

RICHMOND TOWNSHIP
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

7812 S. RT 31 RICHMOND, IL

November 8, 2023

7:00 pm

PRESIDING: Supervisor Paul Hain

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

ALSO PRESENT: Clerk Tammy Kay, Road Commissioner Chris Gumm

ABSENT: Assessor Patricia O'Neill, Administrative Assistant Diana Benitez

Hain called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm, with the Pledge of Allegiance recited by all.

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

MINUTES: Freund moved to approve the minutes of the regular October 11, 2023, meeting, seconded by Dickens and passed with unanimous voice vote.

Freund moved to approve the minutes of the September 13, 2023 closed session, seconded by Lotz and passed with unanimous voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: none

TREASURER'S REPORT: Hain presented the reports and balances. The budget is on track. He explained the warrant amount increase was for a bill received today for siren maintenance.

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

Township Warrant #23-11T in the amount of \$7,165.84 was presented. Dickens moved to approve payment, seconded by Lotz and passed with Freund, Iftica, Lotz, Dickens and Hain voting yes.

Road District Warrant #23-11R in the amount of \$7,925.00 was presented. Iftica moved to approve payment, seconded by Lotz, and passed with Freund, Iftica, Lotz, Dickens and Hain voting yes.

CORRESPONDENCE: A letter was received from PACE announcing the balanced 2024 budget.

REPORTS:

Supervisor: Hain reported he has been looking at investment opportunities with the State of Illinois. A fund is available that allows municipalities, townships, etc. to invest funds at good rates, 5-5.35%, with great liquidity and a small management fee. He is still investigating to make sure funds are separate from Illinois state funds. He will update the board in a month or so. He stated a letter of support from Road Commissioner, Chris Gumm, was sent to the Village of Richmond. The village will be applying for grants regarding Broadway Street and needs the township's support. He also had a

discussion with the State Bank of The Lakes about the township's credit card needs. The bank is unable to meet those needs.

Road District: Gumm reported the Hill Road project contractor has agreed to fix most everything that the county and township wanted fixed. Some minor work still needs to be done. The county is calculating fines to be assessed. He also stated the County Bridge Program, that utilizes federal grants for repairs, may be coming to an end. 17 Township Road Commissioners throughout the county have formed a group to explore ways to keep the grant process, as bridge repair is very expensive. Every township in the county will be affected by this.

Gumm said he has initial quotes from 2 engineering firms for a cold storage pole barn/garage project. The process requires architectural drawings, permit from the county, and then construction, which would be done by the road district crew with Scott Freund's assistance. He stated he is looking to add another truck to the fleet capable of handling salt brine. A new truck has a price of \$116,000.00 and is cost prohibitive and he has several used trucks in the \$70,000.00 range he may consider. He handed out a copy of a thank you received from a township resident, thanking the road district for the continued good work they do. He mentioned approval from the State of Illinois for the CDL training should happen in mid-December.

Assessor: none, absent

Clerk: none

Trustees: Lotz passed out the Village of Richmond, Christmas of Yesteryear flyer. She feels there is a conflict with our own Santa/reindeer event as there will be 2 Santa's within a few miles, same hours and targeting the same people. Discussion ensued regarding maybe hosting a summer event instead of the Santa/reindeer event.

Hain discussed the newsletter regarding the potential trash removal contract with the county. He feels the deadline was missed to participate with the county and the newsletter should be put on hold until the new contract opportunity arises. More research is needed as to when the current contract expires. Lotz feels the newsletter is important to inform the public.

Senior Transportation: Hain stated no official word has been received from the county regarding the grant contingency fund.

There were 51 riders covering 670 miles last month. A holiday light tour is in the planning stages.

Cemetery Board: none

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Lotz moved to adopt the 2024 Amended Road District Budget and Appropriations Ordinance, seconded by Iftica and passed by roll call vote, all ayes.

NEW BUSINESS: Iftica moved to approve the 2023 Independent Audit, seconded by Dickens. The motion did not pass and will carry over to the December meeting.

Hain presented the proposed Township levy with two options. Option A is a 4.98% levy with a \$15,882.00 proposed increase in tax monies. Option B is a 6.7% levy with a \$21,367.00 projected increase in tax monies. His recommendation is option B which would help make up the loss from the county senior transportation grant. Iftica and Lotz feel option A is the best choice. Freund stated that other increases from other government bodies are coming and that the township needs to be better stewards of the tax dollars. He can't justify spending money on the Santa/reindeer event when the township is asking for a tax increase. Hain explained the tax cap situation in Illinois and the problems it has created. There was discussion of cutting the budget further.

Iftica moved to adopt option A, 4.98%: \$334,798.00 seconded by Dickens and passed by majority voice vote with Iftica, Lotz, and Dickens voting yes, Hain voting no and Freund voting present. Hain believes option B is a better choice for the township's financial health. Hain stated the 30-day review gives everyone a chance to think about the decision.

Gumm presented the proposed Road District levy with 5.0% cap with a proposed increase of \$29,000.00. He believes the levy increase will not cover increased costs and will probably break even.

Freund moved to adopt Richmond Township Road District 2023 Tax Levy, seconded by Iftica and passed with Freund, Iftica, Lotz, Dickens, and Hain voting yes.

Be it hereby RESOLVED that the township of Richmond, Illinois, to set the 2023 Richmond Township Road District tax levy to be collected in 2023 as follows; \$81,660.00 to be collected for the Road and Bridge Fund, \$523,248.00 to be collected for the Permanent Road Fund, and \$52,000.00 to be collected for the Equipment and Building Fund for a total collection for 2023 tax levy to be Six hundred and fifty six thousand, nine hundred and eight dollars (\$656,908.00)

PUBLIC COMMENTS: none

CLOSED SESSION: Iftica moved to go into closed session for the purpose of the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, or legal matters with township legal counsel, seconded by Dickens and passed with unanimous voice vote, 9:14 pm.

Iftica moved to come out of closed session, seconded by Freund and passed with unanimous voice vote, 9:50 pm.

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

9:50pm.

Township Clerk

Approved: _____