

NORMAL TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
NORMAL TOWNSHIP HALL
MAY 15, 2014
8:18 A.M.

Board Members Present: Ray Ropp, Mel Schultz, Randy Schaab and Richard Farr
Elected Officials Present: Arin Rader, Rob Cranston, Amy Conklin
Elected Officials Absent: Rick Phillips
Others Present: Jennifer Engelman, Senior Center Director, Molly Camper, Ass't
Director of Senior Center, Gene Gudeman, Alan McDowell, Judy Wills, Ray Miller,
Richard Youngs, Chad Frankeberger, Dave Burnison, Mark Anderson and three of his
BACC students

Randy Schaab moved to accept the minutes of the April 17, 2014 monthly board meeting.
Mel Schultz seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Mel Schultz moved for approval of the bills for the month of May.
The bills for the General Town account excludes payroll but the three other accounts
include payroll reimbursement amounts to the general town and are as follows:

General Town -	\$52,036.87
General Assistance -	\$ 9,165.30
Senior Citizens -	\$10,526.20
Road & Bridge -	\$12,531.22

Randy Schaab seconded the motion and the motion carried.
(Note: Payroll is being met twice monthly as provided for by a Board of Trustees
Resolution. Utility bills that fall within the budget line items are paid according to a
Board of Trustees Resolution.)

In April there were 84 appointments with 64 individuals or couples seeking financial
assistance. This was a slight increase from March's 68/49. 40 applicants received
\$9,945.63 in General Assistance compared to March's \$9,500.00 for 38 clients. 17
applicants received \$5,018.84 in Emergency Assistance compared to 10 clients at
\$2,933.92 in March. A year ago the numbers were 49 GA for \$11,167.00 and 15 EA
clients for \$4,826.00. We saw an increase in rent requests and many new GA clients
coming in here in May.

Rob Cranston, Assessor, reported that today is the deadline for return of the surveys from
the apartment owners. He will have his staff summarize the findings and then begin to
look at all the apartment buildings in Normal for re-evaluation. He then told the Board
that he had provided about 1,500 old assessment folders to a new assessor who came to
the class he was teaching this week as her predecessor did not have any records in the
office and his are not in use any more and he has no plans for them.

Amy Conklin, Clerk, had no report.

Arin Rader, Highway Commissioner reported that the bid letting for the Northtown Road project will be held on May 28th. The County Engineer has told him that the project will probably come in higher than he had originally projected 2 years ago when it was first planned. Right now Arin is working to fill all the pot holes that are popping up on the roads. Several along Northtown Road are from the installation of a fiber optic cable about 8-9 years ago that cut field tile and now they have crumbled under his roads.

Arin then told of a problem he is having with his dumpster not being picked up every week. He had talked with another company that he had used at his home in the past and they gave him a bid of only \$55 a month for his office and the same for picking up here at the Township office. The Board asked Mr. Farr to see if we can get out of our present contract with Allied Waste and go with the new company. Casali & Son's Disposal is the Company that gave Arin the bid.

Jennifer Engelman, Senior Program Director, handed out the June calendars along with the counts for program participation. The numbers are back up with the return of her snowbirds. She went over several of the upcoming events at the Center and reported that they were very busy so far in May. Only two of the bingos are sponsored in June. The Peps class is full and has a waiting list again. The Friday meals have been going well with 16-20 people every Friday. There will be a smart driver class along with a new drawing class taught by Lynn Baldwin. Another new class will be on how to do couponing along with Kathy Knapp doing a cooking class. Heartland's Young at Heart seniors will present a program in the theater again. And the bus trip to Catigny in Wheaton, Illinois is full. Jennifer then asked if anyone knows of a dance instructor since we have lost the one we used to have.

Richard Farr, Supervisor, reported that the Auditors have completed their field work and will present the final report hopefully at our June meeting.

Mr. Farr informed the Trustees that the cost of the Catastrophic Insurance premium is back up to the original amount of \$2,360.

Mr. Farr told the Board that he has received the preliminary IMRF rate for 2015 which has gone down by 47/100th of a percent. It is anticipated that we will be paying 9.94% for our portion for the year. We are paying in at 10.41% for 2014.

Mr. Farr then introduced Richard Youngs who presented a program about his visit to a Lifespan Design senior center in Charlottesville, Virginia. He had a slide show that included entry way and rooms along with plaques showing who had donated funds for the different rooms in the building. One of the rooms has a private travel office that caters to the senior members. The center is a privately funded and not sponsored by any government with an emphasis on having its members volunteer in the community as well as attending activities for seniors. He had lots of information in the form of handouts from the center to share with us. The facility is run by a Board with many being paying members of the center. They have many volunteers from the University of Virginia in the community as well as member volunteers to keep the day to day activities going.

Mr. Farr then introduced Mark Anderson from the Bloomington Area Career Center who introduced three member of his senior class who had been working with Mr. Farr to design the use of our 500 Beech Street property for use as a senior center. Each of the students explained their ideas and gave reasons for where they had located the different rooms within the space. They also gave examples of what they envisioned as the interior of several of the rooms. The Board and others in attendance asked many questions of each student which were promptly answered. After the presentations Mr. Farr thanked the students for their fine presentations and all their hard work on the project.

Old Business – Dave Burnison with the Farnsworth Group then went over what has happened with the building committee and the plans for the remodeling since the last Board meeting. The committee had agreed that it would be best to widen the 6' hallway where the locker rooms are and make it 8' and then leave a seating area with a window to let light in to the hallway. The committee also recommended that we set up phases for the remodel and at this time since the estimated cost is well over our budget that we not finish the health rooms, the card room and the pool room to save money. If we raise enough funds we can add several of these to the project at that time. Randy Schaab pointed out that if we move the assessor's and supervisor's office to the present space on the West end of the building and sell the present office for \$370,000 we would have enough funds to complete the moving to the Beech Street property, add the second stair well, insulating the building completely and putting in the raised seating in the media room. After lots of discussion with the various committee chairmen the Board decided that we need to wait until we can see what the fund raising committee can come up with before we commit to any additional spending. Farnsworth Group will continue to work towards getting the bids ready using a phasing plan at this time and refine their design.

Alan McDowell when asked to tell of his committees plans went over what had been talked about and told the Trustees that he will be back next month with a plan for fund raising that they would like approval of by the Board. Jennifer asked if it would be possible to add a couple of additional members to his committee and the Board agreed it would be a good idea. Alan and Mr. Farr will make such appointments. The big donor commitment will need someone to act as the front name with Dr. Al Bowman, Dave Strand or an Ed Rust type person in the lead.

As we talked about the fund raising Richard Youngs stepped up and told the Board that he will pledge \$10,000 right now to the building program. Members of the Board thanked him for his generosity in kicking off the campaign. Alan then stated that he would like to have Richard on his committee. Alan then told the Board that he can envision that someday the center will be self sustaining with no township assistance.

The Board then took up a discussion on a new name for the center. It seemed that everyone had different ideas on what should be in the name and most of the names on the committees list of recommendations were not liked by one or more of the Trustees present. A few additional ideas were put forward. No action would be taken at this meeting and the subject will be considered at a later meeting when we have a better idea as to whether or not we get a company to sponsor the naming rights for our center.

New Business – A motion was made by Randy Schaab that Normal Township adopt the proposed Prevailing Wage Rate Ordinance for 2014. Mel Schultz seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Mr. Farr then asked the Board if they knew what a construction manager does on a project and if it would be of any advantage for us to look at hiring one since he had heard from John Meek and now Terry McCoy about acting as one for our project. After some discussion it was decided that Mr. Farr would contact our attorney and ask if it would be of any advantage for us to hire one.

Ray Ropp made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Randy Schaab seconded it. The motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 10:39 a.m.

Clerk

Date

