

GREEN GARDEN TOWNSHIP

May 8, 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 Clint Ifland leads meeting in prayer.
3. Roll Call by Clerk, Crissy Kraft: Present were Trustees Dietz, Kovar, Newton, Wagner, Supervisor Murday, Assessor Bushong, Highway Commissioner Hilliard, and Clerk Kraft.
4. Approval of Minutes from April 10, 2023, 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 Dietz and seconded by Trustee Wagner. All in favor with Aye, motion unanimously carried.
5. Approval of Township Financial report, Supervisor Murday noted that Trustees Dietz and Kovar raised issues with the town fund report in regards to the invoice to pay attorneys for the township. Supervisor Murday entertained a motion to approve the Township Financial report as reviewed by the Trustees prior to the meeting start time with the payment to the township attorneys. Motion made by Trustee Wagner and seconded by Trustee Newton. 3 Aye (Trustee Wagner, Trustee Newton, Supervisor Murday), 2 Nay (Trustee Dietz, Trustee Kovar). Motion carried 3 to 2.
6. *Public Comments*
 - * Resident Buddy Schultz - noted new information is out about the airport.
 - * Resident Belinda Olszewski - Thanked Trustee Wagner for the information on the proposed budget draft tab on the website, wondered why it takes until June each year to pass the budget, a comment that was responded to the fiscal year starts April 1 and ends March 31, and wanted the general assistance fund balance as of today.
7. *Planning Commission* - Supervisor Murday made mention of planning commission meeting last Monday for a temporary use permit that the planning commission voted against and gave the applicant the choice to speak, in which they choose to. The applicant introduced himself and explained the process he has been through to get the TUP and the issues Will County had were with parking (ambulances, fire departments getting through), Department of Agriculture with slaughtering and the current property zoning. Trustee Dietz questioned a Facebook page showing a new building and asked where the meat for slaughtering came from in which the applicant said Kankakee. Supervisor Murday verified that had nothing to do with the TUP but for a TUP to slaughter animals on said property, which is not zoned for and Department of Agriculture hasn't approved, for 2 days. The planning commissions recommendation was unanimous to deny the TUP. Supervisor Murday asks for a motion to accept the findings of the planning commission. Trustee Kovar makes the motion and seconded by Trustee Dietz. All in favor with Aye, motion unanimously carried, denying the TUP.
8. *Cemetery Report* - Heidi Christofilos thanked Robert Wilcox's Boy Scout troop for the huge turn out with kids and families cleaning up Union Cemetery. The committee took a month off so no recommendations at this time. Heidi hosted at her home a meeting for friends of Union Cemetery, April 14 with a fabulous turnout of people interested in being part of it. Supervisor Murday noted that Friends of Union Cemetery is unrelated to Green Garden Township business, it is solely separate and distinct entity.
9. *Road Commissioner's Report* by Commissioner Hilliard
 - * *Past Operations* – Starting to cut ditches, serviced all tractors and mowers, partial rebuild on 1 mower gearbox, striped down tag trailer (rebuilt brake chambers, repainted deck), last payment on road grader, employees and Commissioner Hilliard attended two trainings (one for pipeline safety for digging and one for using unique paving materials), Commissioner Hilliard attended Decatur Highway commissioners conference, a tarp added salt to protect, upgraded one dump truck to tow heavy equipment and trailer wiring to back of truck, and removed salt spreaders and plows.

* *Present Operations* – Putting bids together for future paving and tar and chip work, spray patching, seven culvert replacements, ditch cleaning, and mowing.

* *Future Operations* – Scheer Road Bridge, North of Offer Road. Box culvert on Dralle Road, getting bids.

10. Assessor's Report by Assessor Bushong - It's a quad year where assessors go out to equalize and put together adjustments of neighborhoods that are unequal, been working hard but now less than a month left in quad cycle. Tax bill has had the phones ringing off the hook. Field work hiring will begin as soon as budget is approved with meeting in June and hope to start fieldwork mid July. Tax bill inquiries are tricky since market values are up, state takes 3 year average, so 2023 looks at 2020-2022 and sales increases were huge and all home property values went up. Soft appeals will be ending, we are overloaded with so many right now and are only allowed to make so many adjustments and until a certain time of year. There are two new programs available in Will County, Veterans Merchant discount program go to www.willcountyrecorder.com and Property Fraud alert, in which flyers were handed out and are available at town hall or go to www.propertyfraudalert.com.

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

* Trustee Dietz heard over the weekend there was a party on 104th around Dralle with loud music and that Will County Police have decibel meters in their car if residents had any complaints.

* Trustee Kovar reported nothing new on Will Ride. Supervisor Murday asked if they should look to expand scope of Will Ride and Trustee Kovar suggested different avenues of advertising other than the website. There was discussion over who rides, how billing works and expanding rides.

* Trustee Wagner reported the budgets are posted on the website and will be voted on June, with the budget hearing at 6:30 on June 12th.

* Trustee Newton brought up the Annual Meeting a few weeks ago and the disappointment and embarrassment she encountered and the disrespect at the meeting.

12. Supervisor's Report by Supervisor Don Murday - Supervisor Murday reported he attended the General Assistance training session in Rockford in which provided no information. The process is very involved with a 4 page application and with certain parameters to be followed. Supervisor Murday has asked Trustee Newton to help with the process and getting as much information as they can. The grants that were applied for we are still waiting to hear the decisions. Town hall was used for a First Communion and numerous homeowners meetings and girl scout meetings.

13. New Business - Vote on Resolution from Annual Town Meeting, Supervisor Murday addressed the Annual Town Meeting and the township attorney being for the township. Trustee Kovar questioned the money being put in the budget. The discussions became heated and many conversations were exchanged. Supervisor Murday entertains a motion to decline the adoption of the resolution passed at the Annual Town Meeting. Motion made by Trustee Wagner and seconded by Trustee Newton (there was an outburst from the public that resulted in more conflict), Supervisor Murday stated that Trustee's Dietz and Kovar voted Nay. 3 Aye (Trustee Wagner, Trustee Newton, Supervisor Murday), 2 Nay (Trustee Dietz, Trustee Kovar). Motion carried 3 to 2.

* Vote on the composition of Decennial Committee, after much discussion the matter has been tabled.

Old Business - No old business

15. Meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m. with a motion by Trustee Wagner and seconded by Trustee Dietz. All in favor with Aye, motion unanimously carried. The next Board meeting to be held on Monday, June 12, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Crissy Kraft, Clerk for Green Garden Township