

MCHENRY TOWNSHIP SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES February 24, 2020

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

**SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
MINUTES,
February 24, 2020**

Supervisor Adams called the meeting to order in the McHenry Township Hall at the published and posted time of 11:12 am, with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call: Anderson here, Adams here, Rakestraw here, Verr here. Wojewski Absent.
Clerk Aylward, Attorney Militello, Accounting Manager, Macrito and 4 Public.

Public Comment -

Terry Kappel – McHenry, IL – I have an issue with the board hiring a lawyer which will cost the taxpayers thousands of dollars in order to prevent the residences from what they want, which is the bus service and keeping the township. For the three board members who say they are trying to save us money are costing us more money. It has been clearly stated by the outpouring of residences by their attendance at the meetings that they clearly want the bus. If you get your way, you will eliminate the bus and then when you are voted out of office it will cost the residences more for retraining and hiring along with paying unemployment for those who are let go. It seems to me that if you really want to save money you would wait to see what the taxpayers want. We have two referendums on the ballot in March. As public servants, it your job to do what the people want not what you think they want or want to impose.

Jamie Rous -McHenry, IL – In regards to the special meeting there is no lawsuit with the township being named against us. It has nothing to do with the township. This has to do with the constitutionality of the law. Unless this hiring of a lawyer was to protect the township, then you could hire your own lawyer to fight your interests. You should not be hiring a lawyer to get rid of the township until you know what the people want from the referendums on the ballot in March. This is an explicit abuse of power and a waste of money. You ask for respect, well you can't come to one meeting and act like adults and have good conversation and then act like a child at every other meeting I've attended. I don't want you to hire a lawyer for whatever purposes you are thinking of. Also, the fact that you were able to conspire outside a public meeting to figure this out, I wonder where these secret meetings are going on.

John Macrito - McHenry, IL – We know where these meetings are down the street at the barbershop. I agree with everything Jamie said. I appreciate sometime where you guys come from about saving us money, but you're really not. Will you drop this lawsuit if the electors want to keep the township, just like you asked me months ago. My only questions if we decide to keep the township in March are you still going to go forward with a lawyer and waste our money?

Trustee Verr – Wonder Lake, IL – What was asked for about the bus, I still ask for. How many people actually need the special services that they can't get from County pace program? Township bus service should have been eliminated years ago. So now, the taxpayers are paying for 100 people, which is a fraction of the residence. How many of those people can't be served by the Pace Bus? Which has better service. I'm sick and tired of people belly aching about the bus. This service should have been cut when the county started thier program which is a superior program in every way. It is a duplicative service and deserves to be cut. I have asked Mr. Adams repeatedly how many people need this service. I have noticed that the Pace bus goes right up to the curbs. I have asked if we are insured for this and still have not seen anything. I know what is incorrect that we are paying \$200.00 a bus for 5,000,000.00 of coverage. It was done to low ball the cost of the bus service illegally. We have been given false information right from the word go. I know some people didn't like the outcome of the last election, which is probably the same people who didn't like the outcome of the presidential election, well guess what that's too bad. I realize most of this is coming from the Democratic Party.

John Sarff- McHenry, IL – Mr. Verr since you think we are so upset about the election, you need to remember that the bus service was put in by the electors of this township. Mr. Verr remember we put it in and we have the right to take it out.

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

New Business

- A. **Discussion on hiring outside council to represent the McHenry Township Board in the legal case of McHenry and Nunda Township Road Districts regarding the constitutionality of State of Illinois Public Act 101-0230. Possible action.**

Motion made by Trustee Anderson to go forward with the hiring of outside council to represent the board, second by Trustee Verr

Discussion Ensued – The board discussed going into executive session to discuss this matter. The attorney suggested they go into executive session.

Motion made to go to executive session by Trustee Anderson, Second by Rakestraw at 11:50.

Roll Call Vote - Anderson Aye, Rakestraw Aye, Adams Aye, Verr Aye, Wojewski Aye.
All Ayes - **Motion carries**

Supervisor Adams reconvened meeting at 1:17pm

Motion made by Trustee Anderson to go forward with the hiring of outside council to represent the board, second by Trustee Verr

Discussion - None

Roll Call Vote - Anderson Aye, Rakestraw Aye, Adams Nay, Wojewski Nay, Verr Aye.
3 Ayes, 2 Nays - **Motion carries**

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Board Members Comment

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

(Remarks limited to three minutes per person) Please clearly state your name and what town you live in for the official record

John Macrito, McHenry, IL – I just like to say that I sometimes come across aggressive, I don't mean to be aggressive nor do mean anything to be a threat. It is just my opinion. Like the budget thing, I honestly was giving you guys my opinion as an elector to get you to put it back in the budget instead of us having to go through this whole process. Just like the lawyer I was just telling you because he would tell you the same thing that he can't represent you. This was all I meant.

Jamie Rous, McHenry, IL – Next time the executive session is an hour and a half you should order a pizza. Someone stated that Jim Militello is the lawyer for the electors not the township board. To say that he is a conflict of interest to what the board vs the electors is not factual. If you state in public that your job makes no sense to you then you should resign and not burden the rest of us for your inability to understand your own job. I also resent the fact that you imply that some democrats are not residents of the township and their opinions don't matter. In regards to the constitutionality laws you stated we should not be challenging these laws, but this same board at their last meeting passed a resolution because you were afraid of some laws that may be passed that are unconstitutional. That kind of hypocrisy is blatant for everyone to see. In addition, the waste of money for a \$9,000.00 study that was never turned in and we all told you that we thought this company was somewhat shady. And now you will hire a lawyer and spend money on something that doesn't even impact the board and is not in the best interest of the township. Just know from here on out till you are voted out of office it is going to be excruciating for both sides and we listen to everything you say and then call you out on what you say.

John Sarff- McHenry, IL – The bus service was voted in 1999 by the electors. People are talking about things being agreed to, why don't we have the township election in November so we can elect good township trustees and not just handpicked people that want to run.

Terry Kappel – McHenry, IL – First I would like to address that one trustee keeps addressing the public by political affiliations, which I think is unconstitutional. This is not a political meeting, is it? Mr. Verr always talks about elections matter. First of all Mr. Verr you were not elected you were

appointed, secondly, the electors recently voted to keep the highway department of the township. It seems that you are not interested in the people's opinion. There are issues on the ballot next month and you still are not interested in what the people have to say. I was told that Mr. Anderson and Mr. Rakestraw were at a senior event before your election and you pledged not to interfere with senior services. Eliminating the township and the bus services is doing that. Finally, the lawyer is you are hiring is not to represent the township it is to represent you three people, you know that you will know what the electors want in a month and you are not interested in what the people want, you are only interested in yourselves. Mr. Verr you ask how many are being served on the bus service, I ask how many need to be served to matter.

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Motion to Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 1:27pm. By Supervisor Adams, second by Trustee Rakestraw

All in favor signal by aye.

All Aye's - Motion carriers

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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.