

GRAFTON TOWNSHIP REGULAR BOARD MEETING
GRAFTON TOWNSHIP, MCHENRY COUNTY, ILLINOIS
MONDAY, July 20, 7:30 P.M.

1. Supervisor Kearns called the meeting to order at 7:37 P.M.

2. Roll Call

Present: Trustees Holtorf, Ziller and Zirk; Supervisor Kearns; Road Commissioner Poznanski; Clerk Hurley. Absent: Trustee Wagner, Assessor Zielinski

Deputy Assessor Marty Kinzel attended the meeting in Assessor Zielinski's absence.

3. Pledge of Allegiance was said.

4. Approval of Agenda as posted

Motion by Trustee Zirk, second by Trustee Holtorf to approve the agenda as posted.

Ayes: Trustees Zirk, Holtorf, Ziller, Supervisor Kearns

Nays: None. Motion Carries.

5. Regular Business

A. Approval of Minutes of June 15, 2015 Township Regular Meeting

Motion by Trustee Ziller, second by Trustee Zirk to approve the minutes of the June 15, 2015 Regular Meeting.

Ayes: Trustees Ziller, Zirk, Holtorf, Supervisor Kearns

Nays: None. Motion Carries.

B. Audit and payment of unpaid bills/Warrant check detail for Town Fund. **(Exhibit I)**

Motion by Trustee Holtorf, second by Trustee Zirk to approve payment of the unpaid bills for The Township.

Ayes: Trustees Holtorf, Zirk, Ziller, Supervisor Kearns

Nays: None. Motion Carries.

C. Review Road and Bridge Warrant check detail. **(Exhibit II)**

Motion by Trustee Holtorf, second by Trustee Zirk to approve the Road and Bridge Warrant Check detail.

Ayes: Trustees Holtorf, Zirk, Ziller, Supervisor Kearns

Nays: None. Motion Carries.

6. Public Comment/Board Members Response to Public Comment

Resident Bryan McKnight addressee The Board. He said that at the last meeting he and others expressed dissatisfaction with their tax bills and assessments. He said they were ignorant to the situation and were caught off guard, so they decided to take a look at Assessor Zielinski's calculations and educate themselves. One resident asked the Assessor a specific question about a specific document. The Assessor told him that he used the Shapiro-Wilke test and that it's documented that he used it. The resident asked to see the documentation and Assessor Zielinski "flat out" said he would not provide it. Mr. McKnight emailed Assessor Zielinski to complain that his taxes went up 25%, and received no response in return.

Two weeks ago Mr. McKnight submitted a FOIA request. He asked for:

1. Complete list of neighborhoods in Grafton Township & Average % change of total assessed value from 2013 to 2014
 2. Neighborhood assessment summary sheets for 1) Cheswick Place, 2) The Gates, 3) Del Webb, and 4) Turnberry Original Estates
 3. Complete data sets for same 4 neighborhoods listed in item 2 that was used in regression analysis
 4. Complete calculation worksheets from the software used to complete regression analysis for all 4 neighborhoods listed in item 2
 5. Any reports generated from assessment software showing assessment processes, procedures, information on calculations on the 4 neighborhoods listed in Item 2
- summary sheets on their assessments, the data sets used, calculation worksheets and calculation procedures.

He received a response from Assessor Zielinski which Mr. McKnight determined to be incomplete. There was no information about the average percentage change of each neighborhood's assessments, there were no calculation worksheets, and the PIN numbers on the properties were redacted in the data sets so there was no way to determine which calculations fit which properties. He emailed Assessor Zielinski to tell him specifically what was missing from the documents and was told there would be a meeting on July 13th with his staff to discuss the request. A neighbor, Matt Cooper visited the Assessor's office at the time of the meeting and was turned away because he was told that staff meetings are exempt from the FOIA and Open Meetings Acts. Supervisor Kearns confirmed that is true, staff meetings are exempt.

Supervisor Kearns asked Deputy Assessor Kinzel if in his opinion PIN numbers would be redacted as exempt information under FOIA. He said that he did not believe they would be. A discussion ensued about how PIN numbers are public information because they can be looked up by anyone at any time and are even printed in the newspaper.

An anonymous resident said that she has 12,000 square feet of property and her taxes on the property went up \$12,000. She said that Assessor Zielinski's property in Turnberry is 60,000 square feet and the assessed value of his property is less than hers. A discussion ensued about who was assessing each neighborhood and was told that Assessor Zielinski assessed Del Webb and Turnberry.

An anonymous resident asked Deputy Assessor Kinzel if he believes the calculation records no longer exist as Assessor Zielinski stated. He said that it is possible they were inadvertently deleted but that they should exist.

An anonymous resident asked if The Clerk is responsible for the accuracy of the FOIA responses since she is the FOIA Officer. Clerk Hurley said that she is, and that when she told Assessor Zielinski about the FOIA request she also told him that he was to give her the response from his office. Instead, Assessor Zielinski sidestepped her and responded to Mr. McKnight directly.

An anonymous resident said that there are 30 data points to run a Shapiro Wilke test. He asked Deputy Assessor Kinzel about it and he told him that he had never run a Shapiro-Wilke test on any properties.

Pete Gonigan of First Electric Newspaper asked Mr McKnight if he was going to appeal the FOIA request and was told that he would the next day. Mr McKnight restated the discrepancies in the response and said that all they want is the truth. Deputy Assessor Kinzel offered to give the PIN numbers and pull whatever information he could if someone wanted to come into the office.

An anonymous resident said that Assessor Zielinski's taxes went down \$5,000 last year and that hers went up \$13,000.

An anonymous resident of Coral Township asked the Road Commissioner why Adamson was oiled and sanded. He said it was an outdated practice and a waste of money. His tractor is ruined after an antique tractor parade routed onto Adamson road. Road Commissioner Poznanski said he did not receive any notification that there would be an antique tractor parade on Grafton Township roads, and that oiling and sanding helps to maintain the roads. The Coral Township resident handed the Highway Commissioner a bill for the repair of his tractor.

7. Executive Session

Motion to convene an Executive Session to discuss the transfer of real property pursuant to 5ILCS 120/2(c)(11).

None occurred.

8. Discussion and potential action of items as discussed during Executive Session

None.

9. New Business

None.

10. Old Business

None.

11. Committee and Officer Reports

Supervisor

Supervisor Kearns asked the Road Commissioner about the Lakewood Annexation and a clarification about what is Grafton's.

Supervisor Kearns said that they would be seeking bids to blacktop the parking lot.

Supervisor Kearns asked the Road Commissioner about the removal of the stop sign at Union and Ernesti Roads. Road Commissioner Poznanski said that the County Engineer told him to do it. Supervisor Kearns said that he'd like to keep the stop sign and wonders if the county will force us to take it down. Road Commissioner Poznanski said to call the County and tell them our Board is opposed to it.

Supervisor Kearns asked Road Commissioner Poznanski what is the easement around intersections and street lights etc for crops etc. It is 30 yards off of the center line. The Supervisor is worried about our ditches being ruined and said it's a safety issue and the township is liable if someone gets hurt.

Supervisor Kearns complained that the phones in the Assessor's office, usually on a Friday, don't get answered. He said the staff is watching movies in the back room. He said he feels it is wrong they close the offices and it's a quadrennial year, so they should be busy. Deputy Assessor Kinzel said that they were down one person and it was a training video. Supervisor Kearns said that locking the door and closing the office never happened before Assessor Zielinski came to office and that now it happens all the time. He further stated that several residents had complained.

He was at a Supervisors meeting recently for all of the Townships and there is a movement to consolidate Townships. He wants the Trustees to attend the next one in August. He said it will go to vote in March.

Trustees

Trustee Zirk said that she attended a Townships of Illinois meeting in Rockford last month and was disappointed about the value of the meeting. Nothing was said about consolidation. She said there was only one good speaker for the entire meeting.

Audit Committee

Assessor

Road District

Road Commissioner Poznanski asked that whoever is in charge of the website to indicate that the public should go directly to his office on Road District matters. He said the links to his page don't work, so they are going to the Township Office.

Trustee Ziller asked what Com Ed did to the road north of Ruth's house. He said the shoulder bank is caving in and he almost lost a combine. Road Commissioner Poznanski said he would call Com Ed to find out.

Clerk

12. Adjournment

Motion by Trustee Holtorf, second by Trustee Zirk to adjourn the meeting at 8:56 P.M.

All Ayes.

No Nays. Meeting adjourned at 8:56 P.M.

Submitted,
Clerk Kathryn Hurley

GRAFTON TOWNSHIP ROAD DISTRICT
VOUCHER LIST FOR JULY 20, 2015 MEETING

With my signature below, I hereby approve of the invoices listed on the following pages being submitted for payment.

Betty Zirk - Grafton Township Trustee



Joe Holtorf - Grafton Township Trustee



Dan Ziller Jr. - Grafton Township Trustee

Bob Wagner - Grafton Township Trustee



Kathryn Hurley - Grafton Township Clerk



Jim Kearns - Grafton Township Supervisor



Tom Poznanski
Grafton Township Highway Commissioner

GRAFTON TOWNSHIP
BUDGET HEARINGS
PUBLIC REQUEST TO ADDRESS BOARD

July 20
Date: ~~June 15, 2015~~

NAME

ADDRESS

1. BRYAN MCKNIGHT

2. ~~KEVIN STANLEY~~

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4.

5.

6.

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11.

12.

13.

14.

15.

11781 GALWAY DRIVE
LITH., IL 60156
~~2 Featherstone CT~~
~~LITH 60156~~

**GRAFTON TOWNSHIP TOWN FUND
WARRANT LIST FOR JULY 20, 2015 MEETING**

With my signature below, I hereby approve of the invoices listed on the following pages being submitted for payment.



Betty Zirk - Grafton Township Trustee



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Dan Ziller Jr. - Grafton Township Trustee

Bob Wagner - Grafton Township Trustee



Kathryn Hurley - Grafton Township Clerk



Jim Kearns - Grafton Township Supervisor