

**NORMAL TOWNSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, April 21st, 2026, at 5:00 pm
304 MULBERRY, NORMAL, IL 61761**

1. Call to Order - The meeting was called to order at 5:07 pm by Township Supervisor Krystle Able.

2. Land Acknowledgement – Trustee Jodie Slothower read a statement acknowledging the ancestral history of the Township land.

3. Roll Call:

Trustee Jodie Slothower - present

Trustee Natasha Syed - absent

Supervisor Krystle Able - present

Trustee Dylan Hile-Broad - present

Trustee Tanner Starr – present (via zoom)

Additional Elected/Appointed Township Officials Present:

Becca Rice

Deputy Clerk

Arin Rader

Road Commissioner (via Zoom)

Others Present:

Elicsha Sanders

ARC Director of Operations

Samantha Scott

ARC Communications Coordinator (via Zoom)

Tori Lomelino

Township GA/EA Coordinator

4. Pledge of Allegiance

5. Public Comment

- Dennis Killian, District 1 County Board Candidate representing 16 townships and 10 municipalities, was present to introduce himself and offer his contact information.

6. Consent Agenda:

a. Senior Citizen Fund Expenditures

b. GA Fund Expenditures

c. Road and Bridge Fund Expenditures

d. General Township Fund Expenditures

e. Approval of the February 19, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes

f. Approval of the March 19, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes – tabled until available for

review

g. Approval of the March 24, 2026, Special Meeting Minutes

h. Approval of the March 31, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes

Trustee Dylan Hyle-Broad made a motion, and Trustee Jodie Slothower seconded the motion, to approve accepting the consent agenda with the condition of tabling points 6f and 6h until the next meeting.

Jodie inquired about any unusual expenses from the reports. Krystle reported that the General Township Fund is showing a negative balance because the Township has not received any tax payments yet. The fund does not have a negative balance.

Those in favor of the motion: Trustees Dylan Hile-Broad, Jodie Slothower, Tanner Star and Township Supervisor Krystle Able.

Those opposed: None

7. Reports

A. Highway Commissioner: Arin reported that work has been completed on the road shoulders, pulling rock onto the areas that have washed out. There were a few road signs damaged/blown away from the storm on April 17, as well as some tree debris and a power pole that had hanging wires. The area with the wires was barricaded until Corn Belt fixed them, and all areas are now repaired/cleaned up. Arin has also priced a new hoop building for salt storage. Through a government program, once can be purchased for approximately \$46,000, and he is looking to proceed with the purchase.

Jodie inquired whether the cost of the building is in the budget. Krystle confirmed that it is, and the budget would remain 'very healthy' after the purchase.

B. Assessor: Krystle read Kent's report in his absence. Highlights included the process of taking updated property photos will be wrapping up for the spring and resume in the fall. The weather has been conducive to getting property changes measured and the staff is beginning the valuation process for 2026. Mention was also made that the County will be sending out tax bills around the first week of May. Installment payments will be due in June and September. Anyone having questions about the report is invited to email Kent directly.

C. Clerk

No report

D. General Assistance: Tori reported that March was a slow month, but April looks to be busier. She has been working on bookkeeping, and Adam has been focusing on grant writing. While the clothing pantry is growing, Krystle mentioned there has been a slowdown in hygiene pantry donations and that there is always a need for feminine hygiene products. Eliccsha offered to post a flier requesting donations, at the ARC.

Krystle also noted that an individual came and took all the socks that were in the drawer. This same individual has also been seen 'wiping out' all the supplies at other times, which is prompting concerns that this person is taking items for resale purposes. In addition to moderating how many

items are put out at one time, signage will be posted requesting that people only take what they need. Staff will also keep a better eye out for people abusing this service.

Jodie made the point that the current AFSCME strike, at ISU, may create a greater need for these items. Krystle mentioned that the organizer of the strike has reached out regarding assistance options, as the striking employees are not eligible for unemployment benefits, and she explained available options through Normal and Bloomington Township.

E. General Assistance Committee

Tori reported the General Assistance Committee is off to a good start and has created a 'wish list' to work towards.

F. Finance Committee

No report

G. Policy and Procedure Group

Dylan will be bringing an update regarding the benefits policy to the meeting scheduled for April 28.

H. ARC

Eliccsa provided a hard copy of her report in the board packet. Highlights included that most programs continue to be heavily attended, some reaching or exceeding the maximum number of participants. The Cognitive and Hearing screenings were especially well attended, as were the Glow Dance and Drumming session (both part of the 10th Anniversary programming). To date, over half of the memberships scheduled to expire in either March or April have been renewed. Programming revenue increased by approximately \$2500 from February to March, but Insurance-Based Incentive Program reimbursement declined by about \$400. All sponsorships have been filled through August (coffee) and the end of the year (bingo and card tourney). The next Dine to Donate will be June 22nd at Texas Roadhouse. Multiple community outreach opportunities have been scheduled including presenting to the Trinity Lutheran Ladies Aid Society (April 2), McLean County Government/BNWRD/City of Bloomington Employee Wellness Fair, Be Content Senior Expo, Second Presbyterian Joy Expo/Rotary meeting and the Young at Heart Day at the McLean County Fair. Work continues for the Build the ARC Breakfast. Randy (custodian) gave his two weeks' notice and training has begun for new hires, Aleksandra and Leeza. Old Tyme Ice Cream (food truck) will be on site for the April 22 luncheon, to help draw in community members. Discussions were made regarding having the ARC be a weekly destination to which Dylan suggested charging a fee to have food trucks on site to generate additional revenue. Eliccsa replied that we could use this year to explore how having food trucks on site could benefit the ARC. Jodie inquired about the functionality of the security cameras at the ARC. Krystal responded that 2/3 were not operating correctly, and there were some blind spots identified, so a new system is being tested. Further discussion on the system will take place next week.

I. Supervisor

Krystle included a hard copy of her report in the board packet. Discussion from her report included requesting the Normal Police Department be on site for the annual Township meeting, especially if the agenda includes any controversial items. Natasha stepped in and broke up a verbal altercation at this year's meeting. The HRIS system, which allows for employee management, document storage, the paystub portal, and other items, is on hold until a new HR Manager is hired, which should be completed in about one week. Utilizing potential state grant funding has been discussed

to fund projects with larger budgets. If we were to receive and utilize this type of funding, it would be a reimbursement that is made after the Township has paid the initial debt. This could take many months to happen, so the Township is utilizing the maintenance person (who has roofing experience) to investigate what repairs are needed on the roof. He applied patches where necessary, which appear to be keeping the water out of the building. This has resulted in major cost savings from what was anticipated. Krystle detailed the vision to beautify the Township Hall flag area, as part of the America 250 initiative. It includes a larger flag, seating area with improved landscaping and a plaque honoring veterans of the post 9/11 war. Several Senators, State Representatives, and community leaders have been invited to attend the Elected Official Tour on the 25th with many committing to attend. There will be a brief presentation, member Q & A and tours along with lunch. The Senior Advisory Board has requested to change their business meetings to every other month, instead of quarterly. Sammi reached out to Faith in Action for suggestions on establishing 'table captains' for the September ARC Breakfast. They have sent her planning materials to aid in planning a successful event. As the Township works to establish a workfare program, consideration has been given to partnering with Bloomington Township to share a workfare manager. Another idea being explored is to combine the roles of HR and workfare management. Krystle reported that community members have come forward to provide goods for the hygiene and clothing pantry. The Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington-Normal has committed to building and stocking a "Little Free Pantry" near the flagpole to add food relief, as well.

8. New Business

A. Approval to extend hours of the Activity and Recreation Center (ARC) on Fridays beginning June 2026

Trustee Tanner Starr made a motion, and Trustee Dylan Hyle-Broad seconded the motion open discussion.

The current hours for Friday operations are 8am – 1pm. Krystle stated that recent survey data seems to support expanded hours (survey results included in the board packet), which would be 7am – 7pm. These hours would match the operating hours on Monday-Thursday. These expanded hours would also allow for special programming such as game/movie nights. Jodie asked if staffing was sufficient, and Krystle confirmed that there would be sufficient staffing beginning in June.

Tanner spoke in support of the expanded hours and made the point that the extending operating hours was not a significant change and that, at the very least, the special events could be a draw to the facility. Eliccsha concurred.

Trustee Dylan Hyle-Broad made the motion to extend the operating hours of the ARC from 7am – 7pm starting the first Friday in June. Trustee Tanner Starr seconded the motion.

Those in favor of the motion: Trustees Dylan Hyle-Broad, Jodie Slothower, Tanner Star and Township Supervisor Krystle Able.

Those opposed: None

B. Approval of Senior Advisory Board Recommendation to increase ARC membership fees to \$40 per year beginning in June 2026.

Trustee Tanner Starr made the motion, and Trustee Dylan Hyle-Broad seconded the motion to open discussion.

Krystle explained that the Senior Advisory Board was 'adamant' that fees should be increased and offered the price of \$40. This would be the first increase in fees in at least 8 years. Dylan posited that \$50 did not seem unreasonable, either. Jodie pointed out that membership included people who live outside Normal Township. She suggested raising the membership fee to \$40 for Township residents and raising it to \$45 for non-residents. Tanner expressed concern that the graduated fee could push people away, especially rural members, and cautioned against drastically increasing membership fees. He expressed hesitation to raise fees at all and preferred any changes to be applied equally to all members. He also inquired about an estimated increase in revenue due to a fee change and would that be justification for a fee increase. Krystle stated the \$40 fee would generate approximately \$27,000 additional revenue per year. Eliccscha gave her opinion that most members would not be upset by the increase and agrees that fees should not be variable based on residency. She also expressed concern that there are currently 35 members who are paying reduced membership fees and worried that an increase would keep them from renewing membership. This could be offset by working to increase memberships for those utilizing insurance programs (i.e. Silver Sneakers). She was unsure how a higher membership fee might affect insurance reimbursement, though it may require signing a new contract. Tori suggested that, with a fee increase, the membership fee be waived for any low-income patrons to which everyone agreed. Krystle stated that the Senior Advisory Board recommended the fee increase coincide with the change in hours.

Trustee Dylan Hyle-Broad made the motion, and Trustee Tanner Starr seconded the motion, to amend the agenda item to state Membership fees to increase to \$40 and membership fees for low-income patrons to be eliminated.

Those opposed: None

Trustee Tanner Starr made the motion, and Trustee Dylan Hyle-Broad seconded the motion, to approve the amendment.

Those in favor of the motion: Trustees Dylan Hile-Broad, Jodie Slothower, Tanner Star and Township Supervisor Krystle Able.

Those opposed: None

C. Approval to earmark additional revenue from increase in membership fees to ARC programming budget increase.

Trustee Tanner Starr made the motion, and Trustee Dylan Hyle-Broad seconded the motion, to open discussion.

Krystle approximated that \$27,000 could be generated from increased membership fees. If this money was designated specifically for programming, members may see it as justification for the increased fee. Molly already has some programming ideas in mind and agrees with this.

Those in favor of the motion: Trustees Dylan Hile-Broad, Jodie Slothower, Tanner Star and Township Supervisor Krystle Able.

Opposed: None

D. Approve draft budget and publish 26/27 budget hearing notice

Draft budget was included in the board packet and, overall, shows decreases to both the General Town and General Assistance Fund. Senior Fund shows an increase, and total appropriations are budgeted approximately \$34,000 greater than last year. Krystle highlighted the changes, including increases to health insurance costs (calculated for 2 additional employees), the technology services budget (due to change in Sage programming), TOI training (due to increased conference fees), instructor contracts and program entertainment (due to increased programming and ARC operation hours), outreach (due to the ARC Breakfast, outside marketing and GA outreach), and administration service and supplies (to cover start-up costs for workfare programming, which the Township is required to provide). Capital outlay - building and equipment shows a decrease in expenses (due to elimination of roof project at the ARC) and an increase in revenue is also shown (due to increase in membership fee).

The board engaged in discussion on ways to increase revenue, including receiving a portion of sales for food trucks that are on site, increased room rental and installation of vending machines. Tori commented that to track this, a new line item would need to be created, and that was agreed to by all. Jodie also inquired about where funding for the new security cameras (capital outlay) and trees/landscaping (General Township – building and maintenance) would come from and if those expenses were included. Krystle confirmed that they were covered.

Krystle informed the board that the budget hearing notice must be posted by April 24.

Trustee Tanner Starr made the motion, and Trustee Dylan Hyle-Broad seconded the motion, to approve the amended draft budget and publication of the hearing notice.

Those in favor of the motion: Trustees Dylan Hile-Broad, Jodie Slothower, Tanner Star and Township Supervisor Krystle Able.

Those opposed: None

Arin Rader and Tanner Starr signed out of the Zoom broadcast at 7:37 pm

E. Executive Session for Personnel Discussion

Trustee Dylan Hyle-Broad made the motion, and Trustee Jodie Slothower seconded, moving to executive session at 7:44 pm.

Those in favor of the motion: Trustees Dylan Hile-Broad, Jodie Slothower and Township Supervisor Krystle Able.

Those opposed: None

Roll call:

Trustee Jodie Slothower - present

Trustee Natasha Syed - absent

Supervisor Krystle Able - present

Trustee Dylan Hile-Broad - present

Trustee Tanner Starr – absent

Deputy Clerk Becca Rice – present

ARC Director of Operations Eliccsha Sanders – present

The purpose of the executive session was to review performance evaluations of ARC employees and determine any merit increases for those employees. Krystle stated that in the past, a flat 3% merit increase had been granted to all employees. Natasha and Eiliccsha worked together to create a performance-based rubric, which would be used to determine any salary increases given to ARC staff. The rubric assigned a score, ranging from 1-5, to each of 7 different performance related areas. The average score was then calculated to determine the rate of increase for each employee. This year, Eliccsha evaluated the MSRs and drivers; Molli and Sammi completed a self-evaluation.

9. Return to open session

Motion to return to open session made by Trustee Jodie Slothower and seconded by Dylan Hyle-Broad.

Those in favor of the motion: Trustees Dylan Hile-Broad, Jodie Slothower and Township Supervisor Krystle Able.

Those opposed: None

10. Good and Welfare

Krystle reminded everyone of the ARC tour that was taking place on Saturday.

11. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Trustee Jodie Slothower and seconded by Dylan Hyle-Broad.

Those in favor of the motion: Trustees Dylan Hile-Broad, Jodie Slothower and Township Supervisor Krystle Able.

Those opposed: None

The meeting was adjourned at 9:26 pm.

Becca Rice

Becca Rice - Normal Township Deputy Clerk

Date: May 18, 2026