

**NORMAL TOWNSHIP  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES FOR  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2021 AT 8:15 AM  
304 E MULBERRY, NORMAL, IL**

The meeting was held at the Normal Township Hall, 304 E. Mulberry in Normal and was also available remotely via Zoom.

**Call to Order**

Meeting was opened at 8:15am by Township Supervisor Sarah Grammer

1. **Land Acknowledgement-** Sarah read a brief statement acknowledging indigenous groups who live or lived in the current Normal Township area.

**2. Roll Call**

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

**Also Present**

<b>Elected officials</b>	Rob Cranston, Assessor Pat Turner, Clerk Arin Rader, Road Commissioner-Via Zoom
<b>Township Staff</b>	Rick Lewis, ARC-Director of Operations Molly Camper -Director of Programming Preston Hill -Facilities Manager

**3. Pledge of Allegiance**

**4. Approval of the August 19, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes**

**Motion to approve the August 19<sup>th</sup> 2021 regular meeting minutes**

**Motion:** Art Rodriguez

**Second:** Floyd Aper

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

**Nay:** None

**3. Approval of Expenditures from August 20, 2021 – September 16, 2021 in the following amounts:**

General Town Fund	\$112,371.51
Senior Citizens' Fund	\$34,127.25
General Assistance	\$10,379.18
Road & Bridge Fund	\$10,124.51

**Motion to approve expenditures as presented**

**Motion:** Sally Pyne

**Second:** Arlene Hosea

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

**Nay:** None

**4. Reports**

**A. Community Engagement**

Sally attended ARC orientation on August 31<sup>st</sup>. She emphasized how great a program it is. Also, on the 31<sup>st</sup>, Sarah and Sally attended an event at the History Museum on Native Americans in Illinois. Both found the information helpful especially as the Township has begun including land acknowledgments as part of its monthly meeting agenda. Additionally, Sally attended the “Power of the Purse -That’s What She Said” fundraiser for United Way where Trustee Arlene Hosea was a featured speaker. Furthermore, Sarah and Sally met with the Community Health Care Clinic regarding the opportunity to re-submit their grant request. Arlene & Sarah reported attending the ARC advisory board meeting and expressed that it was a good meeting.

**B. Assessor**

Rob Cranston gave an update regarding the Assessors report which went before the Board of Review. Deadline is Monday.

**C. Clerk**

No Report

**D. Highway Commissioner**

Commissioner Rader shared that he replaced several culvert field entrance drainage tiles and that the seal coating project was completed and looks good. He saw it as a nice improvement especially in hot weather. Rader shared that the architect contract has been signed and he is now working on the budget for the new building. He is currently looking at project ideas for next year.

**E. ARC Staff and Senior Advisory Committee**

Rick Lewis, Director of Operations, shared updates regarding the ARC and noted that it is celebrating “National Senior Center Month”. He continues to enforce mask requirements at the ARC and shared that ARC will be partnering with the Health Department for booster clinics on October 28<sup>th</sup> and Jan 12<sup>th</sup>. Rick expressed appreciation to Trustee Floyd Aper for his participation on the Veterans’ Day planning committee and to Sammi for her article that appeared in the “News and Views” Publication.

Congratulations were given as Rick Lewis received the Arthur Larson Award for leadership in senior programs. He also credited the staff and SHIP counselors for their hard work. Rick shared that Paula

Basta, director for the Illinois Department on Aging, spent considerable time at the ARC meeting the staff and members and reported that ARC will resume Peace Meals in the building as carry out starting October 4<sup>th</sup>.

## **F. Supervisor**

Supervisor Grammer took additional time to applaud Director Rick Lewis for having received the prestigious Arthur Larson Award. She and at least 50 others attended the event in person and 20 via zoom including Paula Basta, Director of the Illinois Department on Aging and Susan Real, President of the Local Area on Aging. Sarah shared that Paula, who toured the ARC afterward was really impressed with the facility and staff. Pictures of the event were shared.

Supervisor Grammer and Trustee Pyne met with a grant writer at the Community Health Care Program to inform them that their original grant request had not been approved but they would have the opportunity to reapply under a specific program that meets the needs of Normal citizens as decided in our last board meeting. The organization seems likely to reapply.

Sarah announced that the Township roof was being finished today and tuck pointing is currently in progress. She gave a reminder of the upcoming ARC open house event and encouraged all to invite attendees. Sarah learned from Molly Camper, Director of programming and Opening Manager at ARC that there seems to be a slow bounce back for early morning attendance at the ARC since it's reopening. They are seeing only a few members coming between 6:30 and 8:00 am. She'll continue to watch the trend to consider priorities for that period. Regarding General Assistance, calls have recently dramatically increased as Ameren shut-offs have resumed.

5. **Public Comment:** No members of the general public were present in person and no public comments were offered via zoom.

## **6. New Business**

### **A. Presentation from the ARC Living Memorial Fund**

Rick Phillips gave a presentation updating the board regarding the status of the ARC Living Memorial Fund, a 501(c) 3 organization that was formed independent of the Township Government. It was created May 2017 and receives donations used for enhancements at the ARC including a portion which is committed to the ARC Greenspace Project. Spending requests are reviewed by the Fund's three board members, ARC management, and the Township board prior to approval. Rick answered questions regarding the board and fund status. Board members suggested that the board may consider recruiting additional members. It was also suggested that the Illinois Prairie Community Foundation may be a helpful resource for the Fund's board.

### **B. Discussion and vote on ARC Greenspace design**

Supervisor Grammer presented feedback from Farnsworth regarding the updated construction plan with the removals recommended by the board. The changes should bring the project more in line with the budget. The board was asked to decide if it was comfortable going forward to bid.

**Motion to approve modified construction plan and move to bid.**

**Motion:** Art Rodriguez

**Second:** Floyd Aper

**Aye:** Floyd Aper, Sarah Grammer, Arlene Hosea, Sally Pyne, Art Rodriguez  
**Nay:** None

**C. Discussion of ARC building repairs**

Preston Hill, ARC Facilities Manager gave a detailed presentation regarding an on-going problem with water leaks at the ARC facility. He has spent considerable effort pursuing a resolution but noted that there is no consensus among the professionals he has consulted so far regarding the actual cause of the problem. He stated that no problems were found with the solar array. The board discussed the issue at length and considered various options for moving forward. Preston will provide updates as available.

**D. Discussion of ITASCSA Commitment to Senior Services Awards Nomination**

Sarah shared an opportunity to put forth nominees for the ITASCSA awards and asked the board to put forth possible nominations. Two possibilities stood out including the Sunshine Program that ARC staff created to provide care for seniors who faced isolation during the pandemic. For “Volunteer of the Year” Deb Shaw was considered for her extraordinary volunteer work with the Peace Meal Program during the pandemic. All agreed that both are worth pursuing. Submission deadline is October 1<sup>st</sup>.

**E. Discussion of a Township Flag**

Trustee Pyne raised the question of whether Normal Township might consider having a Township Flag designed and created. She noted that many Townships around the state have followed that trend. Discussion ensued with no firm commitment to move forward with the flag at this time. Research on the issue will continue in the meanwhile.

**7. Suggested Items for the Next Agenda**

Review Levy

Possible Development Presentation- Art Rodriguez will seek a presenter

**8. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 9:53am.**

*Next Normal Township Board Meeting: Thursday, October 21, 2021 - 8:15 AM*

*Next Senior Advisory Committee Meeting: Thursday, October 7, 2021 – 9:30 AM*