

GREEN GARDEN TOWNSHIP

May 13, 2024 REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

1. Meeting called to order with Pledge of Allegiance at 7:00 p.m. by Supervisor Don Murday.
2. Opening prayer-Pastor Dave Feddes. Following the opening prayer, Supervisor Murday wished all mothers a belated happy Mother's Day.
3. Roll Call by substitute Clerk/Trustee Cherie Newton: Present: Supervisor Don Murday, Trustees Bill Wagner, Ralph Dietz, Mark Kovar and Cherie Newton, and Road Commissioner Jim Hilliard. Not present: Clerk Crissy Kraft and Assessor Jane Bushong.
4. Approval of Minutes from April 2024 Regular Board Meeting as prepared by Clerk Kraft. Supervisor entertained a motion to accept the minutes, motion made by Trustee Dietz and seconded by Trustee Kovar. All in favor, motion carries.
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 Wagner and seconded by Trustee Newton. All in favor, motion carries.
6. Public Comments Prior to public comments, Supervisor Murday announced for those that are in attendance for the Planning & Zoning issue regarding the Land Use matter up before the Township Board (matter was heard at last week's P&Z meeting) this is the time to voice anything to add.

*Resident Heidi Christofilos announced that the annual Civil War reenactment will be held at Union Cemetery on Sunday May 22 at 1:00 pm.

*Resident Belinda Olszewski commented on: read aloud the Resolution up for vote on agenda item #12, the Will Ride Expansion; upon receipt of her tax bill, "very shocked" that out of 12 governmental tax bodies on her tax bill, the Green Garden Township "Road Fund" was number 5 and the Green Garden Town Fund was ninth; when will next budget be posted.

7. Planning Commission-Planning Chair Mark Sarkisian not in attendance, Trustee Dietz reported that the Map Amendment request (from A-1 to I-1) before the Board this evening was heard by the Planning & Zoning Commission on Monday May 6, 2024, with the votes in favor of the Amendment (4-0) approving Mr. Hill's plan. Supervisor Murday thanked Mr. Henry Hill (in attendance with his partner Diane) for coming to GGT. If the Amendment is approved this evening, Supervisor Murday asked that the Board be given the chance to see the application once approved by the County (showing any modifications made to the application). In other words, if GGT approves the amendment this evening, then it proceeds to be approved at the County level, we be given the chance to see what these changes actually might be, before we give "the final rubber stamp." Mr. Hill presented the Board with plans for the proposed amendment. Supervisor Murday proposed the Map Amendment from A1 to I1 for Pin No. 18-13-400-006-0000 located at 25400 South LaGrange Road with the condition that the parcel remain in Mr. Hill's control AND that the township does wish to see the final application, after applicant goes through the County, before it goes to the Land Use Committee, that we see

what the final proposal will be, and Mr. Hill agreed. Supervisor Murday asks for Board to make the motion (with conditions articulated), made by Trustee Kovar and seconded by Trustee Dietz. All in favor, conditionally passed. Trustee Dietz reports nothing before the Planning & Zoning Commission for June 2024 (no meeting).

10. Road Commissioner's Report presented by Commissioner Hilliard: Past month: trimming trees; finished repair work on the salt shed; reworked some bus turnarounds; added stone to the Township parking lot; crews completed roadworker flagger training by IDOT; moved a culvert; installed 3 culverts; salt truck repaired; road bids completed for 4.5 miles of A1 application; resurfacing Pine Ridge subdivision; tentative preconstruction meeting for Tuscan Hills and Erinwood, PT Ferro did receive bid. Presently, spraying vegetation on both sides of bridge decks; some mowing accomplished, rain an issue; starting to widen 104th Avenue between Dralle and Stuenkel; Future projects: Scheer Road bridge; cross culvert on Dralle Road; replace culvert on 80th Avenue. Addressing Resident Olszewski-Of Road Commissioner Hilliard's personal property taxes paid for 2023, \$332.35 went to GGT Road District. GGT maintains 70 miles of road, all streetlights in subdivisions, all sewer systems with curb and water, pick up branches, and Green Garden Township has the most bridges of any township in the county.

11. Assessor's Report: Assessor Bushong not in attendance. Supervisor Murday read a statement from her to advise the residents: "The Assessor's office has received a significant amount of inquiries since the new tax bills were received last week. On these new tax bills a very small percentage of exemptions may have been omitted or entered at the wrong amount. The County believes any of these errors have already been corrected yet please be sure to double-check your exemption amounts to be sure that the general homestead exemption is \$8,000 and the senior-citizen homestead exemption is \$8,000 as well."

12. Trustee's Report: Trustee Dietz nothing additional to add. Trustee Kovar no new applications for WillRide. Trustee Newton-nothing at this time. Trustee Wagner-proposed Budget has ben posted on the website; levy numbers are in; Township tax rate HAS gone down, and so has the Road District tax rate.

13. Supervisor's Report: Decennial Report/Committee-2 committees were formed—Resident Bob Schultz working with Trustee Wagner on policy/procedures "handbook." Supervisor Murday, Resident Schultz and Trustee Wagner are meeting to discuss further. The next public meeting to be held after more progress has been made. Trustee Newton and Resident Jerry Wayman are reviewing the FOIA/OMA policies to make sure we are compliant there, as well. Townships are required to do this "self-critical analysis" to support "push" for dissolution of townships in Illinois. We are working towards compliance. Final report to be completed by the end of the year and we are required to hold 2 more public hearings/meetings with regard to the Decennial Report. Town Hall Renovation: After our last meeting, County Executive and assistant visited GGT, in agreement that our building needs work. The County Executive relayed to Supervisor Murday that a GGT resident called her office, with the opinion that the County shouldn't support the renovation of the town hall because the town hall is fine. The County Executive inquired as to why someone would call her office and make such a statement. Her view is that it does need work. Of the \$560,000 grant money set aside for the renovation, we need additional funds and the CE could not promise the money is there, but she did say they

are reviewing the availability of future monies and we are in the running to receive additional funding.

14. New Business-WillRide Expansion: One Green Garden resident used the service in April. (cost to township is between \$7-\$8/ride currently). There may be additional County funding forthcoming. Our program is currently limited to rides available to seniors for medical use. We are proposing a Resolution that would include disabled residents as well for medical purposes. "Disability" is defined by Will Ride, not the township. Anything within the township and ten miles from the boundary (not ten miles from the center). Just outside of the ten mile boundary is available with pre-approval from Will Ride. Caregivers who are required to assist residents on the rides ride for free. Accompanying passenger (non-required caregiver) will be charged. The bus driver does not take this responsibility. To reiterate, our township uses Will Ride, not Dial-a-Ride. Supervisor Murday called for a motion to adopt Resolution 2024-001. Trustee Kovar made the motion, with a second by Trustee Dietz. All in favor, Resolution passes.

15. Old Business-The Turning Point Solar Farms representatives were present at our last (April 2024) meeting, we did NOT take a vote at the time. We are asking Turning Point to come back to the township and hold an additional open "workshop" where residents may attend and ask questions/address concerns. Turning Point has not yet forwarded to us the corrected PINs contained within the NRI report. Flooding concerns in township: Supervisor Murday met with Senator Joyce and Chief of Staff (zoom meeting). Senator Joyce would like to visit the areas affected by flooding within the township (July or August)? Funding for capital projects is available, we need to come up with a plan for Senator Joyce so he can come up with funding. Road Commissioner Hilliard and Supervisor Murday to meet with the county Engineer tomorrow to discuss further. Funding is available, county will match. Working towards solution.

16. Meeting Adjourned at 8:02 pm with a motion by Trustee Kovar and seconded by Trustee Dietz. Motion carried. The next Board meeting to be held on June 10, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Cherie Newton (filling in for Clerk Kraft) for Green Garden Township.