

Batavia Township
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Minutes of the November 15, 2011 regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Batavia Township.

Supervisor Anderson called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Trustee Gilkerson led the board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Others Present: Van Larson, Township Attorney; Bob Chalberg, Township Accountant; Howard Katz, resident.

Checking of Bills and Checks for October 2011

Minutes: Trustee West moved to approve the minutes of the October 2011 regular meeting, seconded by Trustee Singer. Roll-call vote was taken.

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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

Accounts: Trustee Gilkerson moved to approve the accounts from October 2011; Trustee Tracy 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 the appeal filing deadline has passed, the deadline was November 7th. Assessor Kavanaugh reported 55 filings this year, which was surprisingly down from last year. Last year there were 161 filings. Assessor Kavanaugh reported that the assessor's office handled many calls, but most problems were taken care of by the office and an appeal was not necessary.

Road Commissioner's Report: Commissioner Long reported that leaf pick up is well under way, but one of the machines broke and so leaf pick up will be on hold for a week while it is repaired. Normally leaf pick up ends the week of Thanksgiving but because of this set back it will end the week after Thanksgiving.

Old Business:

A. None.

New Business:

- A. Annual Financial Reports** – Supervisor Anderson reported that in the past the Township had to publish in a local paper all the reports, but now the Township just needs to publish in a local paper that the reports are done and available for viewing at the Township. This will save the Township some money in publication costs.
- B. Tentative Tax Levies** – Supervisor Anderson reported they have increased about 1.5%, but there is not much change in the General Fund.
- C. TIF Districts** – A TIF (Tax Increment Financing) district is an area within a city that, after much careful study by the city and expert consultants, is found to be “blighted” and without hope of attracting private investment without some governmental intervention. Supervisor Anderson explained there are three new TIF districts. Two of the districts are on the east side around Farnsworth and Butterfield and one is on the west side in North Aurora. He explained that the Township does not benefit very much from the TIF districts. The road fund got about \$250 and the general fund got about \$450, most of the money went to the school district, around \$500,000.
- D. Open Meetings Act** - Supervisor Anderson reported that all elected officials must complete Open Meetings Act training. After January 1, 2012 elected officials have one year to comply. Newly elected officials have 90 days to comply. The training can be done from the website and a certificate can be printed out that will be held at the Township office. Supervisor Anderson will get more information on this to all the elected Township officials.
- E. Highway Department Building** – Commissioner Long explained that all the prep work has been done for the proposed new building to store the Township seasonal equipment. The drawings have been submitted to the city and once they have been approved the Township will apply for a building permit. Once all that is done the Township will take bids, the tentative costs are estimated to be around \$160,000.
- F. Expense Sheets** – Are available at the Township office and are to be submitted for reimbursement.

Public Participation: None.

Trustee Reports:

Trustee Tracy reported on the Batavia Neighbor magazine issue. The original plan to mail out to the North Aurora residents, who are not serviced by the Batavia Neighbor magazine, the pages on the Township that appeared in the magazine. However, the cost to do this mailing was underestimated and would take the Township over the \$5,000 budget. Trustee Tracy suggested waiting until the March/April publication and sending both information sections together. This would save on mailing costs. Supervisor Anderson stated the budget could be tweaked and increased.

Trustee Gilkerson suggested the possibility of combining the next two issues into one and doing the mailing with all the information at that time. This way the Township could save money on the mailing and the extra issue. Meaning the Township would only publish in one more Batavia Neighbor magazine.

Trustee Tracy stated he was open to all suggestions and is willing to come up with an outline. This issue will be put on the next agenda in order to come to a consensus on what to do.

Trustee Gilkerson reported on the INC. board retreat. Trustee Gilkerson is the President of the 708 board in Batavia and sits on the INC. board as well. Trustee Gilkerson questioned whether the retreat was a violation of the open meetings act, and it was, the meeting was open up to the public and they did have people attend. The retreat was very informative and Trustee Gilkerson felt like he came away from the retreat better informed.

Trustee West reported on the TOI annual educational conference. He stated they had 900 people in attendance, which was a very good turnout considering the economic state of things. Trustee West reported on some of the offered sessions he attended. He attended a session on "Pavement Maintenance & Improvements" which was lead by an Engineer with his PHD. He found this session very informative regarding different ways to do more with less when it comes to pavement maintenance & improvements. Another session he attended was on "The Misuse of Social Media by Teens". This session highlighted how all the information that is put on the social media sites can be accessed by all sorts of people and can be used in a negative way. Lastly, he attended a session on General Assistance and reported on how all the Townships across the board have seen an increase in General Assistance. He reminded everyone that our local Food Pantry is seeing record numbers of people needing help, please keep these people in mind and donated to your local Food Pantry or favorite social service agency.

Supervisor Anderson reported on a good conference and commented on the fact that many of the sessions have information that has been updated. He also agreed with Trustee West that local social service agencies are hurting, federal grants are drying up and any contributions would be greatly appreciated.

Trustee Tracy commented on the social media and how it relates to Townships. He wondered whether the Township should be on Face book. There was some discussion around this but no decision.

Trustee Gilkerson thanked the Batavia Chamber of Commerce for inviting the Township officials to the Mayor's Breakfast, he found it very informative.

Other Business:

Supervisor Anderson and Trustee Tracy spoke about the recent media attacks on Township government. Supervisor Anderson felt most of the attacks are on Cook County. Trustee Tracy pointed out some good reports on Township government and the need to post these reports on our website. The Batavia Neighbor Magazine article will also be posted on the website for all to review.

Supervisor Anderson reported on the EVA report. It is down from last year and available for review by anyone at the Township office.

Time and Date of Next Meeting: Next meeting will be held on Tuesday **December 13**, 2011 at **7pm.**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Fricano, Township Clerk

Approved by the Board of Trustees: _____ Date: _____