

**Batavia Township**  
131 Flinn Dr. Suite B  
Batavia, IL 60510  
630-879-1392

**Minutes of the November 17, 2009 regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Batavia Township.**

**Call to Order:**

Supervisor Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Roll Call:** Present: Supervisor James Anderson; Trustees Ron Gilkerson, Brian Singer, Leigh Tracy, John West; Road Commissioner Christopher Long; Assessor Tammy Kavanaugh; Clerk Sue Fricano.

Absent: Layla Beth, Township Office Manager; Bob Chalberg, Township Accountant

Others Present: Van Larson, Township Attorney; Resident: Howard Katz

**Checking of Bills and Checks:**

**Minutes:** Trustee Singer moved to approve the minutes of the October 13, 2009 regular meeting, seconded by Trustee Gilkerson. Roll-call vote was taken.

Ayes: Gilkerson, Singer, Tracy, West, Anderson

Nays: None

Motion passed.

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

Ayes: Gilkerson, Singer, Tracy, West, Anderson

Nays: None

Motion passed.

**Assessor's report:** Assessor Kavanaugh reported that she is finishing up the final days of hearings and everything is going well. Assessor Kavanaugh commented that she liked the Kane County Appeal Board and felt they did a very good job. Trustee Gilkerson stated that he attended a meeting on property values at the TOI Conference. He said there was a lot of concern about property values decreasing and taxes going up. He stated that at the meeting they brought people in to explain how assessments work and how they will change because of the current economic climate. Supervisor Anderson stated he attended an assessors meeting at the conference and he felt it was very informative. He wanted to remind everyone that the real estate taxes everyone pays go back into their own community through your schools, city and other such services.

**Road Commissioner's Report:** Commissioner Long reported that it has been a heavy year for leaf pick up but that it is finally coming to an end next week and hopefully it will get done before we see any snow.

**Old Business:**

- ◆ **Educational Conference Reports:** Trustee West spoke about the TOI state conference. He stated this was his first conference. He enjoyed going to the Lincoln Museum, he found the classes very informative and thought the one on internet security was very concerning, he enjoyed interacting and networking with other townships, learning about other townships and was impressed by the people and their passion toward their townships. Lastly, Trustee West spoke about our local area, he felt that many residents would suffer if it was not for the township and they would not receive the quality of services that they get now. Trustee West thanked Supervisor Anderson and Trustee Gilkerson for helping the new Trustees to the township get acclimated into their new positions.
- ◆ Trustee Gilkerson reported that he attended a meeting on a new Trustee Operation manual. It explains legal and best practices for Trustees. One of the first issues was on the auditing of bills. The legal representatives at the conference stated it was not essential to audit the checks, but okay to continue this practice. Trustee Gilkerson also attended a meeting on the "Fitness of the Mind", which he found very interesting. It uses computer games to help with the diagnosis and prevention of Alzheimer's and Dementia. He gave us an example of a experiment they did with a man walking forward to the front of the room and spelling his name. Then they asked him to walk backwards and spell his name. When he walked backwards he almost fell over a couple of times and had a hard time with the task. They use all these tasks and computer games to diagnose mental capacities and to help strengthen them. There was some discussion of General Assistance and the insurance policy that the township purchases for protection. Supervisor Anderson explained that once someone is approved for General Assistance through the township, the township becomes responsible for all their medical bills. He explained that if while on General Assistance an individual for example has a heart attack or gets in an accident, the township would be responsible for all their medical bills. If they did not have catastrophe insurance this could literally bankrupt a township. Trustee Singer had a question about General Assistance

and how individuals qualified. Howard Katz, a Batavia resident, former clerk and trustee of the township, explained the qualifications. Presently, Howard Katz is a case worker in St. Charles and Aurora townships. He explained that you must not qualify for any other form of assistance to qualify for General Assistance and the individual must be actively seeking employment. He explained General Assistance is a short term form of assistance to help people out in rough times. He also explained that some townships offer emergency one time assistance to individuals. Someone might require this if they have fallen behind on their rent and need help so they do not get evicted from their place of residence.

- ◆ Trustee Tracy commented on the TOI conference. He stated he was impressed with the townships involvement with other government agencies and how they developed a collaboration between themselves and the agencies. He perceived a high level of commitment and dedication for things being done at the township level.
- ◆ Trustee Singer stated he felt the TOI conference was so important for him because there is so much to learn and know. He also stated he enjoyed getting to know everyone in our own township on a more personal basis. Lastly, he attended a break out session on “17 ways for Trustees to avoid a call from the States Attorney’s Office”, he learned a lot in this session. Supervisor Anderson commented on the fact that there were 25 breakout sessions and it was unfortunate they only had time for 4.

### **New Business:**

- ◆ **Tentative Tax Levies:** Supervisor Anderson explained that the levy process is very difficult to understand. He stated that the Trustees are actually responsible for approving the levy, but usually the Supervisor does it because he is at the township office all the time and understands the levy process. Supervisor Anderson did offer to have any of the Trustees, or anyone else interested, come in to the township office and talk to him about the levy process. He stated that the levy is mainly for county purposes, to tell them how much money the township needs to operate. The budget, on the other hand, is more for township purposes.
- ◆ **Expense Sheets:** Supervisor Anderson asked if the current expense sheet was working or if anyone felt there need to be changes made to the sheet. No one could find any problems and so the expense sheet will remain the same.

### **Trustee Reports:**

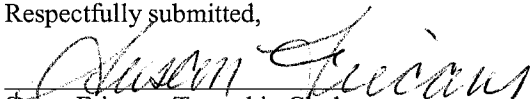
- ◆ Trustee Tracy commented on taxes and the township, he pointed out that less than 2% of the tax bill goes to the township. He stated this is a relatively small amount of money considering the services provided. Trustee Tracy also commented on the Mayor’s breakfast and how he felt the atmosphere was a lot more optimistic than he had initially thought.

### **Other Business**

- ◆ Supervisor Anderson reported on an email he received regarding Channel 7’s attempt to give creditable reference to reasons to get rid of township government. He stated that every couple of years something like this happens where someone tries to discredit the importance of township government. Supervisor Anderson stated that we have nothing to hide and the township provides a lot of needed services. Any service the township does not provide is because that service is provided elsewhere and the township does not want to duplicate any services.

**Adjournment:** Upon a motion made by Trustee Gilkerson, seconded by Trustee West and unanimously approved, the Board Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Susan Fricano, Township Clerk

Approved by the Board of Trustees: Date: \_\_\_\_\_