

GREEN GARDEN TOWNSHIP

June 10, 2024, REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

1. Meeting called to order at 7:11 p.m. by Supervisor Murday with Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Opening prayer by Pastor Dave Feddes. Supervisor Murday acknowledged the passing of former Supervisor of Green Garden Township, Roy Sagmeister, wishing the best to his family, thanking him for his service to the township, and thanking Trustee Dietz for bringing to his attention.
3. Supervisor Murday thanked Trustee Newton for subbing for Clerk Kraft in May and preparing the minutes in her absence. Roll Call by Clerk Kraft: Present were Supervisor Murday, Trustees Dietz, Kovar, Newton, Wagner, Highway Commissioner Hilliard and Clerk Kraft. Assessor Bushong was absent.
4. Approval of Minutes from May 13, 2024 regular monthly meeting prepared by substitute Clerk, Trustee Newton. Supervisor Murday entertained a motion to accept the minutes, 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. Supervisor Murday entertained a motion to approve the Township Financial report, motion made by Trustee Newton and seconded by Trustee Wagner. All in favor with Aye, motion unanimously carried.
6. *Public Comments* - *Resident Belinda Olszewski brought a typo on the website for the date of the budget to the attention of the board. She also read an intergovernmental agreement between the county and Green Garden agreed upon in 2023 and the new one in resolution 2024-001 expanding Will Ride and looked for clarification on what was expanded. Olszewski addressed Jim, stating she contacted the Village of Frankfort about the two tax from the last meeting where Jim Hilliard said sometimes they have to reimburse the village, where Frankfort said there was no work done and did not get reimbursed, she said she just wants transparency.
7. *Planning Commission* - Planning Chair Mark Sarkisian was absent, Supervisor Murday mentioned the matter coming up in July agreed to postpone their application with the County and come to Green Garden first. It's a parcel on LaGrange Road, South of Manhattan Monee seeking a map amendment from Ag to industrial that will go before Planning in July. Murday also said when the budget is approved he would like the Planning Commission to help seek out professional guidance for the comprehensive plan.
8. *Road Commissioner's Report* - presented by Commissioner Hilliard; *Past* - Spraying bridge decks and signs for weed control, first round of mowing completed a week ago; second round will start right away, culverts replaced, 10" drain tile on 88th repaired, some ditch excavation on Route 45 and 88th Avenue to improve water flow, 12 tons of pavement laid for cross culverts/driveway culverts patch jobs; *Presently* - Second round of mowing ditches, widen 104th between Dralle and Stuenkel, asphalt milings down, 8" drain tile on Pauling Road between 80th and 88th Avenue; jetting and cleaning it, hauling in C-16 stone for tar and chip; *Future* - Sheer Road bridge, box culvert on Dralle Road, improve drainage on 88th Avenue North of Dralle. He addressed resident Olszewski from public comments; he explained the rates differences with Frankfort and Green Garden, complications, half-shares and said she could come up after the meeting and he would disclose the paperwork and explain further. Supervisor Murday thanked him.
9. *Assessor's Report* - Supervisor Murday noted Assessor Bushong had not given him anything for the month.
10. *Trustee's Report* - *Trustee Dietz had nothing to report. *Trustee Kovar had nothing to report. *Trustee Wagner provided an update on the financial status of the Township stating that roads are better than ever while the Road District tax rate went down. Major projects are under way, particularly renovating the town hall by bringing grant dollars into the Township instead of using Green Garden tax dollars; and the township is prepared for a future town hall structuring finances to avoid paying interest while the Township tax rate continues to go down. Trustee Wagner stated

that the board has structured its finances to create a debt free future while preparing to grow, and for that, he thanked the board. *Trustee Newton apologized for not having put on the website what Supervisor Murday read at last month's meeting from the assessor Jane Bushong and asked Clerk Kraft to add it to the website. She also noted the Peotone Park District mailing and asked Clerk Kraft to put a link for it on the Green Garden website. Newton touched base on the salaries of township officials and that this November voting will take place for any changes. Resident Dean Christofilos spoke on the demands of the assessor. Trustee Wagner wanted to note the reasoning for the dates of the budgets on the website.

11. *Supervisor's Report* - Supervisor Murday addressed a few things from public comments; IGA was entered with the county to extend services into the township since we don't know the demand for services, the second resolution was to expand the scope of services the township provides, not the county; he received a number of calls from residents about cutting the assessors budget in half. He explained the budget is on the website, showing no cuts to assessors budget and social media postings should have to follow same rules as the board; updated town hall renovations with two speakers there to speak on the proposals that will be voted on later. There is \$558,000 in grant money of which about \$23,000 was spent for architect services per last agreement with TRIA. Received affirmation from the county executive to move forward with the town hall project. He thanked Cherie, the committee, Ragan, and Ron for all that have done thus far; He addressed the flooding issue, he and Jim are meeting with a county engineer tomorrow(not an employee of Will County) to drive around township. He addressed Dan Butler saying we may very well need to tap into whatever funding we can get. The meeting for flooding in the township was the largest crowd this board has seen and will continue to work towards solutions; Met with Judy Oglala on a number of matters, Soil & Water has engineers who can also be helpful; Proud of Bill's point, proud of what they are doing in the township, issues with Land Use, solar farms, flooding issues, and town hall. Future events for the township in a facility that is useable, other organizations used to use town hall and no longer do.

12. *New Business* - Supervisor Murday explained the two proposals on the agenda for TRIA and Harbour, the project is projected to be around 1 million dollars, grant money is \$558,000, lacking 1/2 million, looking into additional funding, the project will go in two phases to ensure nothing is half done, former Frankfort supervisor gave him Ragan's number since she helped them, she has helped secure the funds for Green Garden and her company will be the construction management on the renovation, introduced both Ron and Ragan to speak on the upcoming proposals. Ron and Ragan emphasized the importance of collaboration and estimation in construction projects, highlighting their experiences within the county, and what each brings to the table. Supervisor Murday asked if there were any questions, with none he moved on. Supervisor Murday discussed meeting the county executive, in which she greeted them by their first names showing good relationships, which are important. He emphasized the importance of using organizations of expertise and gratis work that has been done for us by both companies. Ragan detailed that county will look at all monies allocated, are projects shovel ready, does it fall under the pillar of guidelines, and if not sweep the money back and reallocate it; the phases of the project will be prioritized, completed and phased without half done building. Dan Butler expanded on why he has not been reached out to as the representative for the township, voted for overwhelmingly by the township, he attends meetings, here to serve the community; he said the first round of money will go to those who applied first and didn't get it, and not likely for those whom already got it; explained he started the stormwater community and took offense all the people contacted, as he was not contacted. Ragan respectfully disagreed, asked if the phone number she had was correct, he said it was, she explained she reached out a couple times last month, Supervisor Murday stopped the conversation. *Vote on TRIA Proposal. Supervisor Murday asks for a motion to approve the proposal from TRIA. Motion made by Trustee Wagner and seconded by Trustee Newton. 3 Aye, 2 Nays -Trustee Dietz and Trustee Kovar, motion carried.

* Vote on Harbour proposal. Supervisor Murday asks for a motion to approve the Harbour proposal. Motion made by Trustee Wagner and seconded by Trustee Newton. 3 Aye, 2 Nays - Trustee Dietz and Trustee Kovar, motion carried.

*Vote on FSBW engagement letter. Supervisor Murday asks for a motion to authorize him to execute the FSBW engagement letter. Motion made by Trustee Newton and seconded by Trustee Wagner. 3 Aye, 2 Nays - Trustee Dietz and Trustee Kovar, motion carried.

*Vote on GWA Audit. Trustee Dietz asked who was responsible for verifying accuracy or completeness of the information, who on board is bonded? He questioned waiting 3 months to approve new budget and summaries from the accountant. Supervisor Murday explained not having revenues from county yet and accountants wait for it to give correct numbers. Murday asks for a motion to approve engagement of GWA audit services. Motion made by Trustee Newton and seconded by Trustee Wagner. 3 Aye, 2 Nays - Trustee Dietz and Trustee Kovar, motion carried.

*Vote on the approval of the Township Budget Ordinance 24-003. Supervisor Murday asks for a motion to accept and adopt ordinance 24-003 Green Garden Township Budget and Appropriation Ordinance. Motion made by Trustee Wagner and seconded by Trustee Newton. Roll call vote taken: 3 Aye (Trustee Wagner, Trustee Newton, Supervisor Murday), 2 Nay (Trustee Dietz, Trustee Kovar) Motion carries 3 to 2.

*Vote on the approval of the Road District Budget Ordinance 24-002. Supervisor Murday asks for a motion to accept and adopt the Ordinance. Motion made by Trustee Wagner and seconded by Trustee Newton. Roll call vote taken: 5 Aye (Trustee Wagner, Trustee Newton, Trustee Dietz, Trustee Kovar, Supervisor Murday), Motion carries unanimously.

13. *Old business* - Supervisor Murday discussed Turning Point Energy Solar Farms and previous meeting with residents still having questions, he and Trustee Dietz met with Turning Point and they agreed to come in, there will be a workshop June 24th at 7 p.m. at town hall. They will answer questions/concerns residents may have and will come before the board in July with their application; Decennial committee looking into policies/procedures; putting together an employee handbook; Cherie and Jerry looking into compliance with FOIA/Open Meetings Act, both groups will give status updates at the decennial meeting before the July meeting at 6:30. He explained the State's purpose of the meetings and the importance of doing what is asked of the township. Trustee Dietz asked Trustee Newton who answers FOIA's, her or lawyers, Trustee Newton verified she is the FOIA officer for Green Garden, sometimes legal advice is needed, Supervisor Murday said FOIA requests can incur attorney fees, referenced a social media post saying look at the legal expenses for the township, it happens due to the FOIA requests and other things that require seeking legal counsel. Trustee Newton explained how the information comes to and how the attorney gets it.

14. Meeting adjourned at 8:17 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, July 8, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Crissy Kraft, Clerk for Green Garden Township