

GREEN GARDEN TOWNSHIP

December 12, 2022, REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

1. Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Supervisor Don Murday with Pledge of Allegiance
2. Pastor Clint Ifland leads meeting in prayer.
3. Roll Call by Clerk, Crissy Kraft: Present were Trustees Dietz, Kovar, Newton, Wagner, and Supervisor Murday. Elected officials present: Assessor Bushong, Highway Commissioner Hilliard, and Clerk Kraft.
4. Approval of Minutes from November 14, 2022, regular Monthly Meeting prepared by Clerk Crissy Kraft. Supervisor Murday entertained a motion to accept the minutes as prepared by Clerk Kraft. Motion made by Trustee Kovar and seconded by Trustee Dietz. All in favor with Aye, motion unanimously carried.
5. *Public Comments* - Resident Dan Butler, currently serving on the Will County Board, wanted to say thank you for the support and he has the towns best interest at heart. One of his official first duties was to vote in favor of the Will Ride Program for Green Garden Township. Butler let the residents know he would be collecting signatures after the meeting for Bonnie Playtec to get on the ballot for Library Board.
 - Resident Belinda Olszewski wanted an update on the Will Ride Program.
 - Resident Buddy Schultz wants to know the updates about the town hall building renovations and the sewer problem. He was also asking about new services being brought into the building since there is a hole out by the street. Supervisor Murday commented that the committee for town hall renovations has updated the board every month on what they are doing.
6. *Cemetery Report* - Heidi Christofilos reported on the committee meeting and concerns they have for Union Cemetery and its abandonment status that was filed by an attorney several years ago. The Committee decided today that it would like to file a 501c13 - non-profit for Union Cemetery. They spoke with Sandy Vasko from Will County Historical Society since this is something they have done with cemeteries with the status of being abandoned. A non-profit 501c-13 is available to potentially take on that responsibility for that cemetery. There are a lot of filings for the State and the IRS and they estimate around \$1000. to move forward. The committee would like to have the board vote at the next meeting for them to move forward with the filings of the 501c13 and ask for \$1000. from the Cemetery fund to assist in the cost of the filings. The main concern of the Committee is that future boards may not be as great as the current board in helping and supporting Union Cemetery and them building a charter ship will protect the cemeteries as the prior Cemetery Board lasted over 100 years until abandonment. Heidi also said that three out of the five cemeteries are open to help from the township, Greenview, Union, and Twining Cemeteries. Heidi asked Paul Cabay, a restoration specialist, to walk through those three cemeteries with them to determine what monuments could be potentially dangerous. The goal is to use allocated funds to restore those monuments that could be harmful or fall over. Supervisor Murday has been working with the township attorney and BMO to get access to the funds. Supervisor Murday says speaking with the township attorney would be good to see what obligations, or what it implies to set up the 501c13 and get advice and counsel on what to do. As far as BMO, they are unwilling to move since the township is not related to the entity who opened the account. The township attorney has located the attorney who represented the prior organization, let them know the problem with the bank, and asked if they could

find someone to execute or assign Green Garden legal footing to get those funds. Heidi asked if the funds were sent to the state if that would allow us to get the funds back. Supervisor Murday didn't know legally how it works with the state or treasurer's department, since the money is not technically the townships, the attorney is looking into it.

7. Planning Commission - Trustee Dietz pointed out that the date for the January 3rd meeting was wrong on the website (January 2nd), which clerk Kraft immediately corrected it on the website. Trustee Dietz spoke with the attorney who represents the applicant, and he is aware of the January 3rd date and all the planning committee members were notified by email. Trustee Dietz said that Tim Krygsheld still wants to be on the planning committee and that one candidate contacted him that would like to be on the committee and another did not live in Green Garden. Supervisor Murday said he meets with Trustee's to keep up on things and he and Trustee Dietz had talked about getting additional folks to serve on the Planning Commission. Right now there are five with Jim Wayman and it is recommended five to seven. Supervisor Murday said he would absolutely be open to people interested in becoming involved in the township. Supervisor Murday suggested having interested parties meet with Jim Wayman and then have them come and introduce themselves to the board whereas then they can be formally voted in to be members of the Planning Commission Board. Supervisor Murday then confirmed the meeting for January 3rd, 2023 and then the following Monday they would present their case to the Board. It is two special use permits, one for rural events and one for Ancillary Liquor sales. Planning Commission Chairman Jim Wayman read a letter about the agreement for the Bengston property on behalf of Wildflower farms for rural events and liquor sales. He said the presentation will be on the 3rd and questions answered at that time but the gist is for baby showers, weddings, bachelorette parties, things of that nature to be held there. Supervisor Murday mentioned notice going in the Vedette, placards on their property for people driving by to see, and certified mail to contiguous landowners, it will go to Planning Board then onto the Green Garden Township board, as well as the County.

8. Road Commissioner's Report by Commissioner Jim Hilliard

- *Past Operations* – Got a stump grinder and Falcon Hot box on loan from New Lenox which allowed them to take down old stumps and 50 tons of asphalt to fill pot holes, and also add shoulder to Stuenkel Road West of 45. All trucks preventative maintenance done, completed installing plows and salt spreaders on trucks. Painted all plow truck frames and beds to help make them last longer since some are over 20 years old. Golfview Subdivision wanted a speed limit so the engineer has approved a 30 mile an hour speed limit.

- *Present Operations* – Preventative maintenance on heavy machinery, tuning salt spreaders to spread more evenly. If weather holds up they will cut shoulders out gravel roads to allow water to drain.

- *Future Operations* – Scheer Road Bridge, North of Offer Road, is a joint venture between Green Garden and Will County in which Will County will pay 50% of the cost and the project will take 2-3 years. The first step is hiring an engineering firm through a bidding process that the county facilitates and organizes the paperwork. If anyone is interested in helping choose an engineering firm please let Jim know.

9. Assessor's Report - Assessor Bushong addressed the housing market values and how the State of Illinois takes the last three years of sales (2020, 2021, and 2022) which in turn determines the equalizer every summer. The housing market has been healthy and although there is much speculation know one really knows if it will go up or down. Assessor

Bushong stressed how important it is that people are paying what they are supposed to fairly which will help the factor be less next summer. Assessor Bushong is also attending a lot of end of year meetings with Supervisor of Assessments with Will County and so forth. She is also doing a lot of reviews, reporting, and getting prepared for the quad year starting January 1, 2023.

10. *Trustee's Report - Trustee Dietz, Trustee Kovar Trustee Newton, Trustee Wagner*

* Trustee Dietz reported on the property at 104th and Dralle Road, that nothing is going on and no one has contacted him this time around. Trustee Dietz reported on Palomino Trace which is at a stand still with the lawyers who requested some FOIA's in which Will County said they are behind and don't have the man power right now. They would like to come to the township at a later day to explain what's going on in Palomino and how it could affect other non-existing subdivisions. He also reported the container homes have stalled out also.

* Before Trustee Kovar's report Supervisor Murday explained how he asked Trustee Kovar to head up the Dial-A-Ride Program and that he graciously excepted. Trustee Kovar said he would get ahold of Clerk Kraft to put an application online or a mailed version and debated whether or not to have an ID card issued for verification purposes. Supervisor Murday explained that the board voted to have the rides for medical uses only for disabled and folks over 60. He also explained that the application will be on the website and information in the upcoming newsletter to get word to the residents.

* Trustee Newton updated on the status of the town hall renovation committee and the criteria for the grant monies. They have met several times and meeting with contractors to get 3 estimates for each project. The \$58,000. grant money does not cover any paving because it has to be permeable, which would cost a ton of money. They are focusing on HVAC, and electric. Trustee Newton has been meeting with contractors and she has also been blown off or not received written estimates when told she would so this is also holding up the project. The yellow ribbon outside town hall is where a soil sample was obtained for the septic. Mark Sarkisan said the hole out front was his doing, a Julie locate was done, the county wanted him to dig further away and then ran into a couple lines which they are going to get fixed. In order to get a permit the county needed soil samples and doing it himself saved about \$900. They can now move forward with estimates from septic companies. Supervisor Murday wanted to speak on concerns some may have about the building and why renovating if it will be knocked down. He has assurances from Will County that the building will not be impacted, that nothing is being done on this side. He also discussed with Jim Hilliard that the shed behind Townhall that houses road district equipment could be moved down to the road district property and use that land for additional parking.

11. *Supervisor's Report - Supervisor Don Murday* - Supervisor Murday explained after filing The Township Annual Financial Report that TOI said needed to be filed, the State came back and said we needed an audit. The Comptroller said they don't read the statute the same as TOI, so an audit will be filed by the end of the month. Supervisor Murday is ok with it since last years audit cleaned things up with categorizing. This year should be a clean audit and will be required annually from here on out. The newsletter is set to go out to residents early January, and do so possibly quarterly. In the future maybe highlighting a resident who has done a remarkable job. Supervisor Murday mentioned the new door lock being installed that allows the lock to be unlocked remotely to eliminate running back and forth to open

and lock town hall. Supervisor Murday wished the residents Happy Holidays and good health on behalf of the township.

12. *New Business* –

* Annual Township Tax Levy Ordinance -Supervisor Murday calls for a motion to pass the Town Fund Levy, Trustee Wagner makes the motion, Trustee Newton seconds the motion. Supervisor Murday calls for a Roll Call by Clerk Kraft to adopt the Town Fund Levy. Roll call vote taken: 5 Aye, 0 Nay. Motion unanimously carried. Supervisor Murday calls for a motion to pass the Road District Fund Levy, Trustee Dietz makes the motion, Trustee Kovar seconds the motion. Supervisor Murday calls for a Roll Call by Clerk Kraft to adopt the Road District Fund Levy. Roll call vote take: 5 Aye, 0 Nay.

* Vote to approve the Grant Contract for \$58,000. Dollars - Supervisor Murday entertains a motion to approve the execution of the contract on behalf of Green Garden. Trustee Dietz had a couple questions, first how did the determination for number 10, type of grant, 11 which is detailed description of the grant, and the scope of the projects? Supervisor Murday said with the help of the consultant, they asked for the money to be used to renovate town hall as the basis for that. Supervisor Murday explained they were following the lead of the consultant and the verbiage provided by them and he is comfortable with the process and email chains. Supervisor again asks for a motion to approve the Grant Contract for \$58,000. pursuant to ARPA. Trustee Wagner makes the motion, Trustee Newton seconds the motion. Trustee Dietz asks for a roll call vote. Supervisor Murday calls for a Roll Call by Clerk Kraft to adopt the Grant Contract. Roll call vote taken: 3 Aye(Trustee Wagner, Trustee Newton, Supervisor Murday), 2 Nay(Trustee Dietz, Trustee Kovar). Motion carried 3 to 2.

* Resident Scott Bettenhausen presented the Board with his farm rent checks for the 2022 year (to be deposited into the Town Fund account).

13. *Old Business* - No Old Business

14. Meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m. with a motion by Trustee Dietz and seconded by Trustee Kovar. All in favor with Aye, motion unanimously carried. The next Board meeting to be held on Monday, January 9, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Crissy Kraft, Clerk for Green Garden Township