

**NORMAL TOWNSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, October 20, 2022 AT 8:15 AM
304 MULBERRY, NORMAL, IL**

1. **Call to Order** - The meeting was called to order at 8:15am by Township Supervisor Jess Ray
2. **Land Acknowledgement** - Supervisor Jess Ray read the below statement acknowledging the ancestral history of the Township land.

Normal Township Land Acknowledgement

The land that Normal Township sits on is the ancestral land and traditional territory of many Native Nations, including the Peoria, the Kaskaskia, the Piankashaw, the Wea, the Miami, the Mascoutin, the Odawa, the Sauk, the Mesquaki, the Lenape, the Potawatomi, the Ojibwe, the Chickasaw, and the Algonquin-speaking Kickapoo, who were forced west from this area in the 1830s. Normal Township acknowledges this land continues to carry the stories of these Nations and their struggles for survival and identity, and the township works toward building relationships with Native Americans in the community through its many services.

3. Roll Call

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

Additional Elected Township Officials Present

Dayna Schickedanz	Clerk
Arin Rader	Road Commissioner

Others Present

Deb Shaw	ARC Senior Advisory Committee
Eliccsha Sanders	ARC Membership Director
Molly Camper	ARC Director of Programming (Via Zoom)
Mary Wuhrmann	Normal resident

4. Pledge of Allegiance

5. Approval of the August 23, 2022 Special Meeting Minutes

Motion: Sally Pyne
Second: Arlene Hosea

Discussion: Trustee Pyne requested Trustee Aper to verify the notes on replacing the Clerk. Trustee Aper presented an amendment to the minutes. In the sentence regarding who meets the requirements for the post of Clerk, he would like to have the following statement inserted: "The trustees did not receive any resume, application, or opportunity to vet the appointee." The vote was called on the minutes, as amended.

Aye: Floyd Aper, Art Rodriguez, Jess Ray, Arlene Hosea, Sally Pyne
Nay: None

6. Approval of the September 15, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion: Arlene Hosea
Second: Sally Pyne

Discussion: Trustee Pyne noted that she appreciated the structure of the minutes, and thanked Clerk Schickedanz for the accuracy. The vote was called.

Aye: Floyd Aper, Art Rodriguez, Jess Ray, Arlene Hosea, Sally Pyne
Nay: None

7. Approval of Expenditures from September 15, 2022 – October 20, 2022

Motion: Arlene Hosea
Second: Sally Pyne

Discussion: Trustee Aper noted that he would be abstaining from the vote, as he had not had the opportunity to review the most current financial information due to being out of town the previous day. The vote was called.

Normal Town:	\$101,617.84
General Assistance:	\$24,351.52
Senior Citizen Fund:	\$36,099.90
Road & Bridge:	\$359,997.64

Aye: Arlene Hosea, Jess Ray, Art Rodriguez, Sally Pyne
Abstain: Floyd Aper
Nay: None

8. Reports

A. Community Engagement

Trustee Aper spent time researching recent TOIA legislation and a court case which impacted the Town of Normal, and discovered that the verbiage was that a township “may” provide funds to a corporate city or town, in regards to road funds.

Supervisor Ray attended an open house at the Community Healthcare Clinic, at which he observed the new dental area, which he reported was impressive. He also highlighted a newsletter in which Laura Bailey, a volunteer for Peace Meal who works at the ARC, was featured for her additional volunteer service to Home Sweet Home Ministries in their food bank.

Trustee Pyne noted that all four Trustees attended the most recent ARC Senior Advisory Committee meeting. She also attended the Immigration Project’s Fall Luncheon, an annual event focusing on local immigrants. Additionally, she attended the 5th Annual McLean County Behavioral Health Community Forum, which works to assess the needs around mental health in McLean County. She noted that the McLean County government, City of Bloomington, and Town of Normal are all sponsors for the event, and proposed that the Township consider sponsorship in the future as well.

Trustee Hosea attend the ISU Community Breakfast, along with Trustee Pyne. Trustee Hosea provided information about the presentation given on Name, Image, and Likeness for college athletes, following the NCAA’s approval of athletes earning income. She explained that student athletes are learning financial literacy, tax documentation, partnering with agents and lawyers, as well as how to navigate their social media. She explained that ISU is being viewed as the model amongst other schools in their division.

Trustee Rodriguez attended a candidate forum presented by the NAACP and the League of Women Voters. He also attended the VFW event for Camp LeJeune claims. The event processed 22 veteran claims in a six-hour period. He noted that the best event in the state to date had processed 24 claims in a month. He also attended the open house hosted by the Community Healthcare Clinic and discovered that the pharmacy takes donations of unused, sealed medications. He proposed that the Township considers expanding their grant to the full service of the facility, not just one section. Trustee Hosea noted that Trustee Rodriguez is also currently serving as the Veterans Committee Chair for the NAACP.

B. Assessor

Assessor Rob Cranston was not present, and nothing was reported to the Board.

C. Clerk

Clerk Schickedanz had nothing to report to the Board.

D. Highway Commissioner

Commissioner Rader informed the Board that the flooring for the new building would be poured within the following week, that the floor drains were now in place, and that the inside build-out would begin after the flooring. He also updated the Board on the delay for electrical panels being pushed to February. He reported that he was able to decrease the lead time by half for windows by switching to non-operational windows. He called out the work he had the McLean County Highway Department complete on striping several roads as a charge of around \$9,000 in his budget. He then also informed the Board that he is preparing for the upcoming winter by looking at repairs on snow plow blades and getting new edges on blades.

E. ARC Staff and Senior Advisory Committee

Eliccsha reported an increase in membership, likely due to colder weather. Trustee Pyne requested that membership trends be extrapolated in future reports. Eliccsha followed up by explaining that membership increases are also seen in relation to successful programming drawing people in. She went on to describe how she has been doing community outreach by dropping ARC newsletters at local doctor's offices and the McLean County Health Department.

Molly reported that the ARC now has a 20-page newsletter. The increase of four pages was due to the ad space selling so well. She informed the Board that the ads cover 100% of the publishing costs of the 1,600 copies printed monthly. She continued by discussing the return of the ARC's Annual Craft Sale, returning after a 2-year hiatus due to COVID. The sale offers handmade goods created by ARC members, and is open to all in the community. This event takes place Saturday, November 5th from 9:00am – 1:00pm. The ARC's Annual Veteran's Day event will be Tuesday, November 15th, beginning at 4:00pm. There will be a ceremony with both VFW posts participating, as well as a new partnership with a class of KNR students from ISU featuring veteran themed bingo, a dessert reception, and a veteran themed movie.

Deb Shaw thanked the Trustees for their attendance at the most recent Advisory Committee meeting.

F. Supervisor

Jess Ray reported that there has been an increase in the amount of Emergency Assistance requests received, but that the Township has also started seeing an increase in declines of assistance from landlords/rental agencies. He noted that the change has been significant enough that it will be tracked going forward. A discussion on affordable housing in the area led to a request by Trustee Pyne that a member of the Economic Development Council come speak to the Township about how affordable housing impacts the community and how Township fits into solutions. Supervisor Ray also thanked Jill and Ruby for all of the work they put in on processing General and Emergency Assistance requests.

Jess discussed unexpected issues at the ARC, such as the increase in the water bill due to an automatic toilet flushing constantly over a weekend. Also noted was the Yoga Room glass not fitting back in the framing by a fractional amount, causing the need for replacement glass. The quote for the glass replacement is currently outstanding. The technician who came to provide maintenance on Fitness Room equipment suggested replacing two rower machines as well as a recumbent bicycle. The equipment has been in place for six years. The technician also performed maintenance on the elliptical machine.

The ARC's Green Space was having its final sealer being applied.

The search for an installer to place a roof access ladder continues.

The ARC van service has returned to pre-pandemic service. Eliccsha and Barb Singer have partnered with Connect Transit to see if the Connect Transit Mobility Bus may be a viable option for some members. Trustee Rodriguez requested having a Connect Transit representative come speak to the Township Board.

The Vaccine Clinic is returning to the ARC this year thanks to a partnership with the McLean County Health Department.

SHIP counselors have a new certified counselor, Julie Stone, who is currently in training.

Three candidates are to be interviewed for the Director position at the ARC, with public presentations to take place in November at a date to be determined.

The following resignations occurred at the ARC: Dr. DeOscar resigned from the Senior Advisory Board on October 6th, Barb Singer resigned from the Senior Advisory Board on October 18th. Supervisor Ray thanked them for their service and reported that the search for potential replacements is open.

There were insurance updates, updates to the TOIRMA program manual, and TOIRMA's annual report included in the informational packet provided to Trustees.

A risk assessment was performed at the ARC resulting in Preston beginning to create a plan to address when vendors are working on areas that could potentially throw sparks.

The World War II Memorial Rededication Ceremony will be held on November 5th, at 1:00pm on the east side of the McLean County Museum square.

9. Public Comment: None

10. New Business

A. Consider, discuss, and vote on approval of quote for replacement windows for the Yoga Room at the ARC

Jess Ray tabled this new business until the following meeting due to the quote not being available at this time.

B. Consider, discuss, and vote on Township 2023 Holiday Schedule

Motion to Discuss: Arlene Hosea

Second: Sally Pyne

Trustee Pyne suggested adding Monday, July 3rd and Tuesday, December 26th as holidays to both the Township and ARC Holiday calendars. She also proposed moving December 22nd to the calendar, and removing the first sentence of the paragraph below the listed holidays.

Motion to Vote: Sally Pyne

Second: Art Rodriguez

Public Comment: Deb Shaw asked the Board to consider the ARC members, not only the ARC staff.

Motion to Vote on adding July 3rd, December 26th, and December 30th to the combined holiday schedule for the Township Hall and ARC: Jess Ray

Second: none heard

Public Comment: Mary Wuhrmann asked the Board when the ARC will be open from December 22nd through January 1st, how many days?

Trustee Aper replied to the question, saying three days.

Public Comment: Mary Wuhrmann noted that she agreed with Deb Shaw, that many members of the ARC depend on attending.

Trustee Pyne expressed this is something the Board could do for the staff of the ARC as an expression of gratitude for their service.

Motion: Trustee Aper called for the question

Motion to Vote on adding July 3rd, December 26th, and December 30th to the combined holiday schedule for the Township Hall and ARC

Aye: Art Rodriguez, Sally Pyne

Nay: Floyd Aper, Arlene Hosea, Jess Ray

Township 2023 Holiday Schedule not passed.

Supervisor Ray suggested revisiting the issue at the following meeting.

C. Consider, discuss, and vote on FY2023 Grant Applications

Supervisor Ray presented four applicants: Peace Meal, YWCA, Community Healthcare Clinic, and School Street Food Pantry, and that there is an available \$70,000 for the Township to provide grants. He provided that the organizations were requesting the following proportional amounts:

Peace Meal: \$15,000

YWCA: \$15,000

School Street Food Pantry: \$4,000

Community Healthcare Clinic: \$30,000

Motion to Discuss: Art Rodriguez

Second: none heard

Motion to Table: Floyd Aper

Second: Arlene Hosea

The request was made that grant applicants be listed individually on the upcoming agenda. Trustee Pyne also proposed allocating additional grant funds to the McLean County Behavioral Health Forum.

D. Consider, discuss, and vote on applicant for Senior Advisory Board to fill remaining term of vacant Bloomington Representative position.

Supervisor Ray explained that Carol Ray had applied for the Senior Advisory Board to fill the vacant Bloomington representative position.

Motion to Vote: Floyd Aper

Second: Arlene Hosea

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

Nay: none

11. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn: Arlene Hosea

Second: Floyd Aper

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

None

Meeting adjourned at 10:00am.

Next Regular Normal Township Board Meeting: Thursday, November 17, 2022 – 8:15 AM
Next Senior Advisory Committee Meeting: Thursday, November 3, 2022 – 9:30 AM

_____/_____/_____
Dayna Schickedanz, Normal Township Clerk Date