

# GREEN GARDEN TOWNSHIP

Monday, October 27th, 2025 - Meeting starts at 4:00 p.m.

## Workshop Board Meeting Agenda

### Non-Vote Meeting



1. Call meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
2. Roll Call 📣
3. New Business – Discussion on the Following Items:
  - a. Road District Loan
  - b. Solar Facilities and Agritourism: Thomas Becker Watershed Committee
  - c. Other
4. Unfinished Business: Old Business 📅
  - a. Cyber Security update
  - b. Townhall and Grant update
  - c. Other
5. Public Comments (2-minute limit.)
6. Meeting Adjourned ⌚

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF GREEN GARDEN TOWNSHIP BOARD**  
**October 27, 2025, WORKSHOP BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

1. **Meeting called to order** at 4:14 p.m. by Supervisor Christofilos to transact business that comes before the board. The meeting agenda, and guest sign-in sheet are attached. The meeting was running late due to recording issues. Supervisor Christofilos led with the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. **Roll Call** by Clerk Kraft: Present were Supervisor Christofilos, Trustees Dietz, Olszewski, Shepherd, Striggow, Road Commissioner Hilliard and Clerk Kraft.
3. **New Business – Discussion on the Following Items:**

a. **Road District Loan** – Road Commissioner Hilliard discussed the road district loan from the township, mentioning ordinance 2019-1 and the loans' history with a check being cut November 27, 2017 for the trucks and then ordinance for loan in 2019, loans have 10 year repayment term by law, written to be paid back by 2027, originally it was \$20,000 a year, loan was for \$220,000 for three snow plow trucks, one payment made in 2019 prior to Hilliard being appointed, he inherited the debt and three 2010 plow trucks. Hilliard explains the issues with the purchased trucks not being a good purchase, having Max Force engines which in 2007 the EPA wanted improved emissions for diesel engines so International redesigned the motor by taking the dirty exhaust and brought back to the intake to meet emissions and proved to be one of the worst things International did to their motor. Hilliard looked into buying used trucks to get through, one similar to one in the current fleet on auction block was at minimum bid of \$2,000, asked their mechanic if it was worth it, mechanic said he wouldn't take it for free. He looked into a 2012 for \$6,600, current fleet is 2010, showing the \$220,000 was not a good investment, he puts a lot of money into the current fleet of aging trucks, the three 2010's being the newest, with a 2006, 1997, 1995, and 2002, not a reliable fleet for the township needs. When it snows it's a mechanics shop of fixing things all day long, things are breaking making it challenging to move snow, he would like to see the township resolve the debt to better service the community, asked if anyone had questions. Trustee Olszewski asked of the \$220,000 the township borrowed the road district what has been paid to date and what the amount of the 2019 payment was. Hilliard commented the 2019 was \$20,000, then \$20,000 a year for 10 years which does not add up but that's how it was originally put down, in 2021/2022 added it out and figured it needed to be \$30,000 a year for next five years with last year being \$40,000 payment, there are three payments left totally \$100,000 of debt left for the road district to the township. Hilliard said there are ways to absolve the debt, other townships have done it and possibly Green Garden in the past and believes it would be beneficial to the residents. Trustee Striggow asked if Hilliard had been paying \$20,000 each year. Hilliard said since he started paid \$20,000 for two years, the past two years paid \$30,000 and before the budget year ends will pay another \$30,000. Striggow commented in the past it started on a sour note, spending that kind of money on three trucks, without getting into details would have a tough time forgiving it until its paid up, it did not start out as a loan, Hilliard said he didn't think so since check was 2017 and ordinance was in 2019, Striggow said that was the excuse they came up with to move the monies without having approval at the Annual Town Meeting. Supervisor Christofilos commented, so the township wrote the check for the trucks instead of the road district, Striggow said no they moved the money to the road district, Christofilos said it was 10 years ago so the previous board at the time. Hilliard said he understand the animosity towards it, but he inherited the issue, the town people are feeling it, the trucks are 20 years old, Striggow said he empathizes with Hilliard but what it took in the two years after the fact burns him and asked about rescheduling the budget or payment to every other year to look into the matter. Hilliard said not according to the book, said it's fine he can afford it, he spends the money the best he can but feels spend the money the best we can, absolve the debt and start building up the fleet. Christofilos asked if the township did do

the \$100,000, less, half, or some amount what Hilliard would do, how does it help the road district with the trucks? Hilliard said he would like to start purchasing new, have a system in place so every so many years buy a new truck, have a rotation, they said budget \$300,000 for new trucks right now that they don't have, they would have to figure it out/navigate it, the roads will get plowed one way or another. Christofilos said so it's not having to cough up the \$30,000 payment coming up? Hilliard explained when he levy's his taxes where he allocates the funds, he could get a loan, depending on years outcome could move funds around, there's things to do and it would be a step in the right direction from getting another, newer vehicle. Christofilos commented if the forgiveness came his way it would help provide new trucks, Hilliard said yes, it's going for new vehicles, hopes to see new trucks seeing the problems with the current fleet. Striggow asked if the 2010 trucks were bought through a broker or a township, Hilliard said he thought Manitowoc, Wisconsin so probably seen pretty good snow and salt. Trustee Olszewski asked if they budgeted the \$30,000, Hilliard said he did, being appointed not elected the first time a lot of things were thrown at him, he had to sort through paperwork, thinks absolving the debt is beneficial for the citizens. Christofilos asked for loan date clarification, Hilliard read the resolution, that the board decided to create the loan making money available without interest on November 27, 2017, Hilliard thinks the trucks were bought in November and the loan put in place in January 2019. Christofilos pointed out the fact it seems the loan was approved by the board in 2017, but the resolution is in 2019, pointing out confusion on the whole process. Trustee Shepherd was clarifying that the township nor road district owes anyone money, trucks are paid for, Hilliard said correct, this is a good thing to do, in the future to get a loan from the township opposed to paying interest, for future loans, did not need an answer tonight but before next year or before payment was due and wanted to bring light to the situation for those that were unaware.

**b. Solar Facilities and Agritourism: Thomas Becker Watershed Committee** – Watershed Committee Chair Thomas Becker met last week with Supervisor Christofilos, Wilton Township and Manhattan Township Supervisors to discuss strategies to challenge the three issues with mega solar. First is litigation, challenging State law passed in 2023, the State set up the law saying County does not matter, there are different standards for unincorporated versus those living a mile and a half from a municipality, or living in a municipality, it's unfair treatment. The second would be challenging County law that changed in 2023, changing special use specifically for solar facilities, it went from one use, contiguous, all together, but County changed the law to contiguous or not contiguous, those two words are why Earthrise is here, because the properties are not contiguous, they are in six townships. The ordinance passed by the County has not been tested, there is no way to have 500 adjoining property owners in one hearing, its impossible. The third issue is the Federal mandate, the new administration set up from the USDA not wanting solar on prime farmland, talking with individuals that have connections in Washington, writing the Department of Agriculture, EPA, and Department of Energy to let them know what's happening in our community. There was one is section 13 and this new one coming in with no application filed as of today with County, one coming in February, it will continue because of Illinois and County law working against rural residential communities. Some ideas that have been discussed are forming a farming district to preserve from the growing industrialization going on in Will County, from the airport to the East, Monee and Frankfort coming in on Eastern bounty, Center Point on the West and Northpoint. There is no protected farming district so looking at a long-term plan to preserve the agricultural heritage in this area, Green Garden, Manhattan, Wilton, Peotone, Wesley, and Florence Townships by starting with our own community here in Green Garden, incorporate as a village, it's a way to preserve the future and custom homes here. Earthrise is working on new transmission easement agreements, have found approximately 7900 acres with Earthrise leases excluding those with transmission lines underground. In order to preserve ourselves as an agricultural community we need to market ourselves, that's where agritourism comes in, it's a new term about celebrating agricultural heritage, farmers markets, cafes, meat processing facilities, and historic center around Andres. Becker has talked to Manhattan mayor and will reach out to surrounding mayors as there needs to be agreements with them to incorporate, it's not

a hard process, need a founder's petition with 250 signatures, agreements from surrounding municipalities, and bring to a judge. It will take time to develop the taxes and other services but it's a start to building something together to deter industrialization, preserving farmland because if Earthrise comes in half the township will be gone and converted to industrial making everyone vulnerable. Trustee Shepherd questioned Andres being the center of the district, Becker said its almost in the middle of the township, close to the four corners, where all four townships touch, it's important to preserve our community and build it together. Supervisor Christofilos asked Becker to address the plan for taxes as most pushback is incorporating than taxes go up. Becker said the businesses would create the taxes, develop a commercial center to generate funds for taxes to lessen taxes on homeowners, looking at the maps Earthrise would take up all Green Garden's commercial land on 45, that is where we could develop our tax base from commercial use. Supervisor Christofilos asked for clarification that if we were to incorporate the County nor Springfield could get in the way because we set our own rules? Becker explained the two options, one it sends a message of no solar in our community and the second is set up the laws to make sure it's no feasible for solar to come in. \*Resident Jeff Becker commented that if Earthrise gets in we will lose the entire western portion of Gren Garden to industrial as people will not want to live there making it an existential threat to the community. It will bring in other solar developers; Thomas Becker emphasized the importance of litigation and building something together to regenerate the farming community. Supervisor Christofilos thanked Thomas Becker, said the board would consider this further, stay in communications, and discuss at next board meeting. Trustee Shepherd asked where he could find more information on agritourism. Becker said to go online, that a lot of rural areas have done this, and that he will have an update mid-week showing the path of Earthrise. Trustee Striggow commented that the proposed Earthrise map, the purple squares, are land owned by investors, some living in the area but most absentee landowners and to have some kind of language that if you don't live here, you better not be selling. Becker said that is the pursuit here, send a message to preserve our rural policies, build something better, and deal with the litigation.

No further discussion

#### 4. Unfinished Business – Old Business:

a. **Cyber Security update** – Trustee Shepherd handed out literature from CLR, our current website company who can help with migrating to Outlook for basic security, multi factor authentication to help fix email security. Chris outlines a more expansive level of cyber security in the handout and for \$1 each user and help migrate for free. Trustee Striggow said he would consider it but to keep looking for down the road. Shepherd said the IT companies were above the normal budget for the year and next April can decide what extent of an IT company is needed. Striggow asked if there was comparison pricing, Shepherd said another company said \$1,000 to \$2,000 thousand to migrate, and that Chris already manages the email issues. The board discussed how CLR helps now, is always helpful, everything is included and can handle this portion of security. Supervisor Christofilos asked Trustee Shepherd to update on the microphones and live streaming. Trustee Shepherd said he borrows the equipment from the church or is his own, it's pieced together to make it work, we like to see a sound system with microphones, speakers, that is for meeting use to connect to the live stream. Hopes to budget for buying cameras for livestreaming since he borrows from the church, with costs ranging from \$1,000 to \$2,000. Trustee Olszewski asked to see a quote put together to keep with the commitment of transparency, was told its not live streaming, Christofilos asked if it is live streaming, Shepherd said yes we do both now, Christofilos said not sure on the quality and running the microphones around the meeting, Shepherd said its his personal karaoke speaker and microphone and the church's live stream device and asked Christofilos if he could have the other laptop not being used to use for live streaming, Christofilos said yes and thanked him for his help.

No further discussion

**b. Town Hall and Grant update** – Supervisor Christofilos explained the comprehensive update that was handed out and asked the board to look over for accuracy to have posted to the website by end of day Thursday. Also included in the packer are two letters from County showing grant approval and letter from previous supervisor and if there is anything else they would like to see it can be done, it can be viewed on the website and contact the board with questions. Christofilos said there’s an article coming out in the Vedette that Mr. Wagner and Mr. Flanagan asked be done and once the boards updated town hall and grant update is ready will follow up with another story. Trustee Shepherd would like to include the documentation from TRIA, if we don’t use the \$500,000 by this date and positive outcome in the update.

No further discussion

**5. Public Comments (2-minute limit)** - \*Supervisor Christofilos said they will keep track of time, come up to the microphone for public comments, address the board, not the audience, we welcome questions, once done have seat and if the board can address, they will, but not a dialog back and forth. The last meeting he let a lot of dialogue go and that is not the purpose of public comment. To keep order board members can answer or comment and once comments are made the conversation is no longer and if there further dialog it can be addresses after the meeting or by appointment. The reasoning behind this is to keep order and the timeliness of the meeting. \*Resident Bill Wagner commented on the stealthiness of the board on the update on town hall and grant that they communicated with each other but really gave no update to what’s going on, the direction its gong, making it difficult for electors to comment. \*Resident Mike Flanagan updated the board on the meeting Thursday about town hall. It was well attended, about 20 people, consensus was the project could be done in time and in budget, asked that subcontractors have access to the building so they can get a comprehensive proposal to the board by November 10<sup>th</sup>. Flanagan also agreed with Mr. Wagner that he would have liked to see something on the website or available to the public regarding town hall and grant update to comment on it, it’s hard to comment on something they don’t see. Flanagan asked who to coordinate with for access to town hall? Supervisor Christofilos commented that the update is similar to the update at the last monthly board meeting, it’s a draft right now and want to make sure its accurate and said it will be posted on the website by 5pm Thursday. The board discussed access to town hall requested by Flanagan and decided that someone will be with any contractors entering the building with everyone volunteering as availability allows with advance notice and business cards provided for all contractors coming through.

No further discussion

**6. Meeting adjourned** at 5:30p.m. Supervisor Christofilos asks for a motion to adjourn. Motion by Trustee Striggow and seconded by Trustee Shepherd. All in favor with Aye, motion unanimously carried. The next Board meeting to be held on Monday, November 24, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Crissy Kraft, Clerk for Green Garden Township

CA Kraft



Approved by Board of Trustees: Nov. 10, 2025

# Green Garden Township Workshop Board Meeting

4:00 p.m.

October 27, 2025

By checking the Public Comment box, you agree to abide by the Green Garden Township public comment policy on the Meeting Agenda

## GUEST SIGN - IN - SHEET

Print Legibly - (NOT SIGNATURE) First & Last Name

Please check here if you have a Public Comment

1. Michael Fanagan	X
2. Thora Becker	X
3. Jeffrey Becker	X
4. JON BUSTLER	
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## GUEST SIGN – IN – SHEET

Print Legibly – (NOT SIGNATURE) First & Last Name

Please check here if you have a Public Comment

16.		
17.	Bill Wagner	
18.	Jane Bushong	
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