

NORMAL TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
NORMAL TOWNSHIP HALL
OCTOBER 16, 2014
8:20 A.M.

Board Members Present: Randy Schaab, Ray Ropp, Mel Schultz and Richard Farr
Elected Officials Present: Amy Conklin, Arin Rader, Rob Cranston
Elected Officials Absent: Rick Phillips
Others Present: Jennifer Engelman, Senior Center Director;

Ray Ropp moved to accept the minutes of the September 18, 2014 monthly board meeting. Randy Schaab seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Mel Schultz moved for approval of the bills for the month of October. The bills for the three accounts with payroll amounts being included and for general town without payroll follows:

General Town -	\$ 1,048.84
General Assistance -	\$10,300.97
Senior Citizens -	\$12,503.89
Road & Bridge -	\$182,226.03

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 September there were 102 appointments with 69 individuals or couples seeking financial assistance. August numbers were 116/81. 44 applicants received \$11,000.00 in General Assistance compared to August's 47 at \$11,602.30. 18 applicants received \$4,320.63 in Emergency Assistance compared to August's 21 at \$6,297.74. One year ago the numbers were 34 GA applicants receiving \$8,019.00 and 14 EA clients receiving \$4,000.00. October started out about the same as September but then this week we slowed way down. Now we are seeing some more Ameren shutoffs.

Rob Cranston, Assessor, reported that the Board of Review has stopped taking requests for review this past Tuesday. 1/3 were on commercial property, 1/3 were on residential property and the other third were on sales appeal. He explained how the Board has been asked to handle those last ones so he does not even look at them. In total the number is about one half of the number of requests we had last year.

Amy Conklin, Clerk had nothing to report.

Arin Rader, Highway Commissioner told the trustees that he is finished with the work on the last mile of Northtown Road. Right now he is working on getting his snow removal equipment ready for the winter snows that will be coming soon.

Jennifer Engelman, Director of the Seniors Program announced that they had three bus trips using our bus to Tanner's Orchard and everyone loved them. There will be a bus trip

to the Par a dice Casino in East Peoria next month. She has scheduled a second i-phone class after the success of the first one. All of the November bingos are sponsored now. There is also another watercolor art class scheduled in November with Lynn Baldwin as the instructor. There is new line dance class with an instructor from Peoria and he has over 20 people enrolled in the class. She and Molly have been working on the Christmas party and finally have a lady for the entertainment after the original one cancelled out on her. Jennifer also said that she had to add two more days to the yoga class as the number have swollen when the Bloomington class switched to coming to our facility.

The Supervisor Farr reported that the upcoming McLean County Elected Officials meeting is scheduled be held November 13th at Dale Township, Covell, IL and asked for attendance. They are waiting on confirmation of a speaker before the notice goes out.

Mr. Farr then told the trustees that he is not going to hold a Christmas dinner and play this year as he could not get a combination that would work for us. The play was either not appropriate or the cost was just too high.

Supervisor Farr went over our investment report as of 9/30/14 and informed the Trustees the amount in the New Building account was after we had paid the Farnsworth Group over \$102,000.

He then asked if anyone had come up with a new name for the Beech Street property. He has not gotten any and the advisory committee is not pushing since all of the names they had produced were rejected by the Board. The only suggestion was to find a sponsor to pay for the naming rights. The fact that we might partner with City of Bloomington Township might also bear on what name we choose.

Mr. Farr then told the Board that he and Arin Rader along with a crew from the R & B department and Ray Miller from the Senior Advisory Board picked up the furniture that State Farm gave us to use at their warehouse and placed it in our Beech Street property.

Old Business – Mr. Farr then introduced Dave Burnison and Michael Buragas with the Farnsworth Group who presented a status report on the Beech Street property and provided some visuals of what the outside and inside might look like. They are close to being ready to go out for bid. All of the bidding forms are ready and Dave will send them to Mr. Farr for review and approval of our attorney.

There was quite a bit of discussion on the presentation and especially on the exterior changes that are being recommended. Mr. Burnison recommended that he bring in samples of the materials that he spoke of and it was agreed that we will hold a special meeting next Tuesday, October 21st at 7:00P.M. After looking at interior colors selected we will review the exterior color for changing the looks of the building. Mr. Farr will send out the media notices.

The Farnsworth Group then went over the updated cost estimates with the alternates re-priced according to their latest estimates. There was a huge increase in the FFE budget of over \$135,000 dollars. Their total cost including all alternates is now at \$5,306,598 which

includes the \$485 thousand of FFE. We did get a huge cost saving when they switched to a ten foot wide front canopy which dropped our cost down to \$54,405 from over \$193,600. Other discussions centered on putting in a PA system for all rooms vs. individual room PA's where required and how we will control the HVAC system in the building.

New Business – Mr. Farr asked that the Board authorize our obtaining a 501c3 status for our Memorial Fund to make it easier for people who donate to understand that their donation is a tax deductible contribution. After some discussion it was decided that Mr. Farr will meet with Rick Phillips and determine if it is OK to make such a change.

A motion was made by Ray Ropp to adjourn the regular meeting to go into the Levy Workshop to discuss the upcoming levy needed to operate with in our next fiscal year at 10:15 AM. The motion was seconded by Mel Schultz and passed unanimously on voice vote.

Workshop on the Levies for 2015/16 fiscal year
October 16, 2014

The trustees reviewed the financial projections by Mr. Farr and the estimated Year End 3/31/15 fund balances for the General Fund accounts and the Road and Bridge accounts. Mr. Farr pointed out that neither fund will need a truth in taxation hearing this year but Road and Bridge must levy at least \$645,400 in the General Road fund in order to continue receiving full MFT monies through the county highway engineer's office.

One half of the General Road Fund tax amount will be given to the Town of Normal for their road work. The other requirement for Road and Bridge is that our total levy not exceed 105% of last year's tax extension or \$771,000 this year. Mr. Farr's recommendation was for a \$25,700 increase or just 3.49%. The trustees directed Mr. Farr to bring back a levy for approval at our November 20, 2014 meeting of the \$760,000 by a motion from Ray Ropp and a second by Mel Schultz. The motion carried on voice vote.

The meeting then looked at the projections for the General Town budget and the ending balances for the various funds. GA is still projected to be only about 76% of our 100% of expense goal but it is over the 50% level. The amount of funds left in our new building fund will exceed a million dollars after we spend \$500,000 on the remodeling project in this fiscal year. It is projected that we will have about \$500,000 GT fund to cover expenses and transfer to Senior Citizen for excess expenses in the 2016 fiscal year.

The discussion then moved to the projected levy prepared by Mr. Farr that showed only a 3.01% increase. In the General Town portion he has recommended dividing the levy for the new building Capital Improvements into \$300,000 for capital outlay and \$400,000 for repayment of the borrowed money. The General Fund levy will go up \$30,000; Audit is going up \$1,100; Insurance going up \$10,000; IMRF and Social Security will remain the same; General assistance will go up \$4,000; and Senior citizen will increase \$10,000 for a total of \$55,100 or 3.01% increase. A motion was made by Ray Ropp to bring back a

levy ordinance at our November meeting for \$1,854,000. The motion was seconded by Randy Schaab and carried unanimously by voice vote.

A motion was made to close the levy workshop meeting and move back to regular session by Randy Schaab and seconded by Ray Ropp. The motion carried. This meeting adjourned at 10:34 AM.

A motion was then made by Ray Ropp and seconded by Randy Schaab to adjourn the regular meeting session. The motion passed and the meeting was closed at 10:35.

(Clerk)

(Date)