

WAUCONDA TOWNSHIP BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
February 20, 2008

1. Supervisor Swanson called this meeting to order at 7:02 P.M. at Wauconda Township Hall, County of Lake, State of Illinois.
2. Clerk Rowe took roll call. Answering present was: Trustees Bilisko, Amrich, Ryan and Hansen. Also present were Supervisor Swanson, Highway Commissioner Munson, Assessor Pat Oaks, and Administrator Maioriello.
3. Supervisor Swanson led the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. A motion was made by Trustee Amrich, seconded by Trustee Bilisko to approve the Agenda as presented. Supervisor Swanson asked if there was any discussion. No discussion. Voice roll call vote was taken. 5 ayes, 0 nays. This motion was carried.
5. A. A motion was made by Trustee Amrich, seconded by Supervisor Swanson to approve the minutes of the January 16, 2008 Regular Board Meeting. Supervisor Swanson asked if there was any discussion from the Board. Having no discussion, a voice roll call vote was taken. 5 ayes. This motion was carried.

B. A motion was made by Trustee Hansen, seconded by Trustee Amrich to approve the minutes of the January 16, 2008 Executive Session Meeting Minutes. Voice roll call vote was taken. 5 ayes. This motion was carried.
6. A motion was made by Trustee Amrich and seconded by Supervisor Swanson to approve the bills and balances from January 17, 2008 thru February 20, 2008. Supervisor Swanson stated that there were two bills included in the board packet for approval that were not included in the list of bills. One bill is for the newsletter and one is for Assessor Oaks office. Supervisor asked for discussion from the board.
Trustee Bilisko requested a copy of Supervisor Swanson's cell phone bill. Supervisor Swanson stated that because he does not go over the minute's package, he does not receive an itemized listing of calls. Trustee Hansen said that before the Trustees can approve a bill, they are to be supplied with an entire bill. Trustee Hansen stated that the Senior Services, Assessors office, and the Highway department all turn in the entire bill. Trustee Hansen said she talked to T.O.I. and they informed her that bills cannot be approved off a stub. Trustee Bilisko stated the Township is paying the entire bill and it is not just for Township business. Supervisor Swanson asked what was her proof. Trustee Bilisko said that when you call the number, the recording states his other business as well. Trustee Bilisko recommended that the Supervisor get a phone dedicated to Township business. Supervisor Swanson asked why after 2 years and 8 months this matter is now being brought up. Trustee Bilisko said that the Trustees have been asking about this bill and have not gotten their answers. Supervisor Swanson stated that there was an e-mail function on his phone that he was asked to eliminate and he did. He stated that Trustee Ryan approached him about his message, so he adjusted that.
Trustee Ryan stated that she had asked for a copy of the bill that the taxpayers are paying, and that the Supervisor suggested that she file a FOI request for a copy of the bill. Trustee Ryan said that the Trustees have been trying for many months to get copies of the phone bill to avoid discussing this at a meeting. Meeting was recessed while the Supervisor left to get the entire bill. When the Supervisor returned with the bill, there was no breakdown. He again stated that since he does not go over the minutes, calls are not listed. Trustee Ryan stated that she doesn't feel it is appropriate for the Township should pay 100% for a bill that is used for personal and business as well. Supervisor Swanson stated that the person he replaced in this position had a dedicated direct phone line in his home and a cell phone. He also stated that his cell phone number is put on the front door for people to

be able to reach him at all hours. Trustee Hansen suggested that he either pay a portion of the bill or use a phone that is only for Township business. Supervisor Swanson said he would like to think about it and will get back to them next month.

Supervisor Swanson asked if there were any other questions in regard to the bills. Trustee Hansen said that she has an issue with the Supervisor taking two part time positions and making them one full time position with benefits. That cannot be done without Board approval. Supervisor Swanson asked where it states that he cannot do that. Trustee Hansen stated that Bryan Smith from T.O.I. said it could not be done. Supervisor Swanson stated that Mr. Smith has a different story every time you talk to him. Trustee Hansen provided the Trustee manual, page 109, which stated this fact. Supervisor Swanson stated that the job was a 40 hour a week job. Trustee Hansen said it was not a 40 an hour week job. She stated the ad ran for a 3 hour a day job at \$11 an hour. She also stated that the Supervisor changed the job to pay \$13.50 an hour plus benefits. Supervisor Swanson stated that the ad was for \$12.00 an hour. Trustee Hansen explained the costs difference with the benefit package. The salary difference went from \$8,580 to \$10,540 a year. Trustee Hansen said that when you add the benefit package, it goes up even more. Trustee Hansen stated that she does not feel that this is in the best interest of the taxpayers. Trustee Hansen then stated that the Supervisor sent out an e-mail that said the employee was going to use her own insurance. Trustee Hansen reported that the insurance company informed her that by allowing one employee to do that, it would set a precedent and any employee can go out and get their own insurance. Supervisor Swanson stated that he took two part time jobs that have a great turnover rate and took a person who had been employed for over a year, and moved into that position. He took the person in the Supervisors office that was getting \$15.00 an hour, reduced her pay to \$13.50 an hour, reduced her time at the Supervisors office by one hour and moved her to the Senior Transportation office. Trustee Hansen reiterated that this has to be brought before the Board to be approved. Trustee Hansen said that she has no problem to approve paying the employee to this point, but wants the issue brought before the Board for approval. Trustee Bilisko said that the Trustees are disputing the way it was done, not the employee. Trustee Hansen stated that she feels that the Supervisor has not let the Board into things that they should be part of.

Trustee Ryan said she would like to table the bill until she has an opportunity to talk to Sheila Masterson. She would like to ask why the Township is paying \$9000 in benefits for a position that was part time. Supervisor Swanson stated that in our policy and procedure manual it says an employee qualifies for benefits if they work 32 hours a week. He stated that \$13.50 an hour is a very low rate of pay and he hopes this person stays in the position. Supervisor Swanson said he never had to bring it before the Board for approval before. Trustee Hansen said that the Trustees have a right to approve the hiring and firing of the Townships staff. They do not have any right in the hiring or firing in the Assessors office or the Highway Departments office. Trustee Ryan said that she would like a motion to table the bill in question. Supervisor Swanson said that you have to pay the person her salary. Trustee Hansen said that she should be paid, but that the position goes back to a part time position until the Board has time to review the situation and give their approval.

Trustee Ryan wanted it stated on the record that the Trustees were not informed and that none of the details were disclosed until after the action was taken. She feels that economically it is not the best decision. Supervisor Swanson said that the Senior Transportation Department approached him to hire the person; he felt it was for the best. Supervisor Swanson said that if he needs the Board approval to hire a person, then he stands corrected. Trustee Ryan said that since it was \$10,000 in benefits it should be discussed with the Board of Trustees. Supervisor Swanson said that it was not a \$10,000 benefit. Trustee Ryan asked Administrator Marioreillo how much was a benefit package that included health insurance, retirement package, and vacation pay. Administrator Marioreillo said that every person is different. With vacation days, sick days, personal days, dental insurance, eye insurance, health insurance and IMRF, it could be over \$10,000 per year. Supervisor Swanson said that currently the agreement with the employee is that she be paid \$160 per month for her health insurance. Trustee Hansen stated that if you do not make the position a full time one, the Township would not pay all the benefits. Trustee Ryan stated that she does not know how the 3 hours a day job turned into a \$12,000 benefit package. Supervisor Swanson said it is an 8 hour a day job. Trustee Ryan said that it is now without any discussion from the Board. Supervisor Swanson stated that part of the salary would come from the Senior Transportation department and part from the Township budget. Trustee Ryan wants it to be known that the Trustees did not agree

with a \$12,000 benefit package be given to a 3 hour employee. Supervisor Swanson said it is not a \$12,000 benefit package. Trustee Ryan stated that either way, the Board should have been notified. Supervisor Swanson repeated that he stands corrected if he needs permission to hire an employee. Trustee Amrich tabled his motion.

Trustee Bilisko then motioned to pay the bills, including the two new bills, as presented for now and research about making the part time position a full time position without the Board approval. Research must be completed before the next Board Meeting. Trustee Ryan seconded the motion. A voice roll call was taken. 4 ayes, Trustee Hansen voted nay. This motion passed.

7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Dave Guzzardo, resident, stated that he would like to have complete financial disclosure for all the Townships expenditures, placed on the counter, with the check book open. He would like to have an ordinance that no expenditures exceeding \$2,000 be approved unless done by the Board. He feels that the \$10,000 limit the Supervisor has is not adequate. Mr. Guzzardo stated that he has requested that the check book be open and that the registry be made available. Supervisor Swanson replied that he should file a Freedom of Information request and he would be given anything he wants.

Mr. Wargoski, resident on Dowell Road, would like the Township to get some information from Island Lake about condemning Dowell Road. The Supervisor said that there are pieces of Dowell Road at Neville that are controlled by the Township. The Township will draft a letter to the Village of Island Lake requesting information on what the plans are for Dowell Road. Supervisor Swanson said he feels that if the road is not being used anymore, it should be returned to the owners. Copies of the letter will be sent to the Trustees, the Willis's and Mr. Wargoski.

Dave Guzzardo wanted to thank the Highway Department for maintaining the roads during the recent snow storms. Wayne Willis, resident on Fisher Road, thanked the Highway department as well.

Mr. Hennessy, Wellsmere Heights, asked if there is a licensed engineer on the Township staff. Supervisor Swanson said there was not. The Township hires an engineer, Mark Rooney, when they need one. Mr. Hennessy asked what the plans are with the FEMA site in Williams Park that the Township took over. Supervisor Swanson said that he took Mr. Rooney over there to evaluate the best use for the property. He is supposed to get back to him in February. Supervisor Swanson said he would like to see the property used for a park. Mr. Hennessy asked if that was the direction the Township was going in. Supervisor Swanson said that they have to see what the land can be used for. Mr. Hennessy asked if there was an environmental study done before the Township took ownership of the property. Supervisor Swanson said that was done by Storm Water Management. Mr. Hennessy asked if the Township did any due diligence in environmental issues. Supervisor Swanson said that an EPA 1 or 2 study is only done when you have a gas station. These were residential homes. Mr. Hennessy asked if these homes were built before 1970 because there could be lead in the ground. Supervisor Swanson said that when you purchase residential property, you do not do an EPA1 study unless there are fuel tanks. Mr. Hennessy said that when you take possession of a building built before 1970, you accept the responsibility of a clean up. Supervisor Swanson said the Township never signed a paper accepting any responsibility if there are any tanks in the ground. All the attorney fees were free, the lots were free, and the surveys were done for free. The only cost is maintenance. The Highway department has been helping maintaining the lots. Mr. Hennessy asked if there were any other parks being planned. Supervisor Swanson said only if anyone else wants to donate the property. The Township was given these 98 lots. The whole Board went out and checked out the lots before accepting them. He and Highway Commissioner walked the lots and checked for foundations. They had Storm Water come out and take debris from the lots. Mr. Hennessy asked what the taxes were on the lots. Supervisor Swanson said that they will be tax exempt as Township property. The only tax that will be due is the Storm Water Management tax which will be \$30.00 per year. The lots came to the Township in two different phases. That is being straightened out. Mr. Hennessy asked if those lots are available to anyone in the Township to use. Supervisor Swanson said it depended what they would use it for. If you don't violate any laws or restrictions, he doesn't see why not. Mr. Hennessy

asked if anything was posted. Supervisor Swanson said no, you just have to use common sense. Mr. Hennessy asked if Wauconda Township is going to pursue a contract to use one waste hauler. Supervisor Swanson said that Trustee Amrich is researching it. He said that some residents are for it and some are against it. It would have to go to a referendum and be put on a ballot. He asked if the minutes of meeting were ever corrected where the Supervisor had stated that there was an inter-environmental agreement at one meeting and then at the next meeting stated that there was not an agreement in regards to the bike path. He then asked if there were minutes from the tax levy meeting available. Supervisor said that there were minutes. Mr. Hennessy then asked if he would be able to get the tape recordings of the meetings. Supervisor stated that he would have to check into releasing the tapes. Clerk Rowe stated that there were minutes of the tax levy meeting and she would get copies for Mr. Hennessy. She also stated that according to T.O.I. and the clerk's handbook, tape recordings are only used to record minutes of the meetings. Once the minutes have been approved, it is recommended that the tapes be destroyed because they have no purpose. She also stated that Supervisor Swanson requested that she keep the tapes for one year. Trustee Ryan asked if it was mandated to keep or record the meetings. Clerk Rowe answered by saying that only Executive Session meetings have to be tape recorded. Mr. Hennessy referred to minutes of a meeting where he asked Mr. Dunkelberg about the Lake Michigan water and if Cag or Wauconda Township would go after the people who were responsible for poisoning the Aquifers. Clerk Rowe said that at that meeting, Mr. Hennessy was told that was not an issue for a Township meeting, but rather at a Cag meeting.

Mr. Willis, resident, Fisher Road, asked if the Williams Park lots are contiguous and what is Williams Park? Supervisor Swanson said some of the lots are contiguous. He informed Mr. Willis that Williams Park is a subdivision of older homes where some of the homes are two foot lower than the river. The Federal Government has purchased some of the homes due to the flooding. Mr. Willis then asked if the Supervisor received notification or clarification, from the County, of a proposed zoning or planning of storing motor homes or boats in front yards. Supervisor Swanson has not received anything. He does not know what the status is. Mr. Willis heard that the paperwork ran in excess of 50 pages. No one on the Board had heard about it. Trustee Ryan asked if they had a web site. Mr. Willis said that if you go to the Lake County site, there should be something under planning.

8. CORRESPONDENCE: None

9. OLD BUSINESS: None

10. NEW BUSINESS:

A. ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE REPORT: No report. There is a Cag meeting tomorrow night at 7:00 p.m. Mike Coon from Lake County Health Department will be at the meeting.

11. ORDINANCE: CORPORATE LOGO ORDINANCE # 2-20-08-01

Supervisor Swanson motioned to approve the logo ordinance. Trustee Hansen seconded the motion. Voice roll call was taken. 5 ayes. This motion carried.

12. ELECTED OFFICIALS REPORT:

- Assessor Oaks announced that she hired a new employee named Brandon Hammeraldine. She will bring him at next months meeting to make the formal introduction.
- Highway Commissioner Munson stated that the highway department hired a new employee, Matt Demuth. He will be a great asset to the highway department as he is well qualified in back hoes and under ground water works. The department has been busy with snow issues.

- Clerk Rowe reported that there were 605 residents who voted early. The total number of people who voted in the Township was 4,175. That represents 38 % of the registered voters.
- Trustee Bilisko has been having some conversation with the Historical Society. They are considering coming under the Township umbrella. They have submitted their estimated budget for the year.
- Trustee Ryan reported that the face painter will try to make the expo. She also talked to a representative from Peter Baker about taking the bends out of Garland Road and found out it would be very expensive.
- Supervisor Swanson shared pictures from the Holiday basket program.
- Supervisor Swanson reported that in 1991 fuel tanks were removed from the Township property and that the file was never closed totally from the EPA. A company has contacted the Township and will do the testing. They will take the money from a LUST fund to pay for it. The Township did pay \$10,000 in 1991. The company has contracts in regards to checking the parking lot to find out where the tanks were. He does not know why this wasn't finished in 1991.
- The Township will be at the expo this weekend passing out information on what the Township offers.
- Supervisor Swanson stated that the Township leases the Historical building from the school district for \$1.00 a year. The Township maintains the insurance on the building. The Supervisor would like to see the volunteers work on preserving the items in the building. If the Township can help them out with bills, it will be put into the budget for review. Trustee Bilisko stated that the Historical Society gets questions all year long. Trustee Ryan asked if the Historical Society was on our web site. Supervisor Swanson said that if we get it in our budget, it would go on there.
- Supervisor Swanson said that the Township would be getting new main doors coming into the hall. The old doors are not very secure and expensive to maintain. They will cost approximately \$4,000.00.
- February 28th ends the fiscal year. The Township is building some reserves to do some special projects.

13. ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Trustee Bilisko and seconded by Trustee Amrich to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 P.M. A voice roll call vote was taken. 5 ayes, 0 nays. This motion was carried.

SUPERVISOR

TRUSTEES

CLERK

