

**NORMAL TOWNSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, JULY 21, 2022 AT 8:15 AM
304 E MULBERRY, NORMAL, IL**

The meeting was held at Normal Township Hall with the option to join remotely via Zoom.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:15am by Township Supervisor Jess Ray.

2. Land Acknowledgement

Supervisor Ray read a statement acknowledging the ancestral history of the Township land.

3. Roll Call

Supervisor Jess Ray	Present
Trustee Art Rodriguez	Present
Trustee Sally Pyne	Present
Trustee Floyd Aper	Present
Trustee Arlene Hosea	Present

Additional Elected Township Officials Present

Pat Turner	Clerk
Arin Rader	Road Commissioner

ARC Staff Present

Sammi Scott -Communications Director (Via Zoom)
Molly Camper – Director of Programming (Via Zoom)
Janet Hood-ARC Board (Via Zoom)

Others Present in-Person

*Melissa Breeden-YWCA
Mike Romagnoli-CHCC
Theresa Loge-CHCC
Susan Warren-Normal IL
Marjorie Park-Normal IL*

4. Pledge of Allegiance

5. Approval of the June 16, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes

Trustee Art Rodriguez put forth a motion to approve the June 16, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes.
Trustee Floyd Aper seconded the motion.

Motion: Art Rodriguez

Second: Floyd Aper

Aye: Art Rodriguez, Floyd Aper, Sally Pyne, Arlene Hosea, Jess Ray

Nay: None

6. Approval of the July 7, 2022, Special Meeting Minutes

Art Rodriguez made a motion to approve the July 7th 2022 Special Meeting Minutes. Sally Pyne seconded the motion.

Motion: Art Rodriguez

Second: Sally Pyne

Aye: Jess Ray, Art Rodriguez, Sally Pyne, Floyd Aper, Arlene Hosea

Nay: None

7. Approval of Expenditures from June 17, 2022 – July 21, 2022

Discussion was held regarding expenditures made from June 17, 2022 - July 21, 2022 after which a motion was made and seconded to approve the expenditures as presented. Supervisor Ray acknowledged that the amount for the Senior Citizen Fund was larger than usual as it included a payment to Stark for the “Greenspace Project”. Floyd Aper requested that TOI be contacted to assure that payment for the new van is coming from the correct account.

Normal Town	\$103,291.98
Senior Citizen Fund	\$166,588.54
General Assistance	\$16,876.18
Road & Bridge	\$4,594.36

Motion: Sally Pyne

Second: Arlene Hosea

Aye: Arlene Hosea, Sally Pyne, Jess Ray, Floyd Aper, Art Rodriguez

Nay: None

8. Reports

A. Community Engagement

Trustees Floyd Aper and Art Rodriguez met with Senator Barickman to discuss the law that calls for the Township to pay to the Town of Normal half of its appropriated funds for Roads and Bridges. He found that this law has been in place since the “50s”. He further researched the issue of “lockbox” funds that are paid to different units of government. Art also contacted the state comptroller on the issue. It was noted that the Town of Normal spends approximately 9 million on Road & Bridges. Sally expressed that the issue seems to be moot as the money from the township goes into a pot that is part of the 9 million that the Town spends on Roads. Jess Ray shared that he talked with Jerry Crabtree on the issue and saw it to be an issue of the letter of the law vs. the spirit of the law. He and Floyd review the matter further at the upcoming TOI training.

Sally Pyne shared a fun fact regarding her relationship as a donor to the Community Health Care Clinic in Normal and a conversation she had with one of its board members.

Art & Arlene attended a street naming ceremony for two civil rights leaders in Bloomington IL. Arlene also attended a recent YWCA Circle event where she met the Honorable Lisa Holder White, the new Illinois Supreme Ct. Justice.

Jess Ray reminded the board that July is “Extreme Heat Safety” and “Disability Pride Month”. He also

gave announcements regarding upcoming community engagement opportunities, including the upcoming McLean Co. & State Fairs and the Young at Heart Military Veteran's Day event.

B. Assessor-Not Present due to illness. He is wished a speedy recovery.

C. Clerk- No New Updates

D. Highway Commissioner- Commissioner Rader announced that he will hold a pre-construction meeting today at 2pm. He answered questions from Township Board members regarding an access road off of North Town Rd. that he has been maintaining that is not officially a township road. He explained that the road may officially be assigned to the township by IDOT and could possibly result in an increase in motor fuel tax funds received.

E. ARC Staff and Senior Advisory Committee- (Jess Ray shared the report as the Director of ARC Operations position is still vacant.) The living memorial fund was awarded a \$1,500.00 Harmon Arts grant. The grant will help fund programs related to instruction in arts. Ray also reported that the "Greenspace Project" continues to move forward and is near completion. The site is currently being reviewed to address any possible tripping hazards. The new ARC van has arrived and has been certified for use. It will have ARC information placed on it. The ARC has completed two new hires which include a new van driver and a member services representative. Jess also reported that an updated tenant agreement with the ISU Speech and Hearing Clinic and an agreement with the Mennonite College of Nursing are nearing finalization. The latter will allow the college to have ARC as a clinical site. Per Floyd Aper's request, Jess will provide a copy of the original contract between ARC and the Speech and Hearing Clinic for comparison. The ARC Senior Advisory Committee is in the process of reviewing the ARC Membership and agreement policy in response to an issue that was raised at their recent meeting.

F. Supervisor- Jess Ray attended the TOI training for Township Supervisors. He and Floyd Aper will also attend a full day training put on by TOI on July 28th. Jess announced that the new "988" Suicide and Crisis Hotline has been launched as of July 16th. The lifeline provides prevention help and support. He also shared that the Illinois Family Relief Plan suspends a 1% sales tax on groceries and the Gas Tax increase has been delayed. Additionally, August 5th -14th, the state sales tax on school supplies and qualifying clothing will decrease from 6.25% to 1.25 %. He also gave info about the McLean County Senior Farmer's Market and Nutrition Program which increases access to fresh fruits and vegetables for seniors. Jess brought up the issue of electric vehicle charging station rebates as an issue for future consideration by the township. Public entities are eligible for the rebates. He also shared that the United Way McLean Co. Housing Coalition is proposing a 3- year Housing Assistance project. A Path study found 188 people at a point in time were experiencing homelessness in the community. Sally suggested that the township consider adding the coalition to the list of those invited to share a grant proposal.

9. Public Comment

The Board heard from Normal Resident Susan Park on behalf of her Mother Marjorie Park. Susan asked if the ARC will consider changing its guidelines to provide a special pass or allow people with special needs to attend ARC programing with their assistants who may be under the age of 55. She explained that she and her mom were active members but her mother's current assistant does not meet the age requirement. The adjustment would allow her to attend as recommended for her health and condition.

10. New Business

A. Approval of Ordinance for appointment of Jess Ray as IMRF Authorized Agent

Motion: Art Rodriguez

Second: Arlene Hosea

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

Nay: None

Abstain: Jess Ray

The ordinance was approved.

B. Approval of McLean County Supervisor of Assessment Proposal of “no change” to Normal Township status as Stand Alone for the 2022 redistricting cycle.

Motion: Sally Pyne

Second: Floyd Aper

Aye: Sally Pyne, Arlene Hosea, Art Rodriguez, Floyd Aper, Jess Ray

Nay: None

Motion approved unanimously.

C. Discussion of Township grants

Theresa Loge and Mike Romagnoli of the Community Health Care Clinic gave presentations regarding the use of the Township Grant it was awarded. They shared that the grant is being used to expand their dental program and has aided in the hiring of an Adult coordinator who enables the clinic to see more patients. While the clinic has seen some 1,400 unique patients, it was shared that the organization has not met original goals as intended as they had two dentists suffer major health issues (a stroke and Covid which caused a vision loss). Never-the-less, wait lists have been reduced. The CHCC representatives expressed appreciation for the funding from the Township and invited the board to come and visit the clinic. Trustee Hosea shared her appreciation for the service that the clinic provides to the community. She shared how the clinic was particularly helpful to a community member who needed teeth removed but lacked replacement dentures. Mike and Theresa answered additional questions put forth by the board about the organization and their use of the granted funding.

Melissa Breeden, VP of Education and Curriculum for the YWCA presented the board with updates regarding the use of the grant funds they have received from the Township. Funds go to help the After School Program for kids with moderate to severe special needs. She shared stats, anecdotes, challenges and successes that the organization has experienced during the funding year. She shared that staffing issues have prevented a previously planned expansion of the program to include the Jr. High level but the organization plans to re-focus on that goal again in 2023. Breeden expressed appreciation for the grant and noted that the program is unique and its service, unduplicated in the community. At the request of the Board, Melissa also shared info regarding funding the YWCA receives from other sources. Jess Ray shared that the ARC has been considering working with the YWCA's Retired Seniors Volunteer program to offer a FAIR that would help seniors find opportunities for volunteerism and employment.

Jill Hanson from Peace Meals was unable to attend due to staffing shortages.

Following the presentations, Floyd Aper put forth a motion to set a \$10,000 cap on grants offered to community not-for-profit organizations. He expressed concern that the township government is utilizing tax funds for the non-profits and that the City of Bloomington and Bloomington Township weren't listed as funders. The Township granted \$15,000 to Peace Meal, \$12,000 to the YWCA and \$30,000 to the Community Health Care Clinic for the current funding cycle. He also acknowledged that state law does allow the Township to make such grants. Trustee Pyne stated that in providing these grants, the Township is responding to and working closest with the community and its needs. She noted that Townships are tasked with several things including serving the homeless, disabled, runaways, youth etc. in addition to the focus on seniors. Additional discussion ensued before a vote on the motion was taken.

Motion to Place a \$10,000 cap on grants issued by Normal Township

Motion: Floyd Aper

Second: Art Rodriguez

Aye: Floyd Aper

Nay: Art Rodriguez, Arlene Hosea, Sally Pyne, Jess Ray

The motion failed.

D. Discussion of ARC operations and staffing

The ARC currently does not have a Director of Operations. Supervisor Jess Ray raised a discussion about the process in place for filling the position and regarding next steps for moving forward. Floyd put forth a motion to offer the position to Molly Camper who currently serves as Director of Programming.

Motion to appoint Molly Camper to position of ARC Director of Operations

Motion: Floyd Aper

Second: Art Rodriguez

Extensive discussion ensued with questions arising as to whether the position would be permanent or interim, qualifications and how the "dominoes" in the process might be affected. Also discussed were the pros & cons of search and hiring vs. appointing. The discussion ended with Jess leaning toward a 'search and hire' option utilizing the process that was used the last time the position was filled. **The motion was restated as a motion that the board recommend Molly Camper to Jess Ray and appoint Molly Camper as the replacement for the Position of ARC Director of Operations.**

Motion: Floyd Aper

Second: Art Rodriguez

Aye: Floyd Aper, Art Rodriguez

Nay: Arlene Hosea, Sally Pyne, Jess Ray

Motion Failed

After additional discussion, a motion was made that the Township Supervisor open the search process to fill the position of ARC Director of Operations.

Motion: Sally Pyne

Second: Art Rodriguez

Aye: Sally Pyne, Arlene Hosea, Art Rodriguez, Jess Ray

Nay: Floyd Aper

Motion passes.

11. Suggested Items for the Next Agenda

- Review Grant Criteria

- Invite representative from the Economic Development Council to advise board regarding housing shortage stock in Normal.

- Invite Presentation regarding skilled nursing challenges and impact on Township (Jess suggested seeking a representative from the McLean Co. Nursing Home.)

12. Adjournment-The meeting was adjourned at 10:18am by Supervisor Ray

Next Normal Township Board Meeting: Thursday, August 18, 2022 – 8:15 AM

Next Senior Advisory Committee Meeting: Thursday, August 4, 2022 – 9:30 AM

Pat Turner – Normal Township Clerk

____/____/_____
Date