

MCHENRY TOWNSHIP MONTHLY MINUTES – JULY 13, 2020

STATE OF ILLINOIS
COUNTY OF MCHENRY S.S.
TOWNSHIP OF MCHENRY

BOARD MEETING
JULY 13, 2020

Trustee Anderson called the meeting to order in the McHenry Township Hall at the published and posted time of 7:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call: Anderson here, Verr here, Adams absent, Wojewski here, Rakestraw here.

Also attending the meeting was Clerk Aylward, Attorney Militello and Road Commissioner Condon, Account Manager Macrito, 13 Public and 7 Public call in.

Attorney Militello advised the board to make a motion to have Trustee Anderson to run the meeting.

A motion was made by Trustee Rakestraw, second Verr

Roll Call vote: Verr aye, Wojewski nay, Rakestraw aye, Anderson aye

3 ayes, 1 nays - Motion carries

Public Comment –

Patty Boyd, McHenry IL – I came because you board members seem to delight in the opposite of what the people want. Everyone needs to stop acting like children and take care of township business. I'm very against eliminating Emergency Assistance. You have a very capable attorney and you don't need to hire an expensive attorney to file a lawsuit. Could you all please try to do what right for all just once?

Mike Tauler, Wonder Lake, IL – I want to start off by stating Mr. Verr should be ejected for not following the rules. Mr. Verr you stated that your supporters spoke in the last election even though you were not elected. The meaningless election of the 2020 primary had more voters than your 2017 consolidated primary that you were not elected in. The voters spoke to keep the township and the buses. Mr. Rakestraw you talked with an individual after the meeting and stated that anyone who rides the bus is stealing. How is this when their tax dollars are paying for the service and are being taxed out of their homes? Please think about what you are saying.

Linda Tauler, Wonder Lake, IL – I would like to restate a point I have made that has been forgotten, you are not heroes, you are not villain's you are gnats, something small and annoying that you have to keep swatting at. The fact that you want us to stay away proves you are not doing this for anyone but yourselves. Where are the people taxed out of their homes?

- For more in depth details go to www.youtube.com – type in: mchenrytownshiplive
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You have had months to have them come to our meetings, you can't because you know that eliminating a couple of hundred dollars a year won't save them and would be appalled in what it what cost their neighbors in services. It's appalling that you would call people taking advantage of services provided crooks. You are taking an opportunity to step on as many people as you can so that you can come out on top and pat yourself on the back is the lowest of lows. In conclusion, you are gnats. A word of apology to Stan, Craig, Dan, Debbie, Mary, Condon and Jim Militello, I'm sorry you are stuck with them. Keep fighting the good fight there is light at the end of the tunnel, you are the heroes.

Jamie Rouse, McHenry, IL – In regards to eliminating Emergency Assistance that is on tonight's agenda, you three have spent more money on special meetings, attorney's fees and a cost study then is spent on emergency assistance. You have spent \$23,000.00 in legal fees and \$29,000.00 on cost study and only \$13,000.00 to help our neighbors during a pandemic. I would also state the facts in regards to a forensic audit, since once Mr. Verr starts talking we will hear anything but facts. A forensic audit is an examination and evaluation of financial records, to be used in legal proceeding to prosecute a party for fraud embezzlement or other financial crimes. So Trustees, I ask why do you want a forensic audit? You have refused to state what criminal activity is going on at the township and both the Supervisor and Highway Commissioner have stated they would address any concerns you may have. You have no proof of any wrong doing, you review and approve every bill that is paid. The township already has an independent audit done every year and has never found anything wrong. The audit cost \$10,000.00, what do you think a specialized audit will cost, we don't need it. You stated that you want to root out any money being wasted and this is counterproductive to money you waste every time you hold a special meeting. Yes we provide more than the state requires but that is because the township residents have voted in the past to have these services. You have implied that the townships residents are liars and idiots since they voted to keep the township.

Michael Guy, McHenry, IL – Since Mr. Anderson and Mr. Verr have proven to be heartless, clueless and incapable of listening to the desires of the voters, tonight I would like to address my comments directly to Mike Rakestraw. You claim to be a Christian, I would like to appeal to your sense of decency as a Christian. I would like to know how you find it okay in your heart to cut emergency assistance fund at any time but most of all during this Covid 19 crisis. To say this program is duplicative or unnecessary is false. Even if there is only one person or one family helped by this fund it should be continued. If there is even one person that falls between the cracks of other social safety net programs, but can be helped by a township emergency fund then it should be maintained and used to the fullest extent possible. Mike stop following the hateful, angry, spiteful examples of the other two. Think for yourself and do the right thing and vote against the elimination of the emergency assistance fund tonight.

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Robert Beltran, McHenry, IL – Tonight’s agenda asks for an RFP for a forensic audit and Mr. Verr has stated that a forensic audit is done for a host of reasons, but has failed to state any justification. A forensic audit is an examination and evaluation of financial records, to be used in court of law or legal proceeding. In a personal conversation with another Township, I was told a government forensic audit should only be done in anticipation of litigation over wrongdoing or when serious discrepancies in accounting have been identified. These forensic audits are costly. In other areas they are not called townships, which you have failed to mention Mr. Verr when you state that they no longer have townships. In 2014 Grafton Township conducted a forensic audit, at \$26,000 which was a waste since the audit didn’t find any misappropriated dollars. If you know what the discrepancies are please make it clear before you waste the taxpayer’s money like you did on the unqualified cost study.

Judith Gotlieb, McHenry, IL – Tonight you purpose to eliminate Emergency Assistance at a time when our economy is collapsing due to Covid 19. The argument that saving a couple of dollars on your tax bill will help seniors and those of modest means from being tossed out of their homes is ironic, since it is primarily those of modest means and seniors who have stood before you begging you not to eliminate emergency services or the bus service to seniors and disabled and not to increase the bus fares. 5 to 1 voters of both parties told you not to disrupt bus service. Mr. Verr stated that the republicans were disenfranchised because they choose not to vote because they had no interest in the so-called democratic primary election. Even though there were more republican choices than democratic, and more republican votes were cast than democratic. Clearly someone is rationalizing their choice not to listen to the voters. Mr. Verr has called electors at these meetings numerous names he apparently deems to be pejorative, from mob, communists, Marxist, Antifa or anti-fascist. Should I presume he considers himself profa or pro-fascist? No, I don’t stoop to tarring people with names, because I know my positions have merit. If you choose defund the emergency assistance program we electors will hold a special meeting to restore the funding.

Jim Condon, McHenry, IL – First off I would like to thank the Johnsburg Police for handling of the situation earlier professionally. Thank you very much guys. I did ask them and they stated since this is a public building like this there are guidelines or recommendations but there is no enforcement. Secondly, on the agenda tonight is the forensic audit. Unless you provide some evidence or purpose of the audit I don’t know why you proceed with it. If you decide to proceed I would suggest you remove McHenry Township Road District from that. I have reviewed the statues and have pointed out to Mr. Militello via email, I don’t believe you have any authority to do a forensic audit of the Road District. Your audit is limited to reviewing our bills and verifying that we are spending funds in accordance of the approved budget.

Sue Rose, Wonder Lake, IL – Steve Verr what is wrong with you? It was just a temperature check for the protection of the public, your behavior tonight is just another show that you don’t care about others. Mike Rakestraw and Bob Anderson you also should be ashamed of yourselves, you are abusing your power and taking advantage of people in attendance, at a time when you know that very few people will attend the meetings. You are doing this now because you know that you can get away with that apparently you are fulfilling some kind of twisted personal vendetta against the township and you don’t care how it affects our most vulnerable residents. It’s inconceivable that you are trying to get rid of emergency assistance at a time when it is needed the most.

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Sue Rose continued - The McHenry Township program is designed to help those find themselves in an emergency situation. How can you be so calloused to want to eliminate such a valuable program? Please do not eliminate the emergency assistance program.

Deanna – I am very, very much against the elimination of the emergency assistance program. It is very much needed. There are too many people in my community that rely on it. There is no reason to defund this program. No one else is going to pick this up. I go out to Holy Apostles and we do what we can but there is a lot of people in need. Also, doing a forensic audit and the cost for absolutely no verifiable reason is just another of the three trustees showing that they can.

Rhonda Sporer, McHenry, IL – There are many people who need help and those who are living on a fixed income, not everyone has family to rely on. You three are completely and totally selfish. I don't care what religion you are. I believe in people helping people, this should not be cut away. The Township should be helping people not hindered.

I need a motion to approve the Regular McHenry Township Board meeting minutes of June 11, 2020.

Motion to approve made by Trustee Rakestraw, second by Trustee Wojewski

Discussion Ensued – Trustee Anderson stated page six stated 4 ayes, 0 nay, he believes it was 5 ayes. Page 8 he stated that is should be Supervisor Adams asked Trustee Anderson to take over the meeting not the Attorney.

Trustee Rakestraw withdrew the motion

Trustee Verr made a motion to table the minutes till the next board meeting with corrections, second by Trustee Rakestraw

Roll Call Vote: Anderson aye, Rakestraw aye, Wojewski nay, Verr aye

3 ayes, 1 nay - Motion carries

I need a motion to approve the Budget and appropriation for Town and General Assistance minutes on June 11, 2020.

Motion to approve made by Trustee Wojewski, second by Anderson

Discussion – None

Roll Call Vote: Anderson aye, Rakestraw aye, Wojewski aye, Verr aye

4 ayes, 0 nay - Motion carries

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Motion for approval of receipts and bills for the Town Fund

Trustee Anderson Motion to approve receipts and pay bills of the Town Fund, second by Trustee Wojewski.

Total reimbursements to be approved	\$ 510.42
Total Bills to be approved	\$ 14,815.29
Total Bills paid prior to Audit	\$ 31,455.06
Total Bills to be approved	\$ 46,780.77
Total Receipts:	\$ 1,956.69

Roll Call Vote: Anderson aye, Rakestraw aye, Wojewski aye, Verr nay. (Except State & Federal taxes, salaries and insurance).

3 ayes, 1 nay (with exceptions) – Motion carries

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Motion for approval of receipts and bills for General Road and Bridge Fund

Trustee Wojewski made a Motion to approve receipts and pay bills of the General Road and Bridge Fund, second by Anderson.

Total reimbursements to be approved	\$ 00.00
Total Bills to be approved	\$ 49,374.24
Total Bills paid prior to Audit	\$ 25,394.96
Total Bills to be approved	\$ 74,769.20
Total Receipts	\$ 25,506.70

Roll Call Vote: Anderson aye, Rakestraw aye, Wojewski aye, Verr nay (Except State & Federal taxes, salaries and insurance).

Discussion Ensued – Trustee Verr questioned the gasoline tax and asked that Militello look into that for the next meeting. Stated this was addressed last year and could not remember the reason.

3 ayes, 1 nay (with exceptions) - Motion carries

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Motion for approval of receipts and bills for Permanent Hard Road Fund

Trustee Wojewski Motion to approve receipts and pay bills of the Permanent Hard Road Fund,
Second by Rakestraw.

Total reimbursements to be approved	\$ 00.00
Total Bills to be approved	\$ 29,507.23
Total Bills paid prior to Audit	\$ 17,130.99
Total Bills to be approved	\$ 46,638.22
Total Receipts	\$ 144.71

Roll Call Vote: Anderson aye, Rakestraw aye, Wojewski aye, Verr nay (except State & Federal taxes, salaries and insurance).

3 ayes, 1 nay (with exceptions) – Motion carries

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Elimination of Emergency Assistance. Discussion and possible action.

Motion to remove Emergency Assistance made by Trustee Anderson, second by Trustee Verr

Discussion Ensued – Trustee Rakestraw asked for Debbie Macrito to come into the room to answer questions. Debbie Macrito answered questions from all Trustees.

Trustee Anderson stated the statue for Emergency Assistance, which states that it is discretionary, there is nothing in the township code or public code that requires the township to administer emergency assistance program. This program started in 1991. Since being elected my focus has been on getting rid of non-mandated services.

Roll Call Vote: Anderson aye, Rakestraw nay, Wojewski nay, Verr aye

2 ayes, 2 nays – Motion fails

RFP for a forensic audit. Discussion and possible action.

Motion for a RFP for a forensic audit made by Trustee Verr, second by Rakestraw

Discussion Ensued – Attorney Militello stated that an RFP is not required. It falls under professional services and is exempt from bidding. Trustee Verr suggested the board can work with the attorney for a contract to be presented to a suitable examiner.

Trustee Verr made a motion to work with the township attorney to formulate the contract for a forensic audit of the Township and Road District, second by Trustee Rakestraw

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Discussion ensued- The attorney asked that this board appoint a Trustee to work with the attorney and the professional services to bring the contract back to the board for final approval.

Roll Call Vote: Anderson aye, Rakestraw aye, Wojewski nay, Verr aye

3 ayes, 1 nay– Motion carries

Proposed Agenda Items for the Next Monthly Board Meeting

Trustee Verr asked to add to the agenda an item for the board to censor the clerk for the debacle that occurred last week where things weren't posted. I want this on the record now because I foresee problems down the road of the clerk not doing his ministerial job. For discussion and possible action.

REVIEW OF EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES - None

Fund transfers (if necessary)

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

- A.) Park Report - see packet
- B.) General Assistance Report - see packet
- C.) Senior Center Report - see packet
- Trustee Anderson stated if the board had any questions to contact the Supervisor directly.

ASSESSOR'S REPORT - See packet

HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER'S REPORT – See packet

EXECUTIVE SESSION –

Trustee Verr motioned to go into executive session at 8:50 pm for ongoing litigation, second by Anderson. In regards to pending litigation of the criminal complaint and this matter of the township vs the Road District and any other ongoing legal matters. Attorney Militello stated per 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) and also item 1 regarding compensation of specific employees or specific individuals who serve independent contractors in this case as to whether or not the professional services would include just the township or the Road District.

Roll Call Vote: Anderson aye, Rakestraw aye, Wojewski nay, Verr aye

3 ayes, 1 nay– Motion carries

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Motion to reconvene by Trustee Anderson, second by Wojewski at 9:30 pm

BOARD MEMBER'S COMMENT - None

ADJOURNMENT

Motion for adjournment at 9:31 pm, made by Trustee Wojewski, second by Trustee Rakestraw

All in favor signal by aye - **All ayes, Motion carries**

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Daniel R. Aylward, McHenry Township Clerk

McHenry Township is subject to the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Individuals with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and who require certain accommodations so that they can observe and/or participate in this meeting or who have questions regarding the accessibility of the meeting or the Township facilities should contact Supervisor Adams at 815-385-5605 promptly to allow the Township to make reasonable accommodations for those persons.