

RICHMOND TOWNSHIP
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

7812 S. RT 31 RICHMOND, IL

February 8, 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, guest Edward Gallagher, resident Ron Kay

ABSENT: Assessor Patricia O'Neill

Hain called the meeting to order at 6:59 pm, with the Pledge of Allegiance recited by all.

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

MINUTES: Freund moved to approve the January 11, 2023, regular board minutes, seconded by Dickens and passed by unanimous voice vote.

Iftica moved to approve the minutes of the Special January 5, 2023, meeting, seconded by Freund and passed by unanimous voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: none

NEW BUSINESS: Edward Gallagher, PACE Community Relationship Representative, presented a program about a lease program they sponsor. They currently have a surplus of vehicles to go out. A 7-passenger conversion van, with lift, would require a \$500 deposit and \$100 per month lease payment. He explained maintenance of the vehicle would be covered by PACE and gasoline, insurance, operations, and drivers would be the township's responsibility. PACE works with the transportation coordinator to provide training to drivers, who would be required to pass an MTA physical exam and drug testing. He explained the vehicle is not to be used for ambulance transport, to be rented out, to pull a trailer, and no one under the age of 8 years is allowed to ride. The vehicle would stay with the township for the life of the vehicle and can have township logo/phone number placed on it. Currently PACE does not have busses available and are considering purchasing more. The bus lease program would be very similar to the van, except for maintenance. The township would have to maintain a bus at its expense.

Trustees inquired if a minimum/maximum miles per year is required, the MPG of the vehicle, and requirements for driving beyond the boundaries set by PACE. Gallagher will get back to the board with specifics.

Discussion ensued about the specific routes PACE has and the difficulty riders in the township have meeting PACE requirements for rides. Gallagher stated there is a network revitalization process

happening within the program. They are looking at current routes, and incorporating outside companies, such as Uber, to transport ADA clients.

After the presentation, a 5-minute recess was taken. 7:54pm.

Back in session. 7:59pm.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Hain presented the reports and balances. The new budget starts April 1, 2023. Line item #800 Capital Outlay is overbudget because of building expenses. He stated the township has received the Community Foundation Grant of \$10,000 for the Senior Transportation Program for the year 2023. Gloria Kraft applied for the grant which has a two-year commitment. Hain stated General Assistance program has been providing relief for individuals requesting utility payment help. General Road and Bridge Budget income has increased 146%. Gumm was congratulated on that accomplishment.

Iftica moved to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Lotz and passed by unanimous voice vote.

Town Warrant #23-2T in the audited amount of \$2,246.91 was presented. Dickens moved to approve payment, seconded by Freund, and passed with Dickens, Freund, Iftica, Lotz, and Hain voting yes.

Road Warrant #23-2R in the audited amount of \$10,688.71 was presented. Freund moved to approve payment, seconded by Hain, and passed with Dickens, Freund, Iftica, Lotz, and Hain voting yes.

CORRESPONDENCE: Two letters to the Northwest Herald editor were reviewed. The first was from Bob Anderson, the second a response from Paul Hain.

REPORTS:

Supervisor: Hain stated that he and Benitez have been looking at the budget and crunching numbers. He stated the budget does not have to be approved by April 1, 2023, that there is a 90-day grace period for approval.

Road District: Gumm gave several handouts. The salary sheet and cabinet picture of the completed project. He stated the 167% budget income increase was due to permit fees for overweight or oversize vehicles and for electric phone pole installation. He said he has not taken the salt delivery, as there is no where to put it. The mild winter has seen a sharp decrease in usage and the upcoming weather will determine future usage. The Hill Road project that he presented to the Village of Richmond has been enthusiastically received. They are working on an intergovernmental agreement that hopefully will be signed within the next few weeks. Gumm said the salt brine solution is working out very well. He is hoping to transfer his credit card account to Chase bank same as the township has done.

Assessor: none

Clerk: Kay reported that the Statement of Economic Interest emails from McHenry County have gone out. She stated that there is a glitch in the attached link to file and for filers to go directly to the county website to file there. She reminded the board to be sure to get a copy of the filing to her for the records.

Trustees: Iftica stated he approached PayPal about the payment option for the donation page. He has contacted them several times with questions and has not heard back. Freund asked who puts information on the township sign. Iftica handles that and explained the process. Iftica also stated he

recently used a website to create brochures and would help Benitez create new brochures for the township.

Senior Transportation: The program gave 67 rides last month, covering 1047 miles. Benitez stated the Rotary Club will be having their spaghetti dinner on March 8, 2023. It will take place at Richardson's Adventure Farm. This year the dining room will be open. She will reach out to the seniors for takeout orders or rides to the event. Last year over 40 meals were ordered.

Cemetery Board: Hain reported only two winter burials so far this year. He said 1 member of the board will go to the cemetery ½ hour before the burial to make sure everything is set up correctly. The board works with funeral directors and families to determine if a burial should be deferred due to frozen ground. Steve Wilkins was able to clean the old stone that was recently returned. It is scheduled to be remounted.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS: Fiscal year budget planning was discussed. Certain line items were discussed. Clarification from Freund of line #511 was requested. He stated money needs to be put aside for repairs to the building and to create a fund for a future Assessor's office. Line #557 brochure/newspaper notices- was decided \$2,300 could be moved. Line #571-Utilities was discussed. Ron Kay commented about the benefits of NRG Electric savings at the school district he worked for. The budgeted amount was changed from \$2,500 to \$2,000. Discussion about a future recycling event under line #911. Hain stated Nunda Township has a year-round program. He will approach them about a possible intergovernmental agreement with Richmond Township participating.

Hain stated the township anticipates receiving \$13,000 additional funds from the levy. He asked trustees their thoughts on the budget so far. They feel we are on the right track.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Edward Gallagher asked for clarification about the 67 rides, if they were one way or round trip. Hain explained all township rides are round trip. Gumm stated April is Transplant Awareness month, and asked if that could be placed on the township sign.

CLOSED SESSION: Iftica moved to go to closed session for the semi-annual review of closed minutes, seconded by Hain, and passed by unanimous voice vote. 9:18pm

Iftica moved to leave closed session, seconded by Freund, and passed by unanimous voice vote. 9:25pm.

Freund moved to keep all closed minutes closed, seconded by Hain and passed by unanimous voice vote.

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

9:25pm.

Township Clerk

Approved: _____