented. Before the motion was approved, Gumm explained the warrant amount of \$73,000.00 is to be used to purchase a used/refurbished 2018 International dump truck with 96,000 miles. The truck is located in Kansas City and will be picked up next week if Gumm and mechanic Joe Miller agree to the purchase after physically inspecting and driving the truck. He stated purchasing a used vehicle does not require a bid process. Lotz moved to approve payment, seconded by Iftica, and passed with Freund, Iftica, Lotz and R. Kay voting yes. Dickens was absent.

CORRESPONDENCE: 3 letters from Senior Transportation riders thanking the Township for the recent Christmas light trip, \$285.00 donation received from the Community Church, letter about free mobile app for government officials to use to locate pipelines.

REPORTS:

Supervisor: R. Kay reported after continued problems and an unnecessary shut off by Frontier, a new phone service, Evergent, has been installed. The new service will save the township about \$200.00 per month and is very similar to the service at the Road District. He also researched different health insurances and will be saving about \$8,400.00 a year with the new company. R. Kay said he learned about the Federal Surplus Property program and has received information about how to apply. He explained the program offers vehicles, office goods and other materials for no cost to government entities, though the items have to be picked up or payment is needed for shipping costs. He stated this program can benefit the Road District also.

Road District: Gumm reported the Road District is looking for snow! He stated the salt surplus is healthy and the mild weather conditions are letting the employees work on equipment maintenance. Gumm purchased new tarps for the salt shed entrance. They are made of old billboard material which is heavy duty, inexpensive and nice looking, with the advertisement facing inside the building. He showed pictures of the 2018 truck on his laptop and stated it has a new dump box, new hydraulics, been sandblasted/repainted and comes with a warranty. A brand-new truck would cost twice as much and take about 2.5 years to receive. He received statement of the confirmed levy. The township numbers are appropriate and in line with other townships.

Assessor: O'Neill reported 15 new home sales, 17 phone calls, and 18 permits received. She stated the website has been updated to 2025.

Clerk: T.Kay stated the Township Levy and Road District Levy have been filed at the county. The ballot question resolution was also filed. She stated the Economic Interest Statement list needs to be given to the county and asked if anyone had any changes to personal information such as phone numbers, emails, etc., to let her know after the meeting, She explained that a request to amend meeting dates due to the difficulty of preparing for meetings such as, closing out the month, reconciling bills, warrant preparations, and preparing reports, when the 1rst of the month falls on or before the Wednesday before the meeting.

Trustees: Freund stated he created a ballpark figure/plan to put an office into the township office building. It would cost approximately \$12,000.00 in labor and materials. He stated it is possible labor could be provided with only a material cost. Iftica passed out a newsletter example which included information about the garbage service ballot question. Discussion ensued about costs of printing, how often to send out, possible posting on Road District Facebook page and the need to get the newsletter out soon.

Senior Transportation: R. Kay handed out a list of grants that have been applied for. He reported there were 73 rides given, 1,309 miles driven, with a cost per mile of \$4.46, with Johnsburg/McHenry being the most frequent destination accounting for 37 of those rides.

Cemetery: R. Kay stated the Cemetery Board has received requests regarding pet cremains buried with human cremains. The board is planning to adopt a special vault to accommodate this and will also be creating specs and rules regarding foundation size, placement, etc.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: R. Kay added Trustee ideas to the 5-year strategic plan and feels it may be more like a 2 or 3-year plan. He stated the Community Resource Fair is January 14, 2025, 5pm-

7pm, held at the Richmond Grade School. The Township has a table reserved and will give out magnets with township information and Senior Transportation flyers. He invited everyone to participate. Discussion of other handouts, picture board of Santa/reindeer event, and nametags ensued. R. Kay said the lease agreement with O'Neill has been signed. He stated he has joined the Chain O'Lakes Chamber of Commerce.

NEW BUSINESS: R. Kay told the board he will not make any decisions about an Assessor office/addition until after the election and welcomes anyone to give their thoughts/ideas about office options.

Freund moved to amend 2025 meeting dates to be changed to April 16, July 16 and October 15, seconded by Iftica and approved by unanimous voice vote. Dickens was absent.

Iftica moved to approve Resolution 2025-1 Federal Equipment Program, seconded by R. Kay and passed by voice vote, Dickens was absent.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Freund asked about the Santa/Reindeer date and location for this year. R.Kay stated an email was received from the reindeer company stating they will no longer be offering their service. Benitez did research and found another company and has sent an email requesting rates and dates available. Santa has been reserved already and can be canceled if another reindeer company can not be secured. The date for the event will be December 13, 2025. Freund stated that attendance numbers are decreasing and perhaps the township should consider doing something different in the next year or so.

CLOSED SESSION: none

There was no other business. Iftica moved to adjourn, seconded by Lotz and passed by unanimous voice vote. Dickens was absent.

8:03pm.

Township Clerk

Approved: _____