

GREEN GARDEN TOWNSHIP

August 14, 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, Supervisor Murday, Highway Commissioner Hilliard, and Clerk Kraft. Assessor Bushong not present.
4. Approval of Minutes from July 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 Kovar. All in favor with Aye, motion unanimously carried..
5. Approval of Township Financial report, as reviewed by the Trustees prior to the meeting start time. Trustee Dietz mentioned a budget error that was noticed in the quarterly summary a negative balance and requested Trustees get monthly summary for the town and road district funds, which Trustee Wagner said he would do. Supervisor Murday explained that the accountants had a 3 month catch up due to budget being passed in June and monies were placed in a category where they should not have been and that it will be communicated to the accountants where to properly put it. Supervisor Murday entertained a motion to approve the Township Financial report, motion made by Trustee Dietz and seconded by Trustee Kovar. All in favor with Aye, motion unanimously carried.
6. *Public Comments*
 - * Resident Randy Kessler had concerns about the dead trees on the East side of 88th Avenue between Manhattan Monee Road and Bruns Road. The property is owned by the Green Garden golf Course, there are about 26 trees about 45-65 feet tall that have been dead for 10 years and are dangerous and cause power outages and could cause harm if they fall and wanted to know if there was anything the township could do or how to hold golf course responsible.
 - * Resident Doug Bradley lives in Palomino Trace and has concerns about land purchased and Cachey Builders plans to build 1800 sq.ft. homes and the effect it will have on the community. There were discussions about Pre-annexation with Frankfort, that expires in 2025 and how HOA or homeowners enforce covenants, not county or township. Supervisor Murday suggested meeting and looking into the Green Garden Comprehensive Plan.
 - * Resident Belinda Olszewski - Mentioned targeting one specific thing/question at each meeting and now stay on Town Hall and what money is being spent on and Capital Improvement fund.
7. *Planning Commission* - Supervisor Murday noted there were no matters up in August and two matters up for September, which Trustee Dietz will speak to during his Trustee report. Supervisor Murday mentioned the September 4th meeting will be Tuesday, September 5th due to Labor Day holiday.
8. *Road Commissioner's Report* by Commissioner Hilliard
 - * *Past Operations* – Issued 11 new home construction bonds, calcium chloride applied to gravel roads for dust control, dump trucks taken to safety lane for inspection, two drain tiles repaired, one 8” on 80th Ave. between Dralle and Stuenkel, signed GSP contract (asphalt preserver to be applied to new pavement from last year (Stuenkel, from Harlem to 80th Ave. and Dralle from Harlem to 88th) and gonna try on existing road to see if it can be preserved (Pauling from Center to Prairie Grass Drive, maybe 8 miles)
 - * *Present Operations* – Widening Sheer Road (have six tenths of a mile done), bridge surveyed, culvert replacements, add 10 feet to a culvert, re-route drain tiles, keep up tar and chip roads, spray patch, cleaning up ditches for flow, was cutting ditches not all the way to crop for butterflies and wildlife and will now start cutting to the crop line, trimming tree limbs. Iroquois Paving will be paving Saddle Ridge and Prairie Farm, when available, and township maintenance (chip and seal)

Pauling from 80th to Center, Bruns from 88th to 80th and 104th to Wild Grass, 104th from Pauling to north of Manhattan Monee.

* *Future Operations* – Scheer Road Bridge, North of Offer Road, August 29th meeting with County to select engineering firm, and replace box culvert on Dralle Road, West of Center Road.

* Supervisor Murday asked Road Commissioner Hilliard about the trees on 88th owned by the golf course. Hilliard said he is aware of the trees but cannot go on private property and Supervisor Murday said he would reach out to County about a dead tree ordinance and reach out to the Country Club.

9. Assessor's Report by Trustee Dietz - The 2023 quadrennial assessment notices have been out to all tax payers and due to that the assessor is receiving 50 to 70 inquires per day. Each inquiry takes an average of 30 to 75 minutes depending on needs/tasks. The increases are larger than normal between 10 and 15% and explained property sales increased roughly 35% over the last year. Assessed values are 1/3 of market value so if market value is \$600,000, your assessed value would be \$200,000 and if it was more than 15% it is likely due to one of five things. It was also noted that tax rates and exemptions will affect tax bills and are not on the recent quadrennial assessment notice but will be on next years tax bill.

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

* Trustee Dietz discussed Palamino Trace, Bradley's house, and Cachey Builders, along with the covenant being 3200 sq. ft. so the 1800 sq. ft. is well below that. Mr. Bradley has a lawyer and filed a cease and assist against Cachey Builders, with County backup thus far. There is also a pre-application for 11401 Manhattan Monee Road for A-1 to I-2 for another trucking terminal. There is also 24890 S. Center Road case ZC-23-058 for a solar farm and 11605 W. Pauling for a rodeo coming up before Planning Committee on September 5th meeting. Supervisor Murday went through the process of applying for permits, with County and so forth.

* Trustee Kovar reported on the recent burglaries and residents should lock their cars or put in garages and that crime prevention starts at home, talk with neighbors, call if you see anything suspicious, and get involved. Supervisor Murday explained how the greengardentownship.com website keeps updated police blotter on the site to get information as it is released from the Will County Sheriff's Office. Trustee Kovar mentioned that come September 18th the Safety Act takes effect, a lot of people will be released from jails, Will County jail expects about 200 be released so another reason for residents to be aware to get involved and if you see something, say something.

* Trustee Wagner nothing to report.

* Trustee Newton asked Supervisor Murday to address the grants.

11. Supervisor's Report by Supervisor Don Murday - Supervisor Murday merged his report with Trustee Newton's report. The County does not do administration of grant monies they hire a third party to oversee and that company is Anser. They have met with them, making sure to comply with all State and Federal regulations that come with spending the monies. Anser went to County with concerns of small townships that don't have the capital to incur expenses and then seek reimbursement. The County agreed to front the money or pay the bills and the township then verifies with proof. All plans will come before the board and residents once there is a plan in place, caution delays things. He addressed resident Olszewski about the capital fund and as of right now there is no activity except interest accruing.

12. New Business -

* Vote on resignation of Jim Wayman as Chair of the Planning Commission. Supervisor Murday asks for a motion to approve the resignation of Jim Wayman. Motion made by Trustee Newton and seconded by Trustee Wagner. All in favor with Aye, motion carries unanimously.

* Vote on the approval to appoint Mark Sarkisian as Chair of the Planning Commission. Supervisor Murday asks for a motion to approve the appointment of Mark Sarkisian as Chair of the Planning Commission. Motion made by Trustee Wagner and seconded by Trustee Newton. All in favor with Aye, motion carries unanimously.

* Vote on the engagement letter for auditors to conduct annual audit. Supervisor Murday asks for a motion to approve the execution of the engagement letter. Motion made by Trustee Dietz and seconded by Trustee Kovar. All in favor with Aye, motion carries unanimously.

* Vote on the approval to execute the Sub-recipient agreement to access the \$550K grant money. Supervisor Murday asks for a motion to execute the Sub-recipient agreement. Motion made by Trustee Wagner and seconded by Trustee Newton. All in favor with Aye, motion carries unanimously.

13. *Old Business* - No Old business

14. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 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, September 11, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Crissy Kraft, Clerk for Green Garden Township