

Faye Andris
Virginia Jordan-Benson

Faith in Action Board Member
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7. Public Comment

- Becca Rice opened her comments by commending the Board on their dedication and hard work over the past year, especially considering that this is a new role for all board members and the Supervisor. She also highlighted the purpose of township governance and the roles the board members and Supervisor play in fulfilling that purpose. The reason for her speaking was to address an agenda item, in new business, pertaining to Glenn Elementary School. She stated that while she has no opinion on how Unit 5 chooses to utilize that facility, she does have an opinion on the level of involvement that the Township should have in influencing Unit 5 policy. Her stated opinion is that while township boards can and should collaborate with school districts regarding things such as public safety and resource sharing, the board should respect the autonomy of the school board to make educational policy decisions. It is her opinion that the Township should not make an official statement or take an official stance regarding how Glenn school should be utilized.
- Mike O'Donnel, Board Treasurer for Faith in Action introduced himself, as well as other board and community members. He spoke to address appreciation in collaboration with the Activity and Recreation Center and Faith in Action and to share the impact this collaboration has had in the lives of older adults in the community. Faith in Action was founded in 2005 and is comprised of 20 volunteer community leaders. The mission of FIA is to provide transportation services and essential socialization to adults 60 years and older and their caregivers, to help maintain their independence. Team members, volunteers, interfaith communities and community organizations work together to achieve this. Executive Director Darla Heath spoke to the transportation services that are provided while utilizing a small staff and many volunteers. In 2025, FIA served 466 people, 117 which were Town of Normal residents. While FIA does not have any income guidelines, low-income residents made up 22% of those served. Through transportation services, volunteers logged over 3800 miles for things such as grocery trips and medical appointments. In addition to providing rides, volunteers are providing social interaction to clients, helping to prevent the social isolation that many older adults encounter. Darla also highlighted the requirements of training for volunteers and ended her comment with a testimonial from a FIA client. Mike resumed his comments by highlighting how FIA is financially supported and managed. Part of the fund management includes a lease agreement with the Township for office space at the ARC which will expire in September 2026, and therefore a request is being made to extend the agreement.

8. Consent Agenda

- a. Payments for Senior Fund
- b. Payments for GA Fund

- c. Payments for RB Fund
- d. Payments for General Town Fund
- e. Minutes from February 19th, 2026, Board Meeting
- f. Minutes from March 4th, special Meeting

Trustee Hyle-Broad made the motion to table the approval of item 8 e of the Consent Agenda and Trustee Starr seconded it.

Those in favor: Trustees Starr, Hyle-Broad, Slothower, Sayed and Supervisor Able.

Those opposed: None

Trustee Starr made the motion to approve the consent agenda as amended and Trustee Hyle -Broad seconded it

Those in favor: Trustees Starr, Hyle-Broad, Slothower, Sayed and Supervisor Able.

Those opposed: None

9. Reports

- a. Road and Bridge- read by Clerk Schickendanz in Arin's absence: There was quite a bit of road salt leftover this winter and he hauled the remaining salt and placed an order for next year's supply. Several traffic signs were ordered to replace ones that were damaged and there was a bid opening for road projects at McLean County Highway Department on Wednesday. Normal Township had a project of roughly 4 miles of seal coating in the bid packet and the single bid, of \$181,064.70 came in under the parameters for a rebid. \$120,000 of the cost would be funded by the Road and Bridge motor fuel fund and the remaining balance would be paid out of the road fund budget.
- b. Assessor: Kent DePew reported that with warmer weather, measuring of properties will continue to take place. Employees are currently updating photos of the residential properties and approximately 1/3 of the photos have been completed. Next week is the Illinois Property Assessment Institute Annual Spring Conference and employees will be taking turns attending sessions.
- c. General Assistance and Emergency Assistance Office: Tori reported that the Township is accepting donations for the hygiene pantry. A General Assistance committee is in the process of being formed. Intake has been slow, but she expects that to change once the electricity moratorium expires.
- d. Finance Committee: Nothing to report
- e. Policy and Procedure Group: Dylan stated there have been two meetings in March. The group will be bringing to the board a policy accounting for benefits offered, including types of insurance coverage and who qualifies for coverage.
- f. ARC Report: Elicsha provided a written report for the board. Everything is going smoothly and membership numbers have been holding steady with just over 4,000 members. A manager's assistant has been hired and started two days ago. Blake has been promoted to

lead custodian, and interviews continue for other custodial staff. April marks the 10th anniversary of the ARC and a lot of special programming is being planned to commemorate the occasion. Some examples include offering classes, which are typically charged, as free, hosting a spirit week and holding a raffle. There are also some employees who will be celebrating work anniversaries.

Krystle commented that managers really took to the feedback offered to them and provided additional information. Molly is requesting some additional instructor funding to provide for requested classes. Sammi is finalizing the ARC merch store on-line. She is also implementing a quarterly staff newsletter. With the introduction of a maintenance technician several pieces of exercise equipment have been repaired, and some maintenance and inventory projects have been completed. The roof at the ARC is still leaking so the Township will be looking to get 2 additional bids, from union companies, for sealing it. Ideally, bids could be opened in April or May for this project.

Natasha made a point to recognize the management team at the ARC, specifically for working with the Board through the many policy and personnel structure changes. She thanked them for “sticking it out” and she is grateful for their support.

Dayna reminded the board that DR McKay’s will be sponsoring a Dine to Donate on March 25 from 11 am -10 pm. This has been one of the most successful Dine to Donate opportunities.

Jodie inquired as to how van scheduling and ridership has been going. Elicsha confirmed that, while ridership is operating at capacity, it has been going smoothly. Tanner asked whether the capacity issue was due to a driver or vehicle issue and Elicsha stated it was both. Krystle confirmed that the Township is actively soliciting for additional drivers and the Township is also investigating purchasing additional vehicles.

- g. Clerk Report: Nothing to report
- h. Supervisor: A comprehensive report was submitted with the board packet. Highlights include that budgets from the Assessor and Road and Bridge Supervisor have been submitted. Adam, our intake specialist, has completed case management training and will begin assisting Tori. Tori has begun preparing for the audit and we are waiting for the County Clerk to receive certification of publishing, and then the remaining portion of property taxes will be released to the Township. Potential HR candidates continue to be interviewed. Krystle is working on a plan to revitalize the flagpole area including a new patio, bench seating, a larger flag and installation of a “Little Free Pantry” and is looking to partner with some local organizations for some of these projects. September is national senior center month, and an idea has been floated for the ARC to host a community breakfast as a fundraiser during the month.

Tanner asked whether there would be conflicts (church and state) if we partner with Universal Unitarian Church for maintenance of the free pantry. Krystle will reach out to the township attorney to make sure there would not be a conflict.

10. Old Business

- a. Branding update – Kristi Starr presented the board with color options for branding purposes (business cards, employee sportswear). The Board reviewed the options and presented their opinions.

11. New Business

- a. Approve Agenda for Annual Meeting

Trustee Starr made a motion, and Trustee Hyle-Broad made a second, to open discussion on the annual meeting agenda.

Krystle has made some amendments to the original agenda that was distributed to the board.

These amendments include striking the need for a resolution to sell surplus township equipment, adding approving the meeting time for 2027 and adding a time for public comment.

Trustee Starr made a motion, and Trustee Hyle-Broad made a second, to vote on approving the agenda amendments. The vote was unanimously in favor of accepting the amendments.

Trustee Slothower made a motion, and Trustee Starr seconded the motion, to accept the amended agenda. The vote was unanimously in favor of accepting the amendments.

- b. Resolution to Support Glenn Elementary School as requested by Trustee Slothower

Trustee Starr made a motion, and Trustee Hyle-Broad seconded the motion, to open discussion on the resolution.

Jodie read the proposed resolution to the board, which asked the township board to issue a resolution in support of keeping the use of Glenn Elementary for the purpose of elementary education. Her reason for proposing the resolution was due to concern for loss in property values and quality of life in that neighborhood, should the school be repurposed. This loss in value would impact the amount of tax collected and, in turn, could impact the ability for the Township to provide services, as well. She offered a letter from the Mayor of Lexington as support for her position, as he is the of the Chairman of the McLean County Mayor's Association.

Natasha offered her opinion on the resolution, coming both from a former employee of Glenn School and as a current employee in a different school district. She expressed appreciation for her time at Glenn and stated that she "loved working at Glenn". However, she made the observation that the neighborhood surrounding Glenn is not growing in population and that the school's population contains both neighborhood children as well as those from several other areas of the town (i.e. by the airport and School Street). She stated her understanding of how costly it can be to run school buildings and the difficult position Unit 5 has, in reference to how to best utilize the school buildings. She expressed her position of being opposed to this resolution; that she respects the school board, and that based on their knowledge and expertise they would make the best decision for the organization, much like she would expect the school board to show the same

respect to the Township board in reference to township business. She also questioned the ability to form an opinion based on how tax dollars would be affected when there is no data to confirm this. Dayna asked for Kent's opinion, based on his experience, as to how property assessments may be impacted. He stated that the best way to determine this would be to compare sales prices of any home that sold shortly before Glenn closed and then again after it closed. He also commented that with the current housing shortage, homes are selling as soon as they become available. Both Natasha and Dayna concurred.

Tanner appreciated Natasha sharing her experiences. He expressed being a little bit torn, as his family has lived through redistricting. That said, there are a lot of factors in play, and he feels that it is not the place of the Township to influence Unit 5 in their decision.

Dylan has commented that school closings (Unit 5) have never been handled well, specifically mentioning Carlock Elementary. He stated that while it is not the business of the township to say Unit 5 "has to" keep Glenn open, it is important to "ring their bell and tighten up some of this stuff". He also commented that the tax revenue point is less persuasive than the concern of losing the diversity of the student population. While he does support the "spirit" of the resolution, he feels the language should be "softened up" a little bit. Dylan asked Natasha to compare the Lexington mayor's letter to the proposed resolution to which she responded she had not had the opportunity to read the mayor's letter. She also questioned the relevance of the letter, as it addressed a different community. She reiterated her understanding of the factors that Unit 5 is considering but still does not feel that it is the role of the board to take a position.

Tanner also spoke to disappointment about some of the past actions of Unit 5 but stands by his opposition.

Krystle offered her support for Natasha's position and trusts the school board to make decisions based on information available at that time. While information may change which could, in hindsight, cause decisions to appear less favorable, she is not in favor of putting forth this resolution.

Jodie commented that she still has concerns from the property taxation standpoint. She stated it is dangerous when one governing body makes a "huge decision that is going to affect the rest of us" and that if "we" don't have as much information as the school board, that is an issue as well.

Dayna assured the board that there will be other opportunities for the board to make their positions, regarding the practices of taxing bodies known. Tanner commented that while there will be times that he feels it is appropriate for the board to adopt a specific position, this was not one of those times. Jodie stated there is precedent for board action and explained why she brought the motion forth. Krystle stated that there were 2 options for action to be taken, to proceed: Jodie could choose to withdraw the motion, or the board could take a vote on the matter. Jodie chose to withdraw the motion.

c. Set Special Meeting to Work on Budget

Trustee Starr made a motion, and Trustee Hyle-Broad seconded the motion, to open discussion on setting the budget meeting.

Krystle stated there were two different meetings necessary, one for budget work and one to make the ARC Executive Director a permanent position. She proposed setting a meeting for next week

specifically for Executive Director position. As she and Tori will be spending two upcoming days working on the budget, she would like to set the budget work session for some time during the week of the 30th.

It was decided that the special meeting for the Executive Director position would be held at the ARC and take place on Tuesday, March 31 starting at 4:30. The budget work session was scheduled for Tuesday, March 31 at 4:30 at the Township Hall. Krystle also reminded the board that starting in April, the scheduled days for board meetings were changing and the next meeting would be held on Tuesday, April 21. The budget will be voted on at this meeting.

Trustee Sayed made a motion, and Trustee Starr seconded the motion, to approve the special meeting schedule. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

12. Board Good and Welfare

Jodie mentioned that there would be a “No Kings Rally” on the 28th.

Tanner attended a solidarity rally for the AFSME Union members, at ISU, who are currently working without a contract. He encouraged people to become educated on what they are fighting for and to show support in any way that you can.

Krystle commented that this coming Monday is the anniversary of the Affordable Care Act, which is how many of the Township clients are insured. Tori will be in Uptown at Noon, along with other organizations, talking about how the ACA impacts Township clients and why it is important to preserve healthcare options. She encouraged board members to come out and support Tori. She also reminded board members to complete their economic interest statements for the County Clerk. Natasha pointed out that tomorrow is Eid. She commented that no matter where someone falls on the political spectrum, we need to embrace all people’s religious practices.

Dayna congratulated Natasha for being a delegate to the 2026 IEA Representative Assembly and for her election as a career representative for the region.

13. Adjournment

- Trustee Hyle-Broad made the motion and Trustee Starr seconded adjourning the meeting at 8:16 pm.

Becca Rice

Becca Rice - Normal Township Deputy Clerk

July 19, 2026

Date: July 19, 2026