

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

Minutes of the March 9, 2010 regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Batavia Township.

Trustee Gilkerson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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; Assessor Tammy Kavanaugh; Road Commissioner Christopher Long; Township Clerk Sue Fricano.

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

Absent: Van Larson, Township Attorney

Checking of Bills and Checks

Minutes: Trustee Gilkerson moved to approve the minutes of the February 2010 regular meeting, seconded by Trustee Singer. Roll-call vote was taken.

Ayes: Anderson, Gilkerson, Singer, Tracy, West.

Nays: None

Motion passed.

Accounts: Trustee West moved to approve the accounts from February 2010; Trustee Tracy seconded the motion. Roll-call vote was taken.

Ayes: Anderson, Gilkerson, Singer, Tracy, West.

Nays: None

Motion passed.

Assessor's report: Assessor Kavanaugh reported their office is working generating neighborhood reports for reassessments. They are looking at 120 neighborhoods plus commercial, industrial and farms, and are hoping to be done by mid to late July. Trustee Gilkerson reported that while he was on vacation he was reading the editorial page of the local Florida newspaper and there were a lot of people writing to the assessor about their taxes. Supervisor Jim reminded everyone that the assessments are based on a 3 year average. Assessor Kavanaugh reported that they are much busier than in previous years.

Road Commissioner's Report: Commissioner Long reported that the road department is enjoying the lull between the seasons but will be preparing for spring, summer and all the maintenance that goes along with those seasons.

Old Business:

- A. **Preliminary Budgets:** action cannot be taken until everyone has had a chance to look them over, there will definitely be some tweaking.
- B. **Annual Town Meeting:** Budget hearings will take place at 6:45pm as they do not need to be a part of the meeting. The regular township meeting will take place at 7pm followed by the Annual Township Meeting at 8pm.

New Business:

- A. **FOIA Compliance Officers:** A motion was made by Trustee West and seconded by Trustee Tracy to allow Supervisor Anderson, Township Office Manager, Layla Beth and Township Clerk, Sue Fricano to share the duties of FOIA Compliance Officer.
- B. **Mental Health 708 Appointment – Gary Brown:** Thanks to Resident Howard Katz the opening on the 708 board was filled by Gary Brown on 408 Walnut St. in Batavia, IL. A motion to approve the appointment was made by Trustee Singer and seconded by Trustee Tracy. Congratulations to Mr. Gary Brown on his appointment.
- C. **Kane County Meeting – Wednesday March 17th at 7pm:** A reminder of the meeting was made by Supervisor Anderson. He reported there is not a big attendance at these meetings but they are well attended by the Batavia Township. Four more Townships will tell their story this meeting.
- D. **MainStreet Gala Saturday March 13, 2010 at 5:30pm:** Township Clerk Sue Fricano reminded everyone about the up and coming Gala. She reported it is a community event and hoped the township would show their support and get a table together to attend. Everyone in the community is invited.

Trustee Reports:

Trustee Tracy reported that the website is moving along and you will now find all the minutes from June to February posted. Soon agendas and contact information will be posted. The second phase of the website proposal is coming along and hopefully everything will be hosted from one place soon! Trustee Tracy reminded everyone about the Waubensee College brain storming session about Batavia's future:

“Ignite a Bright Future for Batavia”

March 26, 2010 8am

Waubensee Community College

Rte 47 at Waubensee Dr.

Cost: \$25

He encouraged individuals to come and bring others with them. Trustee Tracy reported that March 7 – 13th is local government week. Trustee Tracy stated if you get out one of your property tax bills it will show you exactly what your local government is doing. He pointed out that the Batavia Township takes up the least amount of dollars on the tax bill. He encouraged people to participate in local government beyond paying taxes and invited them to attend local government meetings. Trustee Tracy also encouraged everyone to sign a petition for the Fair

Map Amendment as he feels it is the first thing we can do to reform politics in Illinois. Here is a brief outline of the problem and solution. More information is available at www.ilfairmap.com

The Problem – Illinois' Legislative Mapping Process is Flawed & Political

- **Under existing system, legislators draw district lines behind closed doors.**
- **Which party gets to draw, Republicans or Democrats, is decided by drawing a name out of a hat**
- **Districts are drawn to protect incumbents.**
- **Districts are drawn to protect friends and punish enemies. Power is entrenched in the hands of a few, and it's almost impossible to vote them out.**
- **Districts lack true competition.**

The Solution – A New, Fair Mapping Process

- **Based on a Citizens' Commission Proposal (Illinois Reform Commission).**
- **Legislators DO NOT draw maps – Independent Commission does.**
- **Maps drawn in open and transparent process, with public input.**
- **Specific criteria must be used to draw maps to protect minority voting rights and aim to eliminate partisan advantage**
- **Map drawers may not unduly favor any political party. Maps are drawn for people, not politicians.**

The Process – Citizen Initiative

- **Two ways to change the system – through the legislature, or through the citizens.**
 - **Legislature will not change the system – citizens must.**
- **Need 500,000 signatures of registered voters by end of April.**
 - **Voters must sign a petition specific to their election authority, usually your city or county.**
 - **Signatures get the IL Fair Map Amendment on the November 2010 ballot for voters to decide.**
- **If the people vote for the new IL Fair Map Amendment, it will become law and we will finally have a redistricting process that is transparent and fair.**

Trustee Tracy pointed out as a result of the above problem it is important for people to fill out the Census and Mail it back.

Trustee West reported there is a new president for the BATV board, he has been a board member for a few years. He reported there is a full board and that the official annual report will be given at the City of Batavia Council meeting. Trustee West informed the board that AT&T is wiring into the High School where BATV is located so soon it will be available for many more residents to view. Trustee West also emphasized the importance of taking the time to fill out and return the Census forms because a lot of dollars come from the Census.

Trustee Gilkerson was welcomed back from his time away. Trustee Gilkerson wanted to send his condolences publicly to the Family of Linnea Miller who passed away of Cancer in January. She was an alderwoman, very involved, supportive of the community and will be missed. Trustee Gilkerson reported on the City of Aurora and the two wind generating energy wind mills that have been put up by that community. He commended them on their efforts to conserve energy. Trustee Gilkerson commented on the State of State Address and how the Tribune was recommending that Township government be eliminated. Trustee Gilkerson argues that

Township government is the closest body the public has to ensure work is done. He feels Township government serves an important function and he hopes one of Governor Quinns goals will be to ensure the strength of Township government. Supervisor Anderson stated Township government is efficient and if there is no township government others will be burdened and services will suffer.

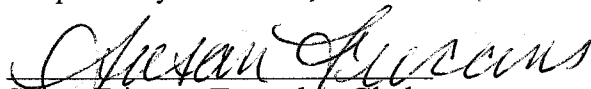
Trustee West reported that the Batavia Apartments have started a community based recycling program. This is a fundraiser for them. Budget cuts have affected the services they help fund and this program is an attempt to help with things like summer camps. Please take paper recycling to the Apartments and help them with this program.

Other Business:

Resident Howard Katz reported that the 708 board met on Thursday February 11th to look at their budget and they have been hit hard by cuts and are having a hard time being able to get funding together. Resident Howard Katz had the operating Treasurers report and the operating strategic plan if anyone was interested. He spoke about the 708 board, how it operates and who it serves. Some of the agencies it serves includes Dayone Network, Family Counseling Services, Suicide Prevention Services, Prairie State Legal Services....and many more. People in Batavia Township and some other outlying townships all have access to these agencies. Please visit the www.incboard.org for more information.

Adjournment: Upon a motion made by Trustee Gilkerson, seconded by Trustee West and unanimously approved, the Board Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Susan Fricano, Township Clerk

Approved by the Board of Trustees: _____ Date: _____