

GRAFTON TOWNSHIP REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Grafton Township, McHenry County, Illinois
Grafton Township Office, 10109 Vine Street, Huntley, IL 60142

MONDAY, July 16, 2018

The Regular Township Board Meeting of the Grafton Township Board, McHenry County, Illinois was held on Monday, July 16, 2018 at the Township Offices.

1. **Call to Order** -7:35 p.m.
2. **Roll Call** – Board Present: Trustee: Cratty, Cooper, and Ziller; Supervisor Ruth; Assessor Zielinski, Clerk Watson. Trustee Welch and Road Commissioner Tom Poznanski absent.
3. **Pledge of Allegiance** was said.
4. **Approval of Agenda**
A motion was made by Trustee Cooper, 2nd by Trustee Ruth, to approve the Agenda as prepared. Roll call vote taken, all ayes noted, motion carried.
5. **Regular Business**
 - A. A motion was made by Trustee Cooper, 2nd by Trustee Ziller to approve the June 18, 2018 Meeting Minutes with the following correction:
“Supervisor Report, Cost of TOI was corrected to read \$1,200.00”. Roll call vote taken, Trustee Cooper – Yes; Trustee Ziller – Yes, Trustee Cratty – Abstain; Supervisor Ruth, Yes. Motion carried.
 - B. During the audit of unpaid bills/Warrant check list for the Town Fund, Assessor Zielinski was asked if the PO’s from last month were to be presented for payment. Assessor Zielinski replied that the invoices were too far past to pay. A discussion ensued regarding training presented by Assessor.
A motion was made by Trustee Cooper 2nd by Trustee Ziller, to approve the unpaid bills/Warrant check list for the Town Fund as presented. Roll call vote taken, all ayes noted, motion carried.
 - C. In lieu of Road Commissioner Poznanski’s absence, Supervisor Ruth presented the Road District unpaid bills/Warrant check list. Trustee Ziller was concerned about the Linden Lane Resurface Bid Notice. A motion was made by Trustee Ziller, 2nd by Supervisor Ruth to approve the audit and payment of unpaid bills/Warrant check detail for the Road District. Roll call vote taken, all ayes noted, motion carried.
6. **Public Comment**
 - A. Board members asked that more detailed minutes be included. The following is a detailed summary of Public Comment:

Resident (named in the Exhibit I attached to the original meeting minutes) asked to speak to the Board regarding a situation with Assessor Zielinski. In January, 2018 the resident called the Assessor regarding a reduction in the assessment in the land, not the townhome of her property that backs up to Reed Road. He told her that yes she would receive a reduction in the land assessment, and that Grafton Township is one of the only townships to include this type of exemption.

She received her assessment without the reduction in the land. She made several trips to see the Assessor and he was not there. When they did meet, she was told that she would not be receiving the exemption. When she asked the Assessor look up a neighbor, the neighbor had the exemption. He told her that was a mistake and he would correct the neighbor's property.

She went to McHenry County Assessor Ross and received the exemption on the spot without a hearing. The exemption resulted in a \$300 reduction.

Resident brought this to the attention of the Board of Trustees because she received "no satisfaction from the Assessor", felt he "lied to her", "does not keep regular hours", "does not care about the residents of Grafton Township", and "does not understand why he stays in his position of authority". She asked for an apology from Assessor Zielinski.

- B. Resident Mueller again requested time to discuss Assessor Zielinski's denials of his FOIA. A copy of his presentation is attached and made a part of these minutes.

7. Board Members Response to Public Comment

- A. Assessor Zielinski was asked by resident for an apology and his response was "no, it is a public comment". Trustee Ziller was glad that the problem was solved, and he apologized on behalf of Assessor Zielinski. Trustee Cooper and Trustee Cratty also expressed apology to the resident for the situation.

8. Executive Session per State Statute 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)

A motion was made by Supervisor Ruth, 2nd by Trustee Cooper, to go into Executive Session pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c) 21 Executive Meeting Minutes, 5ILCS 120/2 (c) 1 Employment and 5 ILCS 120/2(c) 11, Pending Litigation. Roll call vote taken, all ayes noted, motion carried. The Regular Meeting was closed @ 8:10 p.m.

A motion was made by Supervisor Ruth, 2nd by Trustee Cratty to reconvene the Regular Board Meeting. Roll call vote taken, all ayes noted, motion carried. The Regular Board Meeting was reconvened at 8: 21 p.m.

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

- A. A motion was made by Supervisor Ruth, 2nd by Trustee Ziller to approve the Executive Meeting Minutes dated January 15, 2018 for Content but not Release; March 19, 2018 for

Content but not Release; April 16, 2018 for Content but not Release; and June 18, 2018 Corrected for Content but not release. Roll call vote taken, all ayes noted, motion carried.

- B. Trustee Cratty asked Assessor Zielinski for status of Resident Mueller's outstanding FOIA, again asking Assessor to release this FOIA. Assessor responded that he is waiting for Public Access Council to release their ruling. Supervisor Ruth spoke on behalf of the entire board addressing Assessor Zielinski that we "strongly feel that you should hand it (FOIA) over", that by not Assessor is "possibly putting us in the position of a lawsuit" and is putting the Township in a "tough position". Trustee Ziller added that "it is that man's right to have" (the FOIA). Trustee Cratty stated "that we as a Board as a whole have asked multiple times for you to hand over this information and your office has chosen otherwise".

10. Old Business

- A. Discussion and possible action regarding 2017-2018 Township Audit. Supervisor Ruth presented corrected pages of the audit, (properly showing the Transfer of Appropriations) as discussed at last month's meeting. A motion was made by Supervisor Ruth, 2nd by Trustee Ziller to approve the 2017-2018 Annual Audit as presented. Roll call vote taken, all ayes noted, motion carried.

11. New Business

- A. Discussion and possible action regarding Assessor's Fire Wall. Assessor Zielinski presented a revised quote for approximately \$3,400 to install a firewall for his office. A discussion ensued regarding the Assessor's need for a firewall. A motion was made by Supervisor Ruth to approve the firewall purchase by Assessor. A revised motion was made by Trustee Cratty, 2nd by Trustee Ziller, to approve the purchase of the firewall for the Assessor's office once his office is connected to the new wiring and using the new wiring properly. Roll call vote taken: Trustee Cratty-Yes; Trustee Ziller-Yes, Trustee Cooper-No; Supervisor Ruth-Yes. Motion carried.

12. Committee and Officer Reports

SUPERVISOR REPORT

- A. Re-wiring project has been completed. The Road District needs to switch, and the Assessor needs to connect properly. This will result in a significant savings to the Township, paying for itself in less than 3 years.
- B. Supervisor Ruth received a late night, inappropriate email from Assessor Zielinski. Discussion ensued regarding the insulting language the Assessor used against Supervisor Ruth and the entire Board stemming from the changing of the light bulbs in his office and firewall knowledge.

TRUSTEE/FACILITY UPDATE

- A. Trustee Cratty began a discussion regarding all of the assessment changes that have been sent to the County. He has seen in his personal banking position many assessment have been changed by the County without the Board of Review process. Country reported to Trustee Cratty that their office (County) has changed over 1,000 assessments. A discussion

ensued with the Assessor on his assessment policy on how/why this happened, The discussion included who did the Commercial Assessments in the past and who will do them in the future with the current changes in the Assessor's personnel.

- B. Trustee Cratty would like Assessor Zielinski to respond to future resident's Public Comment as a common courtesy.
- C. Trustees/ Assessor have requested detailed conversations be made a part of these meeting minutes for the following discussion. Trustee Cratty asked Assessor Zielinski with the recent employee leaving for a different position, "is current staff comfortable with the increased workload?". Assessor responded "Yes". A discussion ensued. Trustee Cratty responded (Assessor Zielinski) "made a case (6 months ago) that it would not be necessary to add additional staff while he was working at a different county. Now because he is the one still here, there is a need an additional personnel?". Assessor responded that "per section 2-20 of the Illinios Property Code, the Board shall have no power to approve or disapprove the personnel of multi township or Assessor ". Trustee Cratty clarified that "he doesn't know why it is different because you are here", "nothing else changed in your office. But now that Marty has taken the exact same position (you had with a different county), you are telling the taxpayers you need to hire someone else". Trustee Cooper added "Your tax code says that we can't tell you who to hire or not hire, but the taxpayers better remember this when it's time to election someone for this position".
- D. Trustee Ziller asked that it be included on the record that "as someone who lives/works/functions on the Township Roads I am tired of my neighbors ... climbing down my throat because of the disrepair that these roads are in."

ROAD DISTRICT

ASSESSOR

Wanted to confirm that his office should purchase light bulbs? Trustee Ziller wanted to know if his bulbs were part of the Com Ed upgrade that would be included in warranty? He was advised to purchase bulbs and replace them himself.

CLERK - None

13. ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, a motion was made by Supervisor Ruth, 2nd by Trustee Cratty to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting. Voice vote taken, all ayes noted, motion carried. The Regular Board meeting adjourned @ 9:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen M. Watson
Grafton Township Clerk