

**GREEN GARDEN TOWNSHIP**  
**January 9, 2023, REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

1. Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Supervisor Don Murday with Pledge of Allegiance
2. Pastor Dave Feddes 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 December 12, 2022, regular Monthly Meeting prepared by Clerk Crissy Kraft. Supervisor Murday entertained a motion to accept the minutes as prepared by Clerk Kraft (with the amendment of the roll call vote identified). Motion made by Trustee Dietz and seconded by Trustee Kovar. All in favor with Aye, motion unanimously carried.
5. Approval of Township Financial report, Supervisor Murday entertained a motion to approve the Township Financial report as reviewed by the Trustees prior to the meeting start time. Motion made by Trustee Newton and seconded by Trustee Wagner. All in favor with Aye, motion unanimously carried.

**6. Public Comments**

- \* Resident Buddy Schultz - Questioned stump grinding, he was unaware the township had a stump grinder and the locations or properties where the stump grinding was done.
- \* Resident Monroe Striggow - Attended the last planning commission meeting and looking for information on the procedures of how the vote went. He had concerns about a proxy vote, if there were minutes, and how to find out the decision of the meeting. Resident Striggow also had questions on the approved Levy, why it is so high and what the plans are for the monies in the Capital Fund.
- \* Resident Belinda Olszewski - Wanted to know if the financial report that was approved at the meeting would be available to the residents or if a FOIA request is needed. She also wanted to know the amount in the Capital Fund and what the plans are for the money.

**7. Planning Commission**

Wildflower Farm Special Use Permits -ZC-22-050 - ZC-22-030 - ZC-22-031-Agribusiness rural events and the sale of alcohol, Mrs. Carmine explained her business, what they stand for, as well as their values, who they serve, and the quaintness of the venue. Council let the residents know that February 21, 2023 the matter will go before Will County, and notices would go out. Supervisor Murday explained the process to residents. Supervisor Murday spoke with council before the meeting about concerns the township has with special use permits and restricting them to the applicant/owner of property, legally meaning it runs with the owner and not the land. Supervisor Murday also asked for clarification if the events are open to the public, or if they are planned events. Mrs. Carmine clarified that special events are advertised on Facebook to the followers to sell tickets to keep it under control. Trustee Newton questioned the parking or road traffic. Council commented that parking is immediately West going out to Dralle Road. There are 170 parking places with 6 Handicap accessible paved and striped spots with circular drive coming in on East side and exiting on the West side. Trustee Newton raised concerns of more people than spaces and Mrs. Carmine explained they sell the maximum numbers of tickets for parking spaces. Supervisor Murday entertains a motion to approve the application for Special Use Permits Zoning Case - Zc-22-050 and Special Use Permits S-22-030 and S-22-031. Motion made by Trustee Dietz and seconded by Trustee Kovar. All in favor with Aye, motion unanimously carried.

**8. Cemetery Report**

Heidi Christofilos updated that over the holidays Union Cemetery was part of an accident where a car was pushed into the cemetery which knocked down the sign and historic landmark plaque. Pictures were taken and damage was minimal. Heidi and Russ visited four of the cemeteries to do site evaluations with Paul Cabay (monument preservation company) to evaluate headstones that

could be a hazard and get estimates. Mr. Cabay is preparing a proposal to be submitted to the board. Supervisor Murday followed up on the damage to the cemetery and has been in contact with someone from the Executive's Office in Will County and the man who caused the damage wants to make restitution and fix whatever damage that was done. He asked that the gentleman be given his information and he will forward to Heidi. Supervisor Murday said it was refreshing that someone who's causes something stands up and take responsibility and is willing to make amends. Trustee Dietz asked the Supervisor if he had contacted the lawyer concerning the 501(c)(13). Supervisor Murday said that Heidi sent an email to the township attorney who recommended against forming a non-profit. The committee is still deciding what is best but they are still looking into the 501(c)(13) nonprofit. The reasoning is the prior board lasted almost a century and by setting up the nonprofit they could continue on the legacy in the community. Heidi expressed her gratitude of the board in supporting and funding the cemeteries thus far and their concerns are for the longevity and history of Union Cemetery.

**9. Road Commissioner's Report** by Commissioner Jim Hilliard

\* *Past Operations* – Finishing up preventative maintenance on heavy machinery, maintain signs and streetlights, plowing for first snow of year, not much accumulation but blowing winds causing drifts and windchills below zero. Commissioner Hilliard thanked his team for their community service and helping the residents.

\* *Present Operations* – Upgraded the shop with LED lights, computer transmission and plow truck, stocking the salt shed. When weather permits will tackle high shoulders on gravel roads that hold water.

\* *Future Operations* – Scheer Road Bridge, North of Offer Road.

Commissioner Hilliard addressed the stump grinding from public comments that by attending Highway Commissioner meetings he has been able to meet many guys from other townships and that New Lenox has been gracious enough to loan us a jetter, falcon hot box, and stump grinder. The grindings took place on Stuenkel Road, West of 80th, South of Bruns, and 104th South of Pauling Road.

**10. Assessor's Report** by Jane Bushong

Ran utilities and updates in different programs. Go over the databases from one year to another. Began preparation for the fiscal year 23/24 assessor budget, worked with trustees and accounting staff clarifying accounting codes, budget timelines in order to reconcile and move forward with budget year. Worked on content for the newsletter, address lists for the newsletter. Worked on IT issues in the office, attended SOA meetings and classes. Assessor budget review for future fiscal year. Went over the budget and clarified the different changes and needs.

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

\* Trustee Dietz reported that he had many calls as to why Green Garden Township was listed under the Peotone Chamber of Commerce. After a few calls the previous contact was no longer with the township and the name removed. The matter is being looked into. There is a matter coming before the planning commission on February 6, for a property on LaGrange Road for a map amendment for a truck terminal from A1 to I-1 to store trucks. Supervisor Murday commended Trustee Dietz for his great job monitoring the happenings. The above application was proceeding without any involvement from Green Garden and because of Trustee Dietz's diligence Will County tabled the matter until it could go in front of Green Garden. A matter of 9200 Stuenkel came up which needs further investigation and will be addressed when there is more information.

\* Trustee Kovar reported that as of January 1, Will Ride is active and working out some application quirks, so far their has been one applicant.

\* Trustee Wagner addressed the Levy and how the tax rate is calculated. The tax bill is comprised of assessed value times the tax rate, take everyones assessed values and multiply by the tax rate and you get the tax bill. The taxable amount can only be raised by 5% so if the assessed values

went up more than 5%, the only way to keep the tax value down to 5% would be for the county to lower the tax rate, so this year the tax rate looks to be lower. Trustee Wagner said now is the time to think about what needs to be budgeted into the next fiscal year. Supervisor Murday mentioned events at town hall and the upcoming newsletter are examples of that. Trustee Dietz addressed public comments on the amount in the Capital Fund in which Supervisor Murday said there is \$ 607,726.16 and it is the savings for a town hall that was started years ago and continues to be. Trustee Dietz had concerns about future events, sprinklers, and insurance coverage.

\* Trustee Newton had Mark Sarkisian speak on behalf of the town hall renovations. The top three things they are working on are the septic system, HVAC and electrical. They have three quotes each for HVAC and electrical and the septic are all out for bid, soil samples are done. The holidays slowed them down a bit but now they are waiting on the written septic quotes. Mark addressed the old septic system, it cannot go under the parking lot, the current system has a tile that goes to cornfield, that will not be the new system. Mark said after the meeting he would address any more questions.

**12. *Supervisor's Report* by Supervisor Don Murday**

Supervisor Murday spoke of the rental over the holiday and how the family had town hall looking great, took photos and said they could be used on the town hall's website. They next day the floors were dirt covered because of the issues with the current parking lot. Supervisor Murday touched base on the newsletter, Will-Ride, and the website. The number of FOIA requests were addressed and how to handle them going forward.

**13. *New Business***

Vote to approve the 2023 Township and Planning Commission meeting dates. Supervisor Murday entertains a motion to approve the calendar as set forth. Motion made by Trustee Wagner and seconded by Trustee Dietz. All in favor with Aye, motion unanimously carried.

**14. *Old Business***

Road Commissioner Hilliard, for transparency, let residents know that he has the ability to move 10% of his budget in the line items. He is moving monies to pay federal government and retirements along with Office commodities and utilities to make everything the way it should be.

**15. Meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m. with a motion by Trustee Kovar and seconded by Trustee Dietz. All in favor with Aye, motion unanimously carried. The next Board meeting to be held on Monday, February 13, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted, Crissy Kraft, Clerk for Green Garden Township