

RICHMOND TOWNSHIP  
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

7812 S. RT 31 RICHMOND, IL

January 5, 2023

7:00 pm

**PRESIDING:** Supervisor Paul Hain

**PRESENT:** Trustees, Tracy Dickens, Scott Freund, Kosta Iftica, Kara Lotz

**ALSO PRESENT:** Clerk Tammy Kay, Administrative Assistant Diana Benitez, Highway Commissioner Chris Gumm, 2 members of the public

**ABSENT:** Assessor Patricia O’Neill

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

**ROLL CALL:** Dickens, Freund, Iftica, Lotz, and Hain were present. Quorum established.

**MINUTES:** None

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None

**TREASURER’S REPORT:** None

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None

**REPORTS:** None

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:** This is a special meeting to discuss the Senior Transportation Program. Most of the board has attended meetings about senior transportation throughout McHenry County, thus discussion of ideas and information will take place. Hain discussed the service of the program from 2018-2022, the total amount of fares received, net income, total ridership, destinations, grants and donations received. Freund asked what was significant about the year 2019 with the large donation amount. Hain explained the local Senior Services Foundation was dissolved and proceeds were given to the program. He stated that conversations with the Burton Township Supervisor have been positive in regards to contributing more financially to the program. Freund stated the board has two months until the new budget needs approval and suggested placing on the regular meeting agenda each month, a discussion of several budget lines to find ways to trim the budget and better fund the program. Dickens asked about the Burton Township Contribution and why there was nothing for 2022. Hain stated they haven’t been billed yet. Iftica asked how the amount of the Burton Township contribution is figured. Hain replied a formula was created in 2006 with the creation of the program. Currently there are 15 riders in Burton Township and 40 in Richmond Township and he feels the formula needs updating and is in discussion with the Burton Township Supervisor.

Freund asked how many riders were unable to pay for the ride. Benitez stated there have been none in the past 18 months. She also stated that rides to doctor appointments were down since Covid, as many are still doing telephone appointments. Lotz mentioned the website still has Covid rules listed and wondered if the program was still following those. Benitez stated they are not. Hain said he would look at and update the website. O'Neill was absent but sent a letter with suggestions and a list of business owners in Richmond and Spring Grove. Freund and Lotz suggested annual fund raiser ideas including a golf outing and fund a duck float on the Nippersink. Iftica stated he has tried to set up the website donation page, but lacks important information to get the page up and running. Hain will help provide that information. Hain stated the program is a life saving mission, helping seniors to stay in their homes. He said preliminary calculations show the township will receive about \$18,000 more in tax dollars which will help stop the drain of funds. Discussion ensued about the 2014 bus the township owns and how long the hydraulics are expected to last, possibly another 3 years. The lift is currently used for one quadriplegic rider. Ideas were presented that included selling the bus and not replacing it, thus saving about \$150,000 and instead lease a PACE bus for \$100 per month plus the personnel cost to keep the extensive paperwork. Trustees were enthusiastic about the PACE bus lease and will research the program before the next regular meeting. Hain and Iftica will work on the township donation page. Benitez stated a new updated brochure is needed and could be sent with the assessor's mailings as an outreach. It was stated the budget needs to be under control before attracting more to the program. Freund suggested getting on the Richmond Village Board agenda and the Spring Grove Village Board agenda to give a presentation about the program and how financial assistance is needed.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Jeanne Bolash, Williams St., Richmond, stated she didn't know about the program until a neighbor told her. She feels a better outreach is needed. She said there are many, many grants out there that should be applied for. She suggested several fund-raising ideas including a night at a local business where the business would donate part of the sales, and asking local businesses that the Senior Transportation program patronizes, to offer a monthly drawing of some sort or pay for rider fare tickets. She stated she is experienced with grant writing. Hain asked for her contact information for future help with this. Chris Gumm suggested approaching local businesses as a type of partnership with the program, instead of one time donations. He felt a longer relationship would be much more beneficial.

**CLOSED SESSION:** None

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

8:46pm

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Township Clerk

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_