

GREEN GARDEN TOWNSHIP

November 11, 2024, REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

1. Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Supervisor Murday acknowledging Veterans Day with Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Roll Call by Clerk Kraft: Present were Supervisor Murday, Trustees Dietz, Kovar, Newton, Wagner, Highway Commissioner Hilliard and Clerk Kraft. Assessor Bushong was absent.
3. Approval of Minutes from October 14, 2024 regular monthly meeting prepared by Clerk Kraft. Supervisor Murday entertained a motion to accept the minutes, motion made by Trustee Kovar and seconded by Trustee Dietz. 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. All in favor with Aye, motion unanimously carried.
5. Public Comments - Opening prayer by Pastor Dave Feddes. *Resident Sheila McFarland handed the board paperwork with bullet points, asked to consider the residential community, no signage along Center Road, many homes that will see the sign from their homes, concerns on safety, light pollution, right to light, precedence for the future. Possible concessions are static sign, time limits, and eliminate scrolling messages for safety. *Resident Joe Digangi is concerned about loss of property values, driver distractions, and Castle Gate was built before the church was there. *Resident Sheila McFarland made note people choose move here to get away from city lights, noise, pollution, for darkness, changing landscape and infringing on many people should be strongly considered.
6. Planning Commission - Planning Chair Mark Sarkisian went over the findings of the Plan Commission meeting on Jackson Creek dynamic sign, County case ZC-24-067, all 5 Plan Commission members, a trustee, representatives from Jackson Creek and a dozen residents were present; outcome vote was 3 to 2 in favor of granting SUP; resident concerns were excessive lights invading privacy, Center Road already dangerous, sign causing distractions, property values, increased congestion, homes in place before church; applicants comments, the sign is to inform of other services, sign intensity would dim at night, would explore options to shield or relocate sign; Commissions comments were SUP required because dynamic signs are not allowed in residential areas, intent is noble and won't cause disruption, precedent would not be set, and if approved place conditions. Pastor Mike Shepherd addressed resident concerns, distance from sign to residences, lumens of sign, open to hours/length of time, and importance of sign informing community of programs/services offered; Bill Hollahan with Absolute Advertising, the sign company, explained the sign size for readability; Supervisor Murday addressed the applicant about resident concerns, Hollahan replied with added expense could create a block with bushes, Shepherd expressed willingness to restrict hours(10 p.m.)/operation, wanting to be good neighbors, lives in the community, and willingness to address issues after sign went up; Supervisor Murday asked the board if there were any questions; Trustee Dietz asked to consider 8 p.m., Shepherd said they have groups meeting at 7 p.m. nightly and said could consider 9 p.m.; Trustee Kovar asked the direction of the sign, Shepherd said North/South view down Center Road, no projection into subdivision; Trustee Wagner said he appreciated the font size of sign; Supervisor Murday explained the process of the vote and the County's involvement, gave the date of the hearing, November 19th, and the went over the County's report/recommendations; Trustee Dietz said he'd like it non-transferable; Supervisor Murday explained the reasoning for non-transferability; discussed the variances, size of dynamic display, resolutions to grant the SUP; discussions between Murday, Shepherd, Trustees and residents continued to come up with resolution to accommodate residents and SUP. Supervisor Murday suggests to adopt findings of the Plan Commission, adding the church provides blockage for residents with bushes, SUP non-transferable and entertained a motion adopt recommendations

of the Plan Commission for Jackson Creek SUP ZC-24-067, adding conditions applicant provide blockage/shrubbery to provide blockage for residents, SUP remains with the owner of the property and not transferrable upon sale, and lite signage time limited from 10 p.m. to sunlight. Trustee Dietz makes the motion, Trustee Kovar seconds the motion. All in favor with Aye, motion carries unanimously.

7. Road Commissioner's Report - presented by Commissioner Hilliard; *Past* - Borrow machine from New Lenox that heats paving materials to cut/patch/pot hole repair; Links Edge storm water repair, manhole and pipe separated; shoulder stone added to various roads; 104th between Pauling and Offner re-ditched; Decennial report completed and turned into Will County Board - *Presently* - working on ditch on 80th Avenue just South of Dralle; widening 104th between Dralle and Stuenkel; getting trucks ready for winter; working on Road District Levy, thanked Trustee Wagner for helping him; speed study on 88th between Bruns and Pauling resulted in 50mph recommendation from 55mph, Will County Boards votes to make official - *Future* - Sheer Road bridge, May 2025 completion; Dralle Road box culvert, thanks to Dan Butler and Trustee Dietz received a grant for \$6,600 towards it; November 19th a meeting at the Peotone Atrium about the Illiana Highway if anyone is interested in attending; Supervisor Murday is the ExOfficio for the road district and Hilliard thanked him for his help over the past years. Supervisor Murday questioned speed signs being put up, not by the road district, and Hilliard said he did get those signs down.

8. Assessor's Report - Read by Supervisor Murday - October busy with appeals; field checks to validate old property record cards; 2024 Board of Review appeals wrapped up, most are complete, assessors will not receive final decisions for another month or so; preparing for the 2025 tax year; annual meetings with Supervisor of Assessments are in December.

9. Trustee's Report - *Trustee Dietz reported having a zoom meeting with Will County on 24224 88th. Ave., 5 acres of A-2 and 12.3 acres of A-1 in the back, he wants a quail farm, cage already built, he's allowed 100 quail but also has 50 goats, he is over the limit for A-2; coring crew taking samples at Harlem and Steger Road for S curve like Ridgeland in 2-3 years. *Trustee Kovar had nothing to report. *Trustee Wagner spoke on Levy season and Truth in Taxation, looks like 7% increase but actually tax rate is going down, town fund last year was .1242 probably go down to .1158, will ask for a little more since equalized assessed values are currently estimates. Road District is .4227 and probably go to around .3941; Supervisor Murday noted Trustee Wagner did an article in the newsletter explaining the Levy process and expressed gratitude for Trustee Wagner navigating it for all these years. *Trustee Newton asked Hilliard why there is no street light at 45 and Offner Road and the dangers of not having one, Hilliard said State said there is not enough traffic and reflected back to a study done at 45 and Bruns to allow a light.

10. Supervisor's Report - Supervisor Murday reported on the widening project on Monee Manhattan Road Executive summary, on the website also, no impact to town hall or Union Cemetery, also had the engineer to state outside of the report in which he did in an email which was shared with the Trustees; followed up on what Hilliard said about the meeting on November 13th from 3-6 being the first open public meeting about the engineering/environmental studies of 1-57 from South of Wilmington Peotone Road to North of Monee Manhattan Road, report will be on bulletin board for anyone to review; Solar farm update, one litigation pending is in briefing, two solar farms denied by County are suing County, both matters are consolidated before the judge's decision, sometime after the first of the year; Supervisor Murday went over the impacts to Green Garden and the importance of the number of residents and what they said; Murday and Trustee Dietz met with another solar company seeking thoughts on another solar farm off LaGrange, discussed the townships stance on the farms and not wanting to be the township with all the solar farms. Trustee Newton asked the name, Trustee Dietz said ECA solar and they are currently doing one on Harlem and Bruns. Supervisor Murday said we need to be mindful of others following since

we approved one farm; Meeting with planners for the Comprehensive Plan, the cost is higher than what is budgeted, looking at more proposals.

11. New Business - Supervisor Murday explained the contract for Pekron Consulting; Supervisor Murday explained the salary resolution and suggested to the Trustees that salaries remain where they are, wanted record to show the following annual salaries that were sent to the Trustees; Supervisor 12,000 - Clerk 8,500 - Trustees 2,500 - Assessor 32,000 - Highway Commissioner 47,500- Road District Treasurer 1,000 - Supervisor Murday asked if there were any discussion or further questions, there were none.

*Vote on Pekron Consulting to develop mold and lead paint abatement specification, not the removal, laying out specification needed for removal. Supervisor Murday asks for a motion for to approval/authorize signing of contract. Trustee Newton makes the motion and seconded by Trustee Wagner. All in favor with Aye, motion unanimously carried.

* Vote on Setting compensation of Township officials resolution 2024-003. Supervisor Murday asks for a motion to approve Resolution 2024-003, Setting of Township Officials for four year term beginning May 19, 2025, Green Garden Township, Will County, Illinois. Motion made by Trustee Dietz and seconded by Trustee Kovar. All in favor with Aye, motion unanimously carried.

12. Old Business - Supervisor Murday discussed the upcoming Levy and the 2025 calendars; Discussed the Decennial reports, the Road District filed theirs and the township is being finalized for submittal with an employee handbook, policies and procedures, and compliance with Open meetings act/various requirements of the State.

13. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 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, December 9, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Crissy Kraft, Clerk for Green Garden Township