

GREEN GARDEN TOWNSHIP

October 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. 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.
3. Approval of Minutes from September 11, 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.
4. Approval of Township Financial report, as reviewed by the Trustees prior to the meeting start time. Supervisor Murday entertained a motion to approve the Township Financial report, motion made by Trustee Wagner and seconded by Trustee Newton. 3 Aye, 2 Nays, Trustee Dietz and Trustee Kovar, motion carried.
5. *Public Comments*
 - * Resident Randy Kessler looking for progress on dead trees on 88th Ave.
 - * Resident Russ Standish asked if the township had to give anything up, ie: low income housing, getting the 500K grant.
 - * Resident Linda Owens wanted to know what the township offers the residents.
6. *Planning Commission* - Planning Commissioner Mark Sarkisian mentioned there are some things coming, potential solar farms. He has attended a few County meetings to observe and make connections. He also spoke on a meeting he had the past Thursday with Trustee Dietz and Supervisor Murday. He discussed the previous meeting that the applicants for the solar farm on Center Road had pulled their application but heard they have other locations within Green Garden they were looking at. They met with the applicants, pointed out the Comprehensive Plan and pointed them to the Route 45 corridor in which they explained why they target certain areas. There was discussion about Frankfort's views on the solar farms and how the State is tying the hands of townships to stop solar farms.
7. *Road Commissioner's Report* by Commissioner Hilliard
 - * *Past Operations* – Still at 14 new home construction bonds for the year, following roads were treated with GSP(Gilsonite substance binder, an asphalt preserver to extend life of asphalt 5-10 years), Pauling Road from Center Road to Prairie Grass Drive, Stuenkel Road from Harlem to 80th Avenue and Dralle Road from Harlem to 88th Avenue. Met with engineering company regarding bridge on Sheer Road with completion in 2025. Replaced pavement on driveways where culverts were replaced. Motor Fuel Tax projects were handed into County for early spring.
 - * *Present Operations* – Building up Sheer Road, getting roads ready for winter, pothole repairs, spray patch, three more culvert replacements, one streetlight that someone cut the wire on.
 - * *Future Operations* – Scheer Road Bridge and box culvert on Dralle Road. Culvert upsize on 88th Avenue North of Dralle Road.
8. *Assessor's Report - No report*
9. *Trustee's Report - Trustee Dietz, Trustee Kovar, Trustee Newton, Trustee Wagner*
 - * Trustee Dietz mentioned a resident wanting to have three horses on 2-1/2 acres, in which County ruled against her so she may have two horses and board one. Working with Mark Sarkisian with solar farms.
 - * Trustee Kovar nothing to report.
 - * Trustee Wagner mentioned the Annual Township Audit Report and Annual Township Treasurer's Report will be published in the paper the upcoming Thursday and posted on the Township website. The Levy will be coming up in November to vote on in December. He will also have an article in the fall/winter newsletter explaining the budgeting process.

* Trustee Newton let residents know the plot of survey is complete and will be posted on the township website and the next step being the facilities proposal. She will also write up the current status for the township newsletter.

10. *Supervisor's Report* by Supervisor Don Murday - Supervisor Murday discussed the meeting last Thursday with the solar company to encourage them to come to Green Garden if pursuing future parcels. He confirmed the meeting at County on November 7, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. for Special Use Permit to build a solar farm and suggested residents show up to the meeting to present their views. He continued explaining the process of the township and county for approvals and the importance of how residents in numbers can help at the County level. Supervisor Murday talked about the two grants and let the residents know there are no strings attached except to spend in the way described. There will be a tab on the township website to follow the renovation status, the survey is done and the next step is to do a site facilities assessment. It looks at everything from the ground up, wiring, plumbing, septic, roof, foundation, structure, and ADA Compliance. Trustee Newton reiterated that no steps are being skipped and how exciting it is to be moving along. Supervisor Murday mentioned the IMRF Audit, which the township had a clean bill of health, Independent auditors performed an audit of the township that was filed with the State of Illinois Comptroller and County clerk. The Annual Treasurer's report required by the state put together by Trustee Wagner was also filed with the County Clerk and posted in the Vedette, they are available at the clerk's office or the township website. Supervisor Murday addressed the residents question as to what the township offers, he asked for suggestions, he is looking for things that bring the township residents together. The focus of town hall renovations is to have a nice place to do things.

11. *New Business* - Supervisor Murday explained the TRIA proposal is for \$18,850 dollars and that the bill gets sent to County, and the township does not front the money. Trustee Dietz questioned restrictive covenant that requires the property solely be used for government purposes and is worried of violating the covenants. Supervisor Murday said the township attorneys are comfortable that we would not be in violation of the quit claim deed and covenant. Trustee Kovar asked if it was in writing, which is what the covenant is, and also had concerns over having the highway department on state and county levels not having assurances in writing. Trustee Wagner explained the process for standard condemnation. There were concerns over nothing being discussed with the citizens, community involvement, and town hall renovations.

* Vote on TRIA Facility Assessment Proposal. Supervisor Murday asks for a motion to approve the Proposal from TRIA Facility Assessment Proposal. Motion made by Trustee Newton and seconded by Trustee Wagner. Roll call vote taken: 3 Aye (Trustee Newton, Trustee Wagner, Supervisor Murday), 2 Nay (Trustee Kovar, Trustee Dietz) Motion carries 3 to 2.

12. *Old Business* - Supervisor Murday spoke with the General Manager at the Country Club who has been in contact with ComEd, they will take care of the dead trees and will he keep in contact with them. Supervisor Murday invited him to the November meeting to introduce himself and inform residents of what's happening there. Supervisor Murday met with two members of the Decennial Committee to discuss the three main aspects of the committee and their willingness to help.

13. Meeting adjourned at 7:58 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, November 13, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Crissy Kraft, Clerk for Green Garden Township