

**NORMAL TOWNSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES FOR
THURSDAY, AUGUST 19, 2021 AT 8:15 AM
304 E MULBERRY, NORMAL, IL**

1. **Call to Order**-The meeting was held at the Normal Township Hall with the option to join remotely via Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 8:15 a.m. by Township Supervisor Sarah Grammer.

2. Roll Call

Floyd Aper	Present
Sarah Grammer	Present
Arlene Hosea	Present
Sally Pyne	Present
Art Rodriguez	Present

Also Present

Elected officials Rob Cranston, Assessor
 Pat Turner, Clerk
 Arin Rader, Road Commissioner-Via Zoom

Township Staff Elicssha Sanders, ARC Member Services Manager
 Sammi Scott, Communications Coordinator

Robert McGlade -Auditor

Members of the general public were also in attendance

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Approval of the July 15, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion: Art Rodriguez

Second: Floyd Aper

Aye: Sarah Grammer, Arlene Hosea, Sally Pyne, Art Rodriguez, Floyd Aper

Nay: None

5. Approval of the July 22, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes

Motion: Sally Pyne

Second: Floyd Aper

Aye: Sarah Grammer, Arlene Hosea, Sally Pyne, Art Rodriguez, Floyd Aper

Nay: None

6. Approval of Expenditures from July 16, 2021 – August 19, 2021 in the following amounts:

Motion: Sally Pyne
Second: Arlene Hosea

General Town Fund	\$98,680.89
Senior Citizens' Fund	\$43,856.02
General Assistance	\$16,847.10
Road & Bridge Fund	\$10,365.19

Discussion: After Trustee Pyne requested and received clarification regarding items in the donations line on the General Town Fund, the July 16th -August 19th 2021 expenditures were unanimously approved.

Aye: Sarah Grammer, Arlene Hosea, Sally Pyne, Art Rodriguez, Floyd Aper

Nay: None

7. Reports

- **Community Engagement**

Supervisor Sarah Grammer was invited by the Illinois Solar Education Association to be one of two speakers who shared how governments can benefit from investing in Solar. She was able to relate Normal Townships' experience with the ARC solar array to some forty Illinois government bodies that were represented in the meeting.

Trustee Aper met with investors at the Assessor's office. He noted that the website is less user-friendly than the former site. Assessor Cranston and Supervisor Grammer agreed but mentioned that work is currently underway to address that challenge.

Trustees, Sally Pyne, Arlene Hosea and Clerk Pat Turner attended the annual Town of Normal Citizen of the year event where Mike Matejka was named as this years' chosen honoree. All were pleased to represent Normal Township at the event.

- **Assessor-**

Assessor Cranston shared a summary of his report for 2021 Assessments. Cranston explained that the county assessor determined that a multiplier of 1.0105. was warranted. The report summary reflects a net increase from 2020 EAV, which is about double the amount of the last couple of years. Cranston noted that the cycle is not yet complete as the report has yet to be shared in the local Normalite newspaper and go before a review board.

Clerk- No Report

- **Highway Commissioner-via Zoom**

Commissioner Rader reported that a road project aimed at seal coating 5 ½ miles county road was started yesterday afternoon and should wrap up today. Culvert replacement work for field entrances is also underway as the rains have caused some problems. Mowing is being done around ditches and

guard rails as well. There is an additional micro surfacing project on 2 miles of Towanda that will hopefully start before winter. Commissioner Raider said the Township attorney has reviewed the building contract and he is working to finalize everything so that it will be ready to sign soon.

- **ARC Staff and Senior Advisory Committee-**

Elisccha Sanders, Membership Director shared that ARC membership is still increasing in spite of the mask mandate being reinstated. She sees as many as 5-10 new members a day and some are using the portal to sign up online as well resulting in new members joining even over the weekend. There currently are a little over 2,100 active members.

Sammi Scott, Communications Coordinator shared that Bingo and Coffee sponsorships are going well with some dates left to fill for 2022. They are looking forward to Senior Citizen month and the upcoming open house. Sarah Grammer shared that there have been several cool prizes that have been donated to be raffled off and encouraged everyone to attend and invite others to come to the ARC open house on Saturday, September 18th, 10am-Noon.

Arlene Hosea praised the July 29th outdoor concert that the ARC put on. It was well attended and good feedback was received. Molly, Director of Programming, is looking to do more like that event next summer.

- **Supervisor**

Supervisor Grammer shared that we are seeing our lowest numbers ever for those on monthly General Assistance. She attributes that to the fact that more people are finding employment including those who traditionally have been hard to place. There have however, been several calls a day for those seeking utility assistance and help with water payments as disconnect notices have resumed.

Sarah shared that Preston continues to seek a solution for, and the source of water coming into the building at the ARC. He is seeking an expert that will help investigate and address this issue. He should have an update by next board meeting.

Regarding the Greenspace project, the most recent cost estimates are still higher than desired. After meeting with Kathy Bilow and Preston, it was determined that there are still several changes that can be made to the proposal to decrease cost such as eliminating drainage tiles where drainage is adequate and reduction in landscaping. The current plan includes decorative stonework that could also be removed to decrease costs. The board agreed that it is best to get the plan within budget than to rush the effort.

8. Public Comment- No Public Comment Offered

9. New Business

A. Presentation of FY2021 Audit- Robert McGlade -Auditor

Auditor Robert McGlade presented a page-by-page review of the Audit for Normal Township for FY2021. He shared that in the unmodified opinion of the auditors, the financials present fairly in all material respects and that the Township is operating under budget. It was noted that some numbers present lower than in previous years as a result of the closure during the Pandemic. The final audit report will be turned over to the Comptroller. Details regarding the audit can be found on the Township website.

Motion to Accept the Audit as Presented,

Motion: Art Rodriguez

Second: Sally Pyne

Aye: Floyd Aper, Art Rodriguez, Sally Pyne, Arlene Hosea, Sarah Grammer

Nay: None

B. Discussion and vote on Room Rental Policy

The board reviewed updates made to the Township room rental policy before voting to adapt the new changes with some additional modifications including clarification of rental fees and a signature line added to the contract. The new policy will be available on the website.

Motion: Floyd Aper

Second: Arlene Hosea

Aye: Arlene Hosea, Sally Pyne, Art Rodriguez, Floyd Aper, Sarah Grammer

Nay: None

C. Review of FY2022 Grant Applicants

The board held at-length discussions and voted on grant renewals for the following organizations:

Peace Meal -Motion to Approve the Grant Request for Peace Meal in the Amount \$15,000

Motion: Art Rodriguez

Second: Floyd Aper

Aye: Sally Pyne, Art Rodriguez, Sarah Grammer, Floyd Aper, Arlene Hosea,

Nay: None

YWCA Special Needs Program- Motion to Approve grant request in the amount of \$12,000.00

Motion: Sally Pyne

Second: Arlene Hosea

Aye: Sally Pyne, Art Rodriguez, Sarah Grammer, Arlene Hosea

Nay: Floyd Aper

Community Health Care Clinic; Motion to approve grant request in the amount of \$30,000.00

Motion: Sally Pyne,

Second: Arlene Hosea

The original motion was retracted and modified proposing that the Township reach out again to the

Community Health Care Clinic offering the opportunity to re-submit their grant request to reflect specific programing needs if they still desired to be considered.

Motion: Sally Pyne

Second: Arlene Hosea

Aye: Floyd Aper, Art Rodriguez, Arlene Hose, Sarah Grammer, Sally Pyne

Nay: None

An additional motion to amend the original motion to state that no funds be used for salaries was put forth by Floyd Aper.

Motion: Floyd Aper

No Second

D. Land Acknowledgment

Motion put forth to allow time at the start of future Township meetings for a short Territorial Acknowledgement

Motion-Sally Pyne

Second-Arlene Hosea

Trustee Pyne requested a brief (2-line) acknowledgement at the start of each Township meeting be given. The first person who speaks is traditionally the one to make the acknowledgement statement. She then shared an example of such a statement prior to the board voting on the matter.

Aye: Sally Pyne, Arlene Hosea, Sarah Grammer

Nay: Art Rodriguez, Floyd Aper

Motion Carries

E. Suggested Items for the Next Agenda

Levy-Preston ARC Building

Rick Phillips

Township Flag Discussion

Commitment to Senior Services Award Discussion-Possible Nominees

F. Adjournment- by Sarah Grammer at 10:10 am

Next Normal Township Board Meeting: Thursday, September 16, 2021 - 8:15 AM

Next Senior Advisory Committee Meeting: Thursday, September 2, 2021 – 9:30 AM