

MCHENRY TOWNSHIP MONTHLY MINUTES – May 14, 2020

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

Revised

BOARD MEETING
May 14, 2020

Supervisor Adams 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 here, Wojewski here, Rakestraw here. Also attending the meeting was Clerk Aylward, Attorney Militello, Road Commissioner Condon, Account Manager Macrito and call in Public.

The Committee will give their recommendations on the renewal of the Health Insurance. Representative Adam Lindsten of Resource Insurance Advisors will be available to answer questions in regards to the renewal of the Health Insurance for McHenry Township. **Discussion and Possible Action.**

Representative Adam Lindsten answered all the boards' questions and concerns.

Supervisor Adams made a motion to accept BC/BS health Insurance as presented for 2020-2021 with the employee portion increase by 5%, second by Trustee Anderson

Any discussion – Trustee Anderson restated what was told at the committee meeting. Trustee Verr asked questions about the increase to the employees. Supervisor Adams stated that the employees would be paying an additional 5%.

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

All ayes - Motion carries

Note: Highway Commissioner came back on during public comment. He stated he was not being heard, his call was disconnected, he then stated he is not in agreement with his employees paying an additional 5%.

- For more in depth details go to www.youtube.com – type in: mchenrytownshiplive
- Audio-recorded is not retained as part of the permanent record.

Public Comment –

Rhonda Sporer – McHenry, IL – I would like to ask the board to apply for the Bus grants.

Robert Beltran – McHenry, IL – Stated that the payment to Urban Analytics is a donation, which is not allowed by public code. This board should not get rid of second public comment; it just says you don't want to hear from the public. The call for a forensic audit is just an intimidation tactic.

David Anthony – McHenry, IL – Why are you trying to hurt the elderly population?

Mike Tauler - Wonder Lake, IL – You three are just tyrants. You are wasting taxpayers' dollars to push your agenda. You

Mike Rakestraw – McHenry, IL – Stated he is continually baffled at the public's comments.

BooBoo Cumbers – McHenry, IL – The Township voter in favor of keeping the township by 80%, also keeping the senior bus by 85%. Why do you feel the need to raise the fares for those who are unable to drive or pay?

Kirk Donald, Johnsburg, IL – It should be noted that this board is raising the senior bus fare to double.

Vern Schiller, McHenry, IL – This board is a problem and not part of the solution.

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A motion to approve the Trustee special Meeting February 28 2020 minutes made by supervisor Adams, second by Trustee Anderson

Any discussion – None

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

4 ayes, 1 nay - Motion carries

A motion to approve April 9 2020 Board meeting minutes made by Trustee Anderson, second by Supervisor Adams.

Any discussion – None

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

4 ayes, 1 nay - Motion carries

A motion to approve Trustee Special Meeting April 24 – 28th minutes made by Trustee Anderson, second by Supervisor Adams.

Any discussion –Trustee Anderson asked to include notes somehow about the public disturbance throughout the meeting. Trustee Verr stated he wanted to table the minutes and review his notes with the minutes.

Trustee Anderson withdrew his motion.

Trustee Anderson made a motion to table the minutes with the changes requested, second by Rakestraw.

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

All ayes - Motion carries

A motion to approve April 27 2020 Budget Workshop meeting minutes made by Supervisor Adams, second by Trustee Wojewski.

Any discussion – Trustee Anderson asked for changes in his vote from abstain to aye

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

4 ayes, 1 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 Rakestraw.

Total reimbursements to be approved	\$00.00
Total Bills to be approved	\$32,895.80
Total Bill paid prior to Audit	\$48,420.23
Total to be approved	\$81,316.03
Total Receipts:	\$7,815.96

Voice Vote Anderson aye, Verr nay (objected to all, except State and Federal taxes), Wojewski aye, Rakestraw aye, Adams.

4 ayes, 1 nay - Motion carries

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

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

Total reimbursements to be approved	\$00.00
Total Bills to be approved	\$67,879.93
Total Bill paid prior to Audit	\$23,778.67
Total to be approved	\$91,658.60
Total Receipts	\$15,195.17

Voice Vote Anderson aye, Verr nay (objected to all, except State and Federal taxes and Shaw Media), Wojewski aye, Rakestraw aye, Adams aye.

4 ayes, 1 nay - Motion carries

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 Adams.

Total reimbursements to be approved	\$00.00
Total Bills to be approved	\$12,991.87
Total Bill paid prior to Audit	\$17,992.69
Total to be approved	\$30,984.56
Total Receipts	\$117.80

Discussion Ensued – Trustee Anderson asked for an explanation of \$5,340.00 Drain tile job for Hogan Farms. Highway Commissioner explained how this affected the township roads and residence to Trustee Anderson with satisfaction. Trustee Rakestraw wanted to commend the Highway Commissioner for going to the public to help with the cost.

Voice count Anderson aye, Verr nay (objected to all, except State and Federal taxes) aye, Wojewski aye, Rakestraw, Adams aye.

4 ayes, 1 nay - Motion carries

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Discussion on the invoice from Urban Analytics for the cost study submitted after the contract deadline. Discussion and possible action.

A motion to pay the bill made by Trustee Anderson, second by Verr.

Discussion Ensued – Attorney Militello explained the conversation with Dr. Bellas attorney in which he stated it’s the board’s decision if they want to pay the bill since the trustees had conversations with Dr. Bellas. Trustee Verr stated that this should be paid as a recommendation of the attorney to pay the bill.

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

3 ayes, 2 nays – Motion carries

Approval of the Motor Fuel Tax Expenditures for Private Non-dedicated Subdivisions. Discussion and possible Action.

A motion to approve the Motor Fuel Tax made by Supervisor Adams, second by Trustee Anderson

Discussion Ensued - None

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

5 ayes, 0 nays – Motion carries

Elimination of one of the public comment periods. The IOMA requires a single public comment period; McHenry Township has two for our meetings typically set for the beginning and the end of the township meeting. Almost all townships in Illinois conduct their meetings with a single public comment period, as do the overwhelming majority of school, park district, county, village, city, tourism and other governmental bodies’ boards, including legislative committees and administrative agencies.

Discussion and possible action.

A motion to eliminate the second Public comment at the end of the meetings made by Trustee Rakestraw, second by Verr.

Discussion Ensued – Trustee Verr stated that no one in the county has two public comments. Supervisor Adams stated that the board should not eliminate the public comment and limit their input. Trustee Wojewski stated that this board just wants to silence the residents of McHenry Township because they don’t care what the people say.

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

3 ayes, 2 nays – Motion carries

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Reaffirmation of the April 24, 2020 special McHenry Township Board meeting increasing the bus fare to \$5.00 per ride/\$10.00 per round trip, and further clarification of the application, implementation and policy of the ‘senior express bus service.’ This service is duplicative of the superior countywide McRide program, additionally funded by the Township; said McRide program is superior in hours and days of service and far greater geographic range. Additionally, the Coronavirus-19 disinfection procedures of the township buses will be discussed and possible action taken to better protect our particularly at-risk passengers, as well as our Township employees. **Discussion and Possible action.**

A motion to increase the senior bus rate to \$5.00 per ride, by Trustee Verr, second by Anderson.

Discussion Ensued – Trustee Verr asked multiple questions in regards to the procedures in place for Covid-19 operations. Supervisor Adams addressed all questions. The board was given a copy of the procedures for sanitation and service during the Covid-19. The board discussed the rate increase to \$5.00 per trip. Supervisor Adams and Trustee Wojewski disagreed with a rate increase and stated nothing should increase while we are in the pandemic.

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

3 aye, 2 nays – Motion carries

A Motion to make the rate increase effective in 30 days made by Supervisor Adams, second by Trustee Wojewski

Discussion Ensued – Trustee Rakestraw stated that due to the shutdown of our economy that people have no clue on how dramatic the effect will be. I believe we need to be reigning in the cost now and not waiting until last minute. My whole feeling on this issue is we are stealing from the people of this township for 150 riders to be driven around and paid for by their neighbors. I object to this extraneously and they are thieves.

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

2 aye, 3 nays – Motion Fails

A Motion to make the rate increase effective June 1, 2020 made by Trustee Verr, second by Anderson.

Discussion Ensued – Trustee Verr said people can take the pace bus which the township already pays for. McRide is available.

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

3 aye, 2 nays – Motion Carries

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Hiring of an accountant to conduct a forensic accounting of the McHenry Township and the McHenry Township Road District. **Discussion and Possible Action.**

A motion to hire an accountant to conduct a forensic audit of McHenry Township and McHenry Township Road District made by Trustee Verr, Second By Anderson .

Discussion Ensued – Trustee Verr stated we are going to get to the bottom of what is going on in the township and Road District. Supervisor Adams stated that this can be very costly and that the board needs to be very specific on what they want. There is nothing being done wrong here. This board approves every bill. We are having an audit done right now. Attorney Militello discussed how the board should come up with the specifics and present an RFP so that they are identifying what exactly the board is looking for. This is not like a competitive bidding. Highway Commissioner Condon stated unless someone knows of some criminal activity by the Road District I will not participate or pay, we will not waste taxpayers dollars on frivolous witch hunts by Mr. Verr.

Roll Call Vote: Anderson aye, Rakestraw nay, Adams nay, Wojewski nay, Verr abstain.

1 aye, 3 nays, 1 abstain – Motion Failed

Reduction of the time period Board Members must send the Supervisor matters to be added to or included in the agenda of the regular township monthly meetings from ten (10) days to five (5) days made by Trustee Verr, second by Anderson

Discussion Ensued – Supervisor Adams stated that we just voted on this at the last meeting and changed to ten days. Five days is not enough time. Trustee Verr stated that other township’s have two and three days.

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

3 ayes, 2 nays, – Motion Carries

Direction of the Supervisor, with the assistance of the township attorney, to devise written procedures governing the public comment section, as well as the entire period, of regular and special township board meetings, including the forbidding of obscene speech, and formulation of ejection procedures made by Trustee Verr, second by Anderson.

Discussion Ensued – Attorney Militello addressed the issues stating that the township code states that the board can have procedures. Attorney Militello will come up with guideline for the board so that no one’s rights are being violated.

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

5 ayes, 0 nays, – Motion Carries

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Discussion of the Township Clerk appointing a Deputy Clerk. Discussion.

Discussion Ensued – Supervisor Adams asked the Township clerk Aylward if he wanted to appoint a Deputy Clerk. Clerk Aylward stated that he did not. Supervisor Adams stated it is up to the Clerk if he wants a Deputy clerk or not.

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Old Business –

Trustee Anderson if the letter was sent out to Senator Usgate, supervisor Adams stated it had been sent out. Trustee Anderson asked about the Resolution for the voted on Salaries for the incoming board. Supervisor Adams stated that there was a vote at a regular board meeting and no resolution. Trustee Anderson asked that we add this to agenda for the next board meeting. This will also include the benefits for elected officials that were voted on at prior meeting.

Trustee Verr stated that Salvation Army is on the website. He requested Salvation Army handling be added to the agenda. Urban Analytics cost study to be posted on the website. Attorney Militello asked to have the policy on the cameras added to the agenda for the next meeting. Trustee Verr asked to have added to the agenda for an employee incentive award, for saving money at the township for the next meeting.

Trustee Wojewski asked that we add to the agenda that there must be a majority to have a meeting called. Attorney Militello stated according the code it only takes two (2) Trustees to call a meeting by presenting a request to the Clerk. The board could make it more restrictive. Supervisor Adams asked the Attorney to research and bring an opinion at the next meeting.

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Supervisor Report – See attached

Assessor Report – See attached

Highway Commissioner Report – See attached

Executive Session – None

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Board Comment –

Trustee Wojewski, I did not attend the April 24th special meeting, I did listen to it and I don't condone the behavior at the meeting, I do understand why the public is frustrated. The three Trustees who were present voted in unison on all twelve parts of Verr's Friday Night Manifesto. A meeting that was not necessary, and then demanded a letter be written to the State's Attorney for criminal investigation. Since when are a few cat calls criminal behavior. You got what you deserved, you were elected to represent these people instead you voted to silence them, do your job and listen to your constituents.

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Public Comment –

Kirk Donald, Johnsburg, IL – I'm going to contact the Governor's office in regards to you raising the prices of the Bus service and eliminating General assistance during the Covid Crisis. Here is a republican going to a democratic party to silence a jackass of a Trustee. You are the epitome of a Jackass. Thank you

Rhonda Sporer, McHenry, IL – Raising the prices for the buses when you can get grants and refuse to get them is unconscionable. Instead you waste money in a useless study instead of understanding what works and how to save money. Also if you would read through your packets before the meetings they could be much shorter.

Mike Tauler, Wonder Lake, IL – I would like to take the money saved by getting rid of three Trustees Verr, Anderson and Rakestraw. This would save a ton of money. I would like to thank trustee Stan for the letter to the editor it was phenomenal and well received, thank you very much.

Robert Beltran, McHenry, IL – I'm deeply disturbed about the executive meeting held with only three Trustees and no attorney, with no rationale to have an executive meeting. It seemed that the three Trustees were having a private meeting outside of the open meetings act. For someone trying to save the public dollar, Mr. Verr seems to be trying to cost us more, like paying consultant fees that don't need to be paid, trying to make our insurance company cost more and asking for forensic audits. I think we can see through Mr. Verr that he is just costing us more and not saving any dollars.

Dan Aylward, McHenry, IL – I have worked with the public for 42 years and one good sign of someone who is extremely dishonest they don't trust anyone else and thinks everyone is out to cheat them. Mr. Verr you must be the most dishonest person according to that theory I have ever met. Thank you

Moo Green, - I was looking at a dictionary and I saw a picture of Steve Verr under asshole.

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Mike Guy, McHenry, IL – I believe Mr. Verr, Anderson and Rakestraw need to look up the definition of Trustee, at this point no one can trust them for anything. Their arrogance is only superseded by their ignorance.

Linda Tauler, Wonder Lake, IL – let me say I'm exhausted, not because I'm an essential worker or risking my life during this pandemic or cut off from my loved ones for the last month and half for good reason. I'm exhausted by your childish actions. This meeting should never have happened and you need to waste my money. I will agree not to swear if you stop rolling your eyes and stop bullying us. You are evil men and evil men always get their dues. Thank you to Craig, Stan, Dan and Jim for always standing for what is right. Stay safe.

Jamie Rouse, McHenry, IL – Thank you for removing the last public comment because you can't respond in one minute after a three hour meeting. For the rules of the meeting I hope you can have anyone removed for their complete disrespect, false accusations and without evidence and threats, because Verr would not last much longer than the pledge of Allegiance. To save money barring Verr from asking the same questions meeting after meeting. We could have answered his questions for him. The cost of the lawyer for this meeting alone would have covered the cost for every single rider for the month of April. The three of you are not saving us money, you are liars and I really, really wish you would resign and make this township a better place. Thank you.

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Motion to Adjourn made by Supervisor Adams, second Trustee Anderson

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

All ayes – Motion Carries



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.