

GREEN GARDEN TOWNSHIP

December 9, 2024, REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

1. Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Supervisor Murday with Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Opening prayer by Pastor Dave Feddes.
3. Roll Call by Clerk Kraft: Present were Supervisor Murday, Trustees Dietz, Newton, Wagner, Assessor Bushong, Highway Commissioner Hilliard, and Clerk Kraft. Trustee Kovar was absent.
4. Approval of Minutes from, November 2024 regular monthly meeting prepared by Clerk Kraft. Supervisor Murday entertained a motion to accept the minutes, motion made by Trustee Dietz and seconded by Trustee Newton. 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 Wagner and seconded by Trustee Dietz. All in favor with Aye, motion unanimously carried.
6. Public Comments -*Resident Buddy Schultz, a Veteran, was not happy that the last meeting was on Veterans Day and was upset that it could not be motioned at the meeting and be rescheduled. He also expressed his disappointment on the condition flag at the township garage and that Saturday was Pearl Harbor Day and the flag was not down. *Road Commissioner Hilliard on behalf of Scott Bettenhausen, presented the board checks to be recorded in the minutes. Supervisor Murday let the public know that the Bettenhausen family farms the township property, renting from the township, and that there were two checks, one from Craig Bettenhausen, and one from Scott Bettenhausen, each in the amount of \$3,192 dollars.
7. Planning Commission - Planning Chair Mark Sarkisian not present, Supervisor Murday said there were no matters up in December, nor in January.
8. Road Commissioner's Report - presented by Commissioner Hilliard; *Past/ Presently* - Pot hole repairs; grinding stumps around the township; getting trucks/equipment ready for winter. *Future* - Sheer Road bridge, estimated cost is \$1,859,972, he explained the township should only pay about \$400,000 after monies received from the State; the meeting he went to last month was about adding an exit on 57 between Manhattan Monee Road and Wilmington Peotone Road. He signed up to be part of a committee and hopes to be selected, and if not, he receives emails to keep everyone posted. Supervisor Murday followed up with Hilliard's last comment and has a report from IDOT that will be posted on the website.
9. Assessor's Report - presented by Assessor Bushong; Board of appeals are closed and complete, results to be mailed out January 24; providing reporting data to the Supervisor of Assessments; The County is working on software enhancement with overlays/pictures from year to year to see what has changed to cut down on structures without permits; remaining Assessor budget is very low on funding requiring some 10% transfer between line items; preliminary statistics-Will County 2024 equalized value to be over \$33 billion with total market value of over \$100 billion, homes values continue to climb especially in Green Garden Township so anticipating fairly high factor to be applied by the County in summer 2025; Housing market predictions for 2025 favor mortgage rates remaining over 6% and home sales very slight increase, "yet with the new presidency, other changes are certainly possible as well." Supervisor Murday commented about the movement of money and if a dollar figure as opposed to a percentage could be presented. He explained if within 10% it is allowed without formal approval but, a public statement is made to reflect in the minutes and to reflect in accounting reports.
10. Trustee's Report - *Trustee Dietz nothing to report. *Trustee Wagner nothing to report. *Trustee Newton wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.
11. Supervisor's Report - Supervisor Murday reported on the briefing for the solar farm turned down by the County is in litigation in the Circuit Court of Will County. The brief filed by the solar

company is on our website under the tab for solar farms, the response brief is filed and when received will also be put on the website.

12. New Business - *Vote on 2025 calendars for Green Garden Township and Plan Commission distributed by Clerk Kraft. Supervisor Murday asked if there were any issues, hearing none asks for a motion to accept the meeting dates for both the Township and Plan Commission. Motion made by Trustee Dietz and seconded by Trustee Newton. All in favor with Aye, motion unanimously carried. *Supervisor Murday reported the Decennial report is not something the board votes on but disseminated the report to the board and two residents who participated for any comments. He explained the reasoning behind the report and asked the Trustees for their comments on the report so it can be filed with the County by the end of the month, once filed will also get posted on the township website.

*Supervisor Murday explained the levy process and turned it over to Trustee Wagner. Trustee Wagner said the tax rate for the Town fund went from .1242 down to .1158 and the Road District went from .4227 down to .3941. Supervisor Murday asked Trustee Wagner to explain what it means. Trustee Wagner explained that new properties in the township raise assessed values, but we can only levy up to 5% of the previous year's value, so if we increased overall assessed value more than 5% of the equalized assessed value. If we kept the same rate the amount of money collected would be more than the 5% allowed so we drop the tax rate, it can be confusing.

*Supervisor Murday says the Road District is seeking \$977,245 and levy for the Township is \$287,139, asked if there were any questions/comments from the Trustees. Trust Dietz asked if the percentage was below five or above in which Trustee Wagner said below or at five for both. Supervisor Murday asked if there are any other discussions, hearing none entertained a motion for the tax levy ordinance for the Road District, Ordinance 24-004 for \$977,245. Motion made by Trustee Dietz, seconded by Trustee Newton. Roll call vote taken: 4 Aye (Trustee Dietz, Trustee Newton, Trustee Wagner, Supervisor Murday) - (Trustee Kovar absent) Motion carries.

*Supervisor Murday said for the Township levy for \$287,139. Supervisor Murday asks for a motion to adopt the ordinance. Motion made by Trustee Newton, seconded by Trustee Wagner. Roll call vote taken: 3 Aye (Trustee Newton, Trustee Wagner, Supervisor Murday) 1 Nay (Trustee Dietz) - (Trustee Kovar absent) Motion carries 3 to 2.

*Trustee Wagner asked Trustee Dietz why not. Trustee Dietz said because he asked for more money to go to the Assessor's budget and was told no. Trustee Wagner said he asked based on what and Trustee Dietz said he talked about budget and said then Trustee Wagner threw in salary, and they were not talking about the same thing. Trustee Wagner explained he was talking about the total cost of assessing in the township, Assessor's budget and salary, what it costs the township to do assessing compared with other townships within the County. The discussion carried on between the board and Assessor Bushong, Supervisor Murday explained this is for the Levy, not the budget and the conversation is not constructive and when we have the budget can discuss what money is allocated to whom.

13. Old Business - NO Old Business

14. Meeting adjourned at 7:37p.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, January 13, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Crissy Kraft, Clerk for Green Garden Township