

**NORMAL TOWNSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES FOR
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21, 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 8:16 am 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

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

Also Present

Elected officials	Rob Cranston, Assessor Pat Turner, Clerk Arin Rader, Road Commissioner
Township Staff	Sammi Scott -ARC Communications Director Molly Camper -ARC Director of Programming Elicsha Sanders-ARC Member Services Manager

3. Pledge of Allegiance

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

Motion to approve the September 16th 2021 regular meeting minutes

Motion: Sally Pyne
Second: Floyd Aper

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

5. Approval of Expenditures from September 17, 2021 – October 21, 2021 in the following amounts:

General Town Fund	\$153,537.18
Senior Citizens' Fund	\$ 39,742.78
General Assistance	\$ 23,123.15
Road & Bridge Fund	\$109,726.50

Clarifying questions were put forth by Trustees Floyd Aper and Sally Pyne regarding the expenditures and Supervisor Grammer addressed each question. The expenditures were unanimously approved.

Motion to approve expenditures as presented

Motion: Sally Pyne
Second: Floyd Aper

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

6. Reports

• Community Engagement

Trustee Art Rodriguez shared that the Veteran's group and the NAACP are working together. He was pleased to facilitate some information sharing between the groups. He also spent time at the Community Health Care Clinic spreading information on what Township offers. He and ARC Director Rick shared information on the upcoming Veterans Program at the ARC with the Veteran's Assistance Commission and announced opportunities to sponsor a coffee at the ARC. He encouraged continued information sharing about Township services with local non-profits.

Trustee Floyd Aper has been involved with the Veterans' Committee at the ARC as they prepare for 15 days of activities for Veterans to be held in November. He highlighted one event honoring the Women's Veteran's Flight and female Veterans of WWII and the Korean war. Supervisor Grammer shared appreciation for his work on the committee.

Trustee Pyne attended "Mornings with the Professors" at ISU. The group discussed the power and water shortages that occurred in Texas and the potential of a similar occurrence in Illinois.

Trustee Pyne was pleased to learn that Illinois is well prepared against such an occurrence. She also attended a Women to Women Program at the Illinois Prairie Community Foundation that addressed the importance of diversity and inclusion.

- A. Assessor:** Assessor Rob Cranston reported that the Board of Review process is still underway. The numbers were low in spite of a multiplier greater than one.
- B. Clerk:** No Report
- C. Highway Commissioner:** Commissioner Rader reported that the 2 miles of micro surfacing work on Towanda and Northtown road is complete and turned out well. Next steps will be to paint the stripes. There is also tile repair work underway east and south of Veterans Parkway. The Commissioner also shared floor plans for the new garage facility and received feedback from Trustee Aper regarding bathroom placement for the design.
- D. ARC Staff and Senior Advisory Committee:** Sammi Scott shared that the last “Brick order” was placed so that they will be ready for engraving and eventual wall placement. Everything moving in the right direction.

Supervisor Grammer and Trustee Floyd attended the ARC Senior Advisory Committee which went well. Floyd commented on the benefit of the diverse group and Grammer commented on the deep value of hearing from the end-users of the ARC

- E. Supervisor:** Supervisor Grammer reported that calls for assistance are increasing as evictions and utility disconnections are up. For some, bills had accumulated significantly during the moratorium. The Township is working with other agencies in the community for situations where applicants are not eligible for Township Funds. The monthly assistance program costs remain low as jobs are readily available. Deb Skillrud of Bloomington Township has confirmed that Normal Township will be awarded a \$40,000 grant at the end of the month. Sarah expressed that the support and partnership are greatly appreciated.

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

8. New Business

A. Presentation and Discussion of 2021 General Town and Road & Bridge Levies

Sarah walked the board members through the levy process and went line by line through the proposed levies for both Road & Bridges and General Town giving rationale for what was proposed. She clarified that the Road and Bridge levy reflected accumulation of funds which is permissible due to the nature and cost of the road projects. It also reflects an increase of less than 5%. Commissioner Rader explained that under the proposed levy, he should still be eligible for motor fuel tax monies. The General Town proposal calls for the tax levy to remain flat. Because

the EAV is down, this will cause a percent decrease in taxes paid to the Township.

Motion of intent to set proposed Road and Bridges Tax Levy of \$720,254.00 at November regular board meeting

Motion: Sally Pyne
Second: Floyd Aper

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

Nay: None

Motion of intent to set General Town Tax Levy of \$2,031,000.00 at the November 2021 regular board meeting

Motion: Sally Pyne
Second: Arlene Hosea

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

Nay: None

B. Discussion of ARC Operating Hours

Discussion was held as to whether or not to make schedule adjustments at the ARC due to low morning attendance. ARC Staff and Township board members weighed in, deciding in the end to wait and further monitor the situation before making any changes. The ARC will be hosting a booster and 3rd dose vaccine clinic to be held Thursday the 28th. With child vaccines on the horizon as well, it is possible that these changes will affect an increase in ARC attendance.

C. Discussion of CHCC grant request

The Community Health Care Clinic has re-submitted their grant request in the amount of \$30,000 to expand dental services. Discussion ensued regarding whether or not to approve the requested funding. The funding will allow for a hygienist to come in additional time and will help provide increased dental care access for veterans. The Township may ask that a press release be held to inform the community of the grant award.

Motion to approve grant funding in the amount of \$30,000.00 to Community Health Care Clinic for the expansion of dental services.

Motion: Art Rodriguez
Second: Arlene Hosea

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

Nay: None

D. Discussion of 2022 Township Holiday Schedules

Motion: Art Rodriguez

Second:: Arlene Hosea

Discussion was held to approve holiday schedules for 2022 for the ARC and Township calendars. The proposed schedules reflected 12 holidays a year. Trustee Pyne proposed adding December 23rd to both schedules for the 2022 year. A vote was held to approve the holiday schedule with the additional day added.

Aye: Sarah Grammer, Arlene Hosea, Sally Pyne,

Nay: Floyd Aper

Abstain: Art Rodriguez

The motion passed.

An additional proposal was put forth by Trustee Aper to rename October 10th which is currently listed as “Indigenous Peoples Day” to “Columbus Day & Indigenous Peoples Day” on the holiday list. It was pointed out that Columbus Day was previously unobserved by the Township when Indigenous Peoples Day was added to the schedule of holidays. A vote on the matter followed.

Motion to list replace Indigenous Peoples Day as “Columbus Day & Indigenous Peoples Day” on holiday schedule.

Aye: Art Rodriguez, Floyd Aper,

Nay: Sarah Grammer, Arlene Hosea, Sally Pyne

Motion Failed

E. Discussion of ARC Director of Operations Position

Sarah asked the Board to consider approving a timeline and process for recruitment and hiring for the ARC Director of Operations position as Rick Lewis will soon be retiring. The board reviewed the process that was previously used for filling the position and suggested changes that could be implemented in its use for the current process. The Board also set a search committee that included the ARC Senior Manager, Township Board member, and representation from the ARC Senior Advisory Committee.

Motion to approve timeline and process for recruiting and hiring with the following additions: 1. That the position reports to the Township Board and 2. Add monthly board meetings and Senior Advisory meetings under duties.

Motion: Art Rodriguez

Second: Arlene Hosea

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

F. Suggested Items for the Next Agenda:

Discussion on Agreement for Living Memorial Foundation on Greenspace Process

Approval of Levies

Presentation from Guest from the Economic Development Council (Art will Invite)

Update on Building Leaks Status

Discussion of possible temporary mural space at Township in light of removal of Jelani Day's picture by Town of Normal.

Motion to Adjourn: Sally Pyne

Second: Arlene Hosea

G. Adjournment: Meeting was Adjourned at 10:08am

Next Normal Township Board Meeting: Thursday, November 18, 2021 8:15AM

Next Senior Advisory Committee Meeting: Thursday, November 4, 2021 – 9:30 AM