

MCHENRY TOWNSHIP MONTHLY BOARD MEETING – JANUARY 9, 2020

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

**MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
MINUTES
January 9, 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, Assessor Mahady, Highway Commissioner Condon, Account Manager Macrito, and 19 Public.

Public Comment –

Mike Tauler – Wonder Lake, IL – Wanted to let the public know of the passing of Julie Thomas and the arrangements will be Saturday January 18th at Colonial Funeral Home 2pm to 6pm everyone is welcome. Now, I would like to address the configuration of the Board table on the agenda. Am I right in drawing this is parallel of previous meetings were individuals don't want Mr. Condon and Ms. Mahady at the table and believe they don't belong there because they are not part of the board even though they are elected officials of the township. If so, a very petty maneuver to waste time here. Lastly, on a positive note, with the upcoming weather we are expecting this weekend I am a very, very grateful for the existence of our Township Road District and have full faith that Mr. Condon will handle this 100%.

Linda Tauler – Wonder Lake, IL - I would like to start off by apologizing. I am sorry that it took someone calling you heartless so you actually listen. I am sorry you think respect is something you are entitled to, I am sorry that this board is so blinded by their own desires that they forget why they are here. If you want us to see you as less heartless then stop attacking the most venerable among us. If you want us to respect you then do something worthy of our respect. Stop this pointless war about the busses; anyone can see, if we went this far as to call a special meeting to transfer the funds to keep it going, we don't want it gone. We do not care about the \$7 or \$8 dollars it costs us. Find some other way to cut out taxes if that is what you are so concerned about. Before you even think it we do not want the township abolished either, we do not want to lose to all the services it provides. Look elsewhere, it is not going to be easy but it should not be. In conclusion, I am sorry that your choices and actions have lost you the faith and

respect of your constituents. I am sorry; you either can't or won't understand that. I am sorry; you will take this as an insult and not a desperate plea for you to do what you were elected for and uphold the desire of the citizens. Even those of you appointed without our say are bound by that purpose a fact you seem to ignore. I am sorry gentlemen; I hope you have a good evening even at the cost of everyone here and watching at home.

Dennis Razer - Wonder Lake IL. – I came here today to thank everyone on the bus program, it was the first time using it and it was a very pleasant experience. No hassles at all and I didn't have to bother my kids as I am able to be more independent. I want to talk about unexpected expenses; my \$60.00 raise is going to cost me about \$150. My taxes for the county are \$116, school district #36, \$623, school district #156 \$370.00 and the township is \$53. we are quibbling over \$7 or \$8 for the bus service. We need to grow up here. I am on a fixed income and this service is worth it for the \$7 or \$8. He also stated that he was in support of the Township and the Road District; you all have lived here long enough to know that the Highway Commissioner does a great job. Just go out to 120. We can go back about 30 years ago when Alby Adams was supervisor and they had some good people working here.

Dorothea King - McHenry IL. – Agenda item B under new business is an important item. Here's why. The last board meeting at 4pm on December 20th we electors were told we were disrespectful at these meetings. I challenge this accusation, I'm hoping this board will vote to arrange board seating to allow the other Trustee's and people at the table to see the really disrespectful behavior of Trustee Steve Verr who grimaces, smirks, glares, ignores, mocks, ridicules, and in all so many other ways is truly disrespectful. This is the behavior we see the electors see at the present table arrangement. Hopefully, a new arrangement we allow all persons to view his behavior. Lastly, I want to honor Julieann Thomas, a champion, a warrior, a fierce light for all our rights. I will never forget her and I am heartbroken she has died. She spoke so passionately for the needs of those in McHenry Township Many of us feel honored to have known her.

Judith Gotlieb - McHenry IL. - For those of you that think that you are being over taxed in this township, I invite you to move elsewhere. Because those of us who live here like the services we get and believe, we are getting a good deal for our money. So, if you think you are being overcharged please leave.

Robert Beltran – Continuing on what Judy said, the point is we the people here in McHenry Township have chosen over the years the level of services we have here. This is what we desire. If you want, less service and presumably less taxes move elsewhere. There is a whole world out there. In regards to the board table configuration, my first thoughts are we doing a Vietnam style negotiation thing were we would spend months on the configuration of the board table. I would think in my small amount of knowledge in the law that the Supervisor would determine the board configuration just based on duties. In addition, a letter to the editor was in the newspaper today describing all the insured values of the township assets which came up with quite a big number. I

did some simple math and came up with \$220.00 per person in this township who is invested in these physical assets over the lifetime of the construction. Which is a bargain rate and available to all of us not just now but in the future.

Mary Mahady- McHenry, IL – My Comments are directed to Trustees Anderson, Rakestraw and Verr. I would like to remind everyone some of the actions taken by them since they have been in office. You have sent a letter to the State legislator to make a law that no one should be able to hold two elected offices, unless you are Mr. Anderson, of course, who holds positions on two-elected boards. You voted to eliminate the bus service that service those most in need in our township when the cost is less than 9% a year per township parcel, all after several hours of those residents telling personal stories and how harmful it would be. I am still waiting for those who are in support of your actions to show up. You changed one of the official township holidays from spring holiday to Good Friday, because you don't believe in the separation of church and state. At least the separation of your religion and the State. You voted against invocation because it would not be limited to your religion, it would allow other religions to speak. If it is not your religion that you practice then you don't think it is legitimate. You are constantly talking about saving the township money, when you hold countless unnecessary special meetings where you and the attorney are paid. Not really being fiscally responsible. Cutting the elected officials salaries and benefits far in advance of the election to discourage anyone from wanting to hold these positions or in the assessor's case preventing anyone to get certified to even run for the position. Then we have board members that do the following: Mr. Rakestraw you complain that people are rude to you and have no respect, you need to earn respect. I have news for you, your constituents have every right to call you, yell at you and be rude to you, welcome to public service, if you can't take it then you should resign. Mr. Anderson writing letters to the editor every 15 days or so giving his viewpoints that he refuses to share in open meetings, stating we don't have to answer it is public comment. You talk about nepotism, I don't know of any here but you don't have to prove that in a letter to the editor you can say whatever you want. Cronyism, which is quite comical, when you voted in Mr. Verr as Trustee your friend and former candidate without having a fair and open interview process of others, which is the definition of cronyism. Mr. Verr calling constituents names because they disagree with you.

When you get to new business item B, you don't have to include me if you haven't noticed I have not sat at the table for months. Let me make it clear I will not sit at that table. I am proud to be a public servant and I work hard to make things better here. I am tied to you as an elected official of this township but refuse to do anything that might indicate support for your desire to destroy the township and all the good that has been done here. I will gladly sit with the people of the township.

Jamie Rouse- McHenry, IL - Tonight I would like to talk about community. A community is best described, as a group of people regardless of the diversity of their backgrounds is able to accept and transcend their differences. Enabling them to communicate effectively and openly to

work towards common goals that are identified for the common good. The reason I wanted to talk about our community is because I believe our township community has evolved over the past few months. We definitely have a diverse group of people here at these meetings. Remembering that this is just a small sample representing that group. I am sure some people don't feel represented here at these meetings. The key part of the definition of community is being able to move past our differences as adults for the common good. But, what is the common good. For me, it's for myself and my neighbors to have a safe and happy life. I know I am entirely blessed, but how can I appreciate that if I ignore those less fortunate than me. Yes, there are only a few required services the township must perform, but why can't we go the extra mile for our neighbors that need help. I don't have the time or the resources to help them all, but our combined community does. That is what this township helps us to do. What does this board think the common good is? Is it just to lower taxes for people blessed enough to have a home, what about everything else? Have they forget that what they do to the least of his people they do unto him? I feel it needs to be said that we are here meeting after meeting fighting for our community. The members seek to divide us, using the us versus them argument. They are actively destroying that community. Republicans versus Democrats, the board versus the angry mob, using labels like cowards, leftist, extremist and marxist. So much anger and hate behind their words. We all have been guilty of this on some level. However, my vision for our community is the one held by the majority of township residents and I hope they prove it by voting on March 17th to save McHenry Township. Board members, if you don't want to be a part of that type of community I respectfully ask for you to resign. I also want to point out that I suggested to Mary that she had to sit up there, because I have been on other organizations boards and we feel like adults and we realize we can sit wherever we want. If you want to have an actual agenda item about assigned seating like you had on the bus going to school or in first grade classrooms that makes total sense for this board, but could we please stick to what is important here for the people of our community.

Jim Condon – McHenry, IL. – Half truths by Barber Bob Anderson are at it again. Here we are once again reading about half-truths peddled by the Barber from Wonder Lake. In your editorial published, today you mentioned that McHenry Township has over 11.6 in deluxe building facilities etc. paid for on the backs of the McHenry Township taxpayers. I assume you make these claims based on the townships insurance policy. Ensuing they used replacement value. However, like most shady self-promoting politicians you leave out important facts. For example the food pantry, you referenced \$345, 000. which only cost the township a fraction of that, because of donations from private individuals and business like myself, quite frankly. The snow shelter \$92,000. It cost the township nowhere near that insured value because of the resourcefulness of the township staff in acquiring grants and from local snowmobile clubs making donations to construct it. The list goes on. From donations, time, talent and treasure from companies like family instruction, smith engineering now, HR Green and others to make a beautiful park for all to enjoy. It cost much less than planted by you Barber Bob. Half-truth Barber Bob Anderson you then continue in your rants regarding things like patronage and

cronyism, perhaps Mr. Anderson someone needs to remind you the only reason you are a trustee is because of a backroom deal to steal the Republican name in the last election by avoiding a primary. Probably a comment for another day, it would take a while to explain it; it is a pretty shady deal. In addition, you deny your cronyism in appointing Mr. Steve Verr., perhaps the most unqualified obstructionist to ever hold the office of Township Trustee. In closing, I can only hope the good lord provides a resolution to the poor choice of action that you've all taken here. God bless America, God bless the greatest country in the world.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Review of the regular McHenry Township Board Meeting minutes on December 12, 2019.
Discussion and possible action.**

Motion to approve made by Anderson, second by Supervisor Adams.

Discussion Ensued – Trustee Anderson was confused about the minutes and taking action on the elected official's insurance benefits. It was pointed out that it was not on the December 12th meeting, the board took action on December 20th meeting. Trustee Verr stated he requested the agenda item, in fact, there was a roll call vote, and once again, the minutes do not reflect the meeting. He was also thinking of the wrong meeting. This is for the December 12th meeting not the December 20th special meeting.

All in Favor: **All ayes, Motion carries**

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REVIEW OF EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES

None at this time

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MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF RECEIPTS AND BILLS FOR THE TOWN FUND

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

Total reimbursements to be approved	\$00.00
Total Bills to be approved	\$13,180.28
Total Bill paid prior to Audit	\$53,686.45
Total to be approved	\$66,866.73
Total Receipts:	\$10,148.89

Discussion Ensued –

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

5 Ayes, 0 Nays – Motion Carries

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MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF RECEIPTS AND BILLS FOR GENERAL ROAD & BRIDGE FUND

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

Total reimbursements to be approved	\$3,639.00
Total Bills to be approved	\$81,224.63
Total Bill paid prior to Audit	\$18,856.33
Total to be approved	\$103,719.96
Total Receipts	\$33,739.99

Discussion Ensued – Trustee Verr asked about the split cost of the prime bill for the attorney. Is the \$6000.00 being split with Nunda Township? The answer is yes, the McHenry Township portion is \$3000.00 and Nunda Township is \$3000.00. The adjustment will be made to reflect only the McHenry Township portion only.

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

5 Ayes, 0 Nays – Motion Carries

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MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF RECEIPTS AND BILLS FOR PERMANENT HARD ROAD FUND.

Trustee Wojewski motioned to approve receipts and pay the bills of the Permanent Hard Road Fund, second by Supervisor Adams.

Total reimbursements to be approved	\$00.00
Total Bills to be approved	\$342.30
Total Bill paid prior to Audit	\$13,526.50
Total to be approved	\$13,868.80
Total Receipts	\$1,674.53

Discussion Ensued – None

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

5 Ayes, 0 Nays – Motion Carries

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Fund transfers (if necessary)

None at this time

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New Business –

A. Discussion on the amount charged for the bus service and who is eligible to ride. Discussion and Possible Action.

Discussion Ensued – Trustee Rakestraw believe s that the township is setting itself up for a Lawsuit, and would like to open the bus service up to everyone. The attorney advised the board that the board terminated the service and the electors passed a resolution to continue service for seniors and people with Disabilities as previously ran. If the board wants to adopt another resolution or setup policies they can for a new service.

Trustee Verr asked for something to be put on the agenda several days in advance. This isn't what it was. I was on a bus that was stopped and there is not a fare box there is actually a sign that says donations So, now that we aren't receiving any more federal funds that require that anyone rides free without qualifications, is that still the policy of the township. Supervisor Adams stated, that is the way the bus has been run and how the electors asked us to continue

the service. The majority of people pay. As far as I'm concerned, the bus should be at least a parody of McRide. Supervisor Adams stated he is running the bus service as the electors requested. You can write policy for the future, but you can't write policy for what the electors told us to do. Trustee Verr I beg to differ. Attorney Militello, stated that the supervisor is as CFO of the electors resolution and needs to run the current program as is. If the board wants to adopt a new policy, new rates and a bus program the board can do that. Discussion continued and this matter will be reviewed by the attorney and be discussed at the next meeting.

No action taken

**B. The Configuration of the board table and whom is at this board table.
Discussion and possible action.**

Motion to approve made by Trustee Verr, Second by Anderson

Discussion Ensued – The board will consist of the four Trustees, clerk, supervisor and the township attorney.

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

3 Ayes, 2 Nays – Motion Carries

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OLD BUSINESS

Trustee Verr asked where and when the TOIRMA representative would be here. Supervisor Adams stated that TOIRMA responded by email and they were sent out to the Trustees. Trustee Verr stated that he has told the Attorney he still has questions. Supervisor Adams stated he would try his darndest to get A TOIRMA representative here at the next meeting. Trustee Verr asked to have the renewal packets sent to all the Trustees, supervisor Adams stated he would be more than happy to.

Trustee Verr regarding the website of the township are the Trustees going to be able to put things on it. Supervisor Adams stated no. Supervisor Adams stated we could consider that. We can set that for the agenda at the next meeting.

Trustee Anderson asked if there were any replies from the letters sent to the representatives. Supervisor Adams stated he has received nothing. Trustee Anderson asked if there has been any update on the lawsuit that occurred on Christmas Eve. It was decided to go to executive session and discuss.

Supervisor Adams recognized Highway commissioner Condon, who stated that the lawsuit has nothing to do with this board and there will be no discussion of that here.

Trustee Rakestraw asked about putting together a committee of those using the baseball fields to see how we could offset the cost of maintaining the ball fields. Trustee Rakestraw and Supervisor Adams will sit on that committee.

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PROPOSED AGENQA ITEMS FOR NEXT MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

- A. Discussion on the amount charged for the bus service and who is eligible to ride. Discussion and Possible Action. Made by Trustee Verr, second by Anderson.
Motion made by Trustee Verr, Second by Anderson
Roll Call Vote: Anderson aye, Verr aye, Wojewski nay, Rakestraw aye, Supervisor Adams Nay.

3 Ayes, 2 Nays – Motion Carries
- B. Trustee Verr asked for the adoption of the Illinois resolution that the Township border is a sanctuary for gun owners. Discussion and possible action.
Roll Call Vote: Anderson aye, Verr aye, Wojewski nay, Rakestraw aye, Supervisor Adams aye.

4 Ayes, 1 Nays – Motion Carries
- C. To get the Agenda board packet out the Friday prior to meeting. Discussion and possible action.
Motion made by Trustee Verr, Second by Rakestraw
Roll Call Vote: Anderson aye, Verr aye, Wojewski aye, Rakestraw aye, Supervisor Adams aye.

5 Ayes, 0 Nays – Motion Carries

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SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

- A. Park Report- see packet
B. General Assistance Report-see packet
C. Senior Center Report- see packet
D.

Supervisor Adams stated that we are working closely with Urban Analytics and this has taken up a lot of our time. I would like to start the budget process the last week in January, after Urban Analytics has been here. They will be conducting interviews January 22nd through the January 24th. Discussion ensued and it was decided that the budget process will begin February 3, 2020 and a proposed budget will be given to the Trustees the week before.

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ASSESSOR'S REPORT

Assessor Mahady stated they are in appeals at this time. Also that her budget is due January 31, 2020. Her budget may not be done early.

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HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

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EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Trustee Verr motioned to go to executive session for legal matters, second by Trustee Anderson.

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

5 Ayes, 0 Nays – Motion Carries

Recessed at 8:21pm. The meeting was reconvened at 8:52pm. All in favor signal by say aye. All in Favor – Meeting reconvened.

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BOARD MEMBERS COMMENT - (Remarks limited to three minutes per person)

Trustee Rakestraw stated that someone here stated that Mr. Verr is unqualified and I want to stipulate he is probably the most over qualified member on this whole board.

Trustee Verr I am appalled at some of the people here tonight saying if you don't like it get out resign. If you don't like the tax structure just leave, go somewhere else. Nobody in the peanut gallery here care about the people being taxed out of their homes. So we do represent the common good. We represent the average person who is inundated with highest taxes in the state of Illinois on a countywide basis. We are 17th highest taxed county in the United States. I realize people like Santa Claus to pay for all kinds of things. It would be really nice to give everyone an ice-cream cone every day. We are at a point, which pretty much is facing what townships faced in the 1930's when they got rid of townships and its entirety. We are being taxed to death something has to be done. The senior Express is a purely duplicative program and should have been cut once McRide came in. The McHenry township taxpayer is paying for McRide program and the township program. A whole set of buses, which are mostly empty. So I stand with the common good of the common taxpayer. Who besieged, belittled me and some people in this audience belittled Bob for being a Barber. Things have gone overboard, because

when you tell people we don't like what you do, you have to resign this is just like the presidential election in 2016. The swamp needs to be drained. These special interest people that want everybody to pay their friends, they have got to come to understand there's a backlash and that's why we were elected in the first place. That's the way it is and we are tired of being taxed to death. The township entity that entire states have eliminated. We have too many layers of government within the taxing bodies.

Supervisor Adams stated the Governor's office just came out with a report on how to lower property taxes. Guess what was number one, combining school districts and the state paying their 50% share that will do the biggest thing to reduce your property taxes. It is on the governors list and I think we all can agree with it. I am not against education, but we as individual citizens should not have to pay the majority of education the state has a responsibility and they are looking at it and that is the quickest way and the best way to reduce property taxes that is 70% of your property taxes.

Trustee Rakestraw, I would like to add to my comment. I have been on a school board and I understand what you are saying and I agree to a certain extent that the school districts. If you actually knew how a school board is ran, you would be thinking something else, because it is just horrible and they are just beyond control. Just because we are smaller doesn't mean we shouldn't try to eliminate the waste that we have here. You can't use the thought that this is so big we need to reduce it and let's forget about the other this needs to be done too and we're doing our little bit trying to show people that if you really look at something you can make progress by reducing taxes.

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PUBLIC COMMENT - (Remarks limited to one minute per person) Please clearly state your name and town you reside in, for the official record.

Dorthea King – McHenry, IL – I have two things, probably a 150 but I will stick two right now. It's understandable to want the packets early I appreciate your desire for that I really do, I hope you study them and come prepared. I would ask that you give us the same kind of consideration and stop calling for special meetings, two days before, in the middle of the afternoon during holidays. Number 2, I sat here, watched people bickering about a service they killed, refused to accept federal grants for, took all the funding away from, and they are still wanting to meddle in it. There's a word for that, but I wouldn't be very proud of it. It's a despicable word, it's called Chutzpa and it means shameless audacity.

Mike Tauler – Wonder Lake, IL – I would like to speak as a gun owner. I have signed a petition for the county to institute Sanctuary County. At the county level, it makes perfect sense, because the county level has a sheriff and the direction is from the board to the sheriff to not enforce any laws that would infringe on the Second Amendment. Here at the township level we have no such law enforcement even though it is something we and according to the township code we can have. So, unless Mr. Verr you look to establish a township police force I don't see a point to your motion for the sanctuary township. One last thing Mr. Verr I suggest you stop using the word we when referring to the board that was elected, you were not elected.

Linda Tauler – Wonder Lake, IL – I think you all had a good night. We did not. I'm tired of

hearing talk about this bus you killed it and now you are beating its corpse in front of us, stop. This is not the way to get us to respect you. In addition, if you want fair play for fair play Mr. Rakestraw tell Mr. Verr to stop snickering every time we talk, then we can talk again.

Jamie Rouse- McHenry, IL – I really appreciate Mr. Rakestraw's attempt to expand the bus service; this is what I'm actually talking about what's good for the community and stuff like that. That is something we need to converse on. There are million things to talk about but I am going to talk about this argument that keeps coming up about being taxed out of their homes. Mr. Verr if you bring in as many people into this room that were taxed out of their homes, as the people that use that bus service, I will not come to another meeting ever again. And to say something about people being taxed to death when we started out this meeting talking about one of our township residents Julie Thomas, who actually die. You show me one obituary of someone who died from their taxes and I will never come to another meeting. You think you have this common good of taxpayers, were taxpayers, we're telling you that is not our common good, you need to start seeing the entire township.

John Sharif – McHenry, IL – I have this thing written out. First, I would like to say Mr. Adams great to see you back sir. I'm glad to see you on your feet. I'm happy that Mr. Condon is going to be in charge of the roads for this weekend, because lord knows where we'd be if the county or someone else were in charge, we might be stuck in our homes for another couple of days. If everyone is so worried about money, oh Mr. Verr you paying attention WOW I'm shocked and honored, If everyone is so worried about the bus service making money I would suggest that we look into advertisements Mr. Adams, having advertisements on the buses. It's just something to look into.

Dan Aylward – McHenry, IL – Mr. Verr I ran on the campaign of fighting my taxes of the overtaxed people of this county. We are not over taxed because of the township. My tax bill is \$11,500 and out of that, less than \$400 goes to the township. The school takes \$9,000 that's where the problem is. Saving somebody \$10 a year to get rid of the bus service, that helps these poor people which some of them are disabled veterans and other people that can't walk and have no transportation, they can't afford a car and have no way of getting around and you take that away. You wonder why I get angry with you; I fought for the poor people in this county, not to save \$10 a year or even \$400. Also, if the township really did go away do you really think I am going to save a complete \$400, no the county is going to take it over? Do you think they are going to give any of that money back if you do you are very naïve I have a bridge I would like to sell you.

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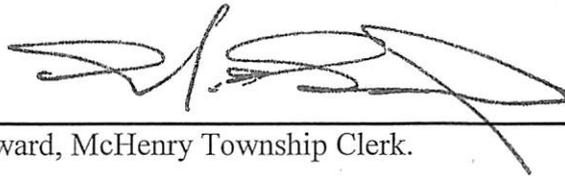
ADJOURNMENT

Motion for adjournment at 9:05pm, made by Supervisor Adams, 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.