

Batavia Township

131 Flinn Dr, Batavia, IL 60510

630-879-1392

Minutes of the August 11, 2009 regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Batavia Township.

Ron Gilkerson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Supervisor Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Roll Call: Present: Supervisor James Anderson; Trustees Ron Gilkerson, Brian Singer, Leigh Tracy, John West; Clerk Susan Fricano.

Absent: Assessor Tammy Kavanaugh; Road Commissioner Christopher Long

Others Present: Van Larson, Township Attorney; Bob Chalberg, Township Accountant; Layla Beth, Township Office Manager; Residents: Howard Katz

Auditing Bills & Accounts and Fund Transfers: Supervisor Anderson stated under the Assessor's Fund there would be a transfer of \$1,100.00 from Miscellaneous to Postage.

Minutes: Trustee Gilkerson moved to approve the minutes of the July 14, 2009 regular meeting, seconded by Trustee Singer. Trustee Gilkerson made a point of thanking Layla Beth, Township Office Manager for taking minutes at the meeting in Clerk Fricano's absence. Roll-call vote was taken.

Ayes: Gilkerson, Singer, Tracy, West, Anderson

Nays: None

Motion passed.

Accounts: Trustee Singer moved to approve the accounts from July 2009; Trustee West seconded the motion. Roll-call vote was taken.

Ayes: Gilkerson, Singer, Tracy, West, Anderson

Nays: None

Motion passed.

Assessor's report: Assessor absent due to illness. Supervisor Anderson reported that the County mailed notices regarding assessments yesterday and that they will be published on the 13th in the Republican or Chronicle. Trustee West noted that only those who will see a change in their tax bills will receive the notices.

Road Commissioner's Report: Commissioner Long was absent because he is attending a ceremony for his son's retirement from the Navy. Resident Katz wanted to know if Commissioner Long is still doing brush pick up and Supervisor Anderson confirmed pick up in the township is on Monday and Tuesday.

Old Business:

Supervisor Anderson spoke about the IMRF phase in rates. He stated the rate would go from 9.1% to 10.01% for everyone on IMRF. He said that they could do 11% but are taking a conservative approach because of the uncertainty in the economy. Trustee West stated the City of Batavia raised theirs to 16%. Bob Chalberg, Township Accountant stated it is under funded because of the market.. We have to fund to get to a certain point. Upon a motion made by Trustee West to approve the increased rate, second by Trustee Gilkerson. Roll-call vote was taken.

Ayes: Gilkerson, Singer, Tracy, West, Anderson

Nays: None

New Business:

- A. Open Meetings Act Compliant & B. Meeting Times – Supervisor Anderson report that we are now in compliance with the Open Meetings Act. Trustee West made a motion to have meeting time moved to 7pm. Supervisor Anderson seconded that motion. Roll-call vote was taken.

Ayes: Gilkerson, Singer, Tracy, West, Anderson

Nays: None

There was discussion by the Trustees about the complaint, the motion and their compliance. Trustee Tracy stated that the board did not take meeting early to approve bills as part of the meeting because there was no discussion. Trustee Gilkerson thought it was a mistake to say the board was not in compliance it needs to be viewed from a historical perspective. It was never done intentionally and has been done like this for years with no complaints. Van Larson, Township Attorney posed some questions about how to reply to the complaint:

Is a notice sent out once a year with dates and times? Will it read all future monthly meetings beginning September 2009 to begin at 7pm? Will it be amended to finish off with rest of fiscal year?.....

Supervisor Anderson stated the township provides the media with a schedule for the calendar year. Resident Katz stated as clerk he had a list of at least 10 media contacts to send information which he would gladly provide. Trustee Singer felt it would be okay for the board to admit fault and that it shows the public the government can be wrong. Trustee Tracy made a motion for how Van Larson, Township Attorney should respond. All attendees and board members at the meeting received a copy of this document. Trustee West second the motion, but wanted to make sure it was legal. He was also upset that the States Attorney's office did not even have the new Trustees down on the complaint. In regard to the complaint, Van Larson, Township Attorney stated he would work on a statement, forward it to Jim who would pass it on to the Trustees for approval. He stated you should never admit fault, there was no malicious or intentional acts and he stated unfortunately history does not make it right but that no action ever took place until the full meeting. Bob Chalberg, Township Accountant and Trustee Tracy both commented that bills could still be approve as they were before, but only 2 people could be present at a time. Or 2 could be in one room and 2 could be in another and then they would not be violating the Open Meetings Act. Trustee West felt it will be okay to approve/disapprove and question at the meeting because it show the public the board is doing their job. Trustee Tracy withdrew his motion for how Van Larson, Township Attorney should respond, Trustee West second the withdrawal. Trustee Tracy motion Van Larson, Township Attorney to draft a letter for approval by the board, Trustee West second the motion. Roll-call vote was taken.

Ayes: Gilkerson, Singer, Tracy, West, Anderson

Nays: None

- C. 2012 Illinois Capital Budget: Supervisor Anderson reported Kay Hatcher sent a letter stating there is \$25,000 included in the budget for 2010. But there is no guarantee the township will get all this money.
- D. Laws & Duties Handbook: Supervisor Anderson asked if everyone would like the laws and duties Handbook. All answered yes so Supervisor Anderson will order 10 books.
- E. NATat Conference: Trustee Gilkerson and his wife will be traveling in Washington D.C. when National Meeting of Township Officials will be taking place and so expressed an interest in attending to Supervisor Anderson. The cost is \$200 and Trustee Gilkerson will take care of the freight. Supervisor Anderson thought it would be very valuable for Trustee Gilkerson to attend the conference this way he can let the board know if it would be useful to send a representative each year. Also, it will be interesting to if it will affect anything in Illinois. Trustee Gilkerson agreed and thought if would be interesting to see if it is consistent with how Illinois does things.
- F. TOIPAC: Supervisor Anderson stated the township contributes \$100/year and anyone is welcome to make their own contributions.

Trustee Reports:

Trustee Gilkerson gave a Mental Health report. He state the Gateway Foundation had a break out meeting and that the program run by Hope House, a program for women who have been abused or had addictive problems was dropped leaving 11 women out on their own. Hope for Tomorrow, a program in Batavia, took 7 of these women and another agency took the rest. Trustee Gilkerson went on to explain Hope for Tomorrow is headquarter in the old bed & breakfast on Batavia Ave. and they deal with individuals who have been hospitalized with drug, sexual, alcohol and other addictions. They have a half way house which acts as a transitional place where they can recover and see their families. They have also purchased another house dealing specifically with women. Trustee Gilkerson stated that on September 12th 2009 at the Gaslite Manor, Hope for Tomorrow is holding a fundraiser if anyone is interested in attending. Trustee Gilkerson feels this agency does a lot of good for the community. Lastly, Trustee Gilkerson reported there is an opening on the INK board and if anyone is interested they should get in touch with Jerry Murphy. Layla Beth, Township Office Manager stated that she had a client who spoke very highly of the above organization and had been personally helped by their programs. She also felt their website was very informative.

Trustee West inquired about the sealing of cracks in the township roads and wondered if this was an ongoing project. Supervisor Anderson stated he was not sure of the day to day items and directed him to talk to Commissioner Long.

Trustee Singer inquired about the new website and if there will be a paid full time staff person to mangle the website. Supervisor Anderson state that when they have met with the company that designed the website they will learn how to manage it and it will all be done internally by the township with no additional staff being hired. Trustee Singer thought the training session he went to for newly elected officials was very helpful and should be mandatory. He had some comments on our township. First, he was glad we allowed a time for people to speak because as he found out it is not mandatory. Trustee West agreed he liked that the public could speak but that they should have to state their names and where they are from. He feels there needs to be accountability. Secondly, Trustee Singer wanted to know if Trustees ever had business cards made? He felt that handing his card out as he spoke to people in the community might make them more aware. Supervisor Anderson said he could order business cards if Trustee Singer wanted them. Finally, Trustee Singer felt he would like to meet with the township employees either all together or separately in an attempt to find out what exactly they do and better understand their job. Possibly shadow them for a short time period.

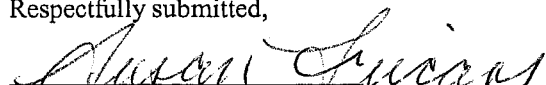
Other Business:

Supervisor Anderson acknowledged a letter from the Tri City Health Partnership thanking the township for a donation and acknowledging Layla Beth for her care and compassion and for doing a great job in referring Batavians who are in need of their services. Layla Beth, Township Office Manager acknowledged them as a great resource.

Van Larson, Township Attorney read his response to the complaint. All seem to be in agreement of his statement. He will finalize and email to Jim to pass on to Trustees for approval. Any questions or problems can be forwarded to Van Larson's email vlarsonpc@netzero.com

Adjournment: Upon a motion made by Trustee Gilkerson, seconded by Trustee West and unanimously approved, the Board Meeting adjourned at 8:40p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Susan Fricano, Township Clerk

Approval by the Board of Trustees: Date: _____