

Regular Board Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Elk Grove Township
Elk Grove Township Hall
2400 S. Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights, IL
January 21, 2019

MINUTES

- I. Call to Order. Supervisor Sweeney called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
- II. Roll Call. Trustees Niewiardowski, Ingraffia, Keenley present. Supervisor Sweeney present. Trustee Ingraffia made a motion to approve Trustee Satern's participation in the meeting via phone. The motion was seconded by Trustee Niewiardowski. The motion passed on a voice vote. In attendance were Assessor Carosielli, Highway Commissioner Niewiardowski and Administrator Pioch.
- III. Public Comment. None
- IV. Consent Agenda. Trustee Satern requested that the Authorization of Payroll and Bills be removed from the consent and voted on separately given that she had been unable to review the Payroll and Bills. Supervisor Sweeney agreed to Trustee Satern's request and asked for a motion to approve the Supervisor's Report which was the remaining item on the consent agenda. A motion was made by Trustee Ingraffia and seconded by Trustee Niewiardowski. *The motion passed on a 5-0 roll call vote.*
- V. Authorization of Bills and Payroll. Supervisor Sweeney asked for a motion for the Authorization of the Payroll and Bills for the Town Fund, General Assistance, Road District and Sewer. A motion was made by Trustee Niewiardowski and seconded by Trustee Keenley. *The motion passed on a 4-0 roll call vote with Trustee Satern abstaining.*
- VI. Approval of Minutes. A motion was made by Trustee Satern and seconded by Trustee Niewiardowski to approve the December 17, 2019 Regular Board Meeting minutes. *The motion passed on a voice vote.*
- VII. Presentations. None
- VIII. Reports.
 - A. Assessor. Assessor Carosielli submitted a written report
 - B. Clerk. Clerk Busse submitted a written report. Clerk Busse and Administrator Pioch briefly discussed a new state law that requires the Township Clerk to attest to all Township payments.
 - C. Highway Commissioner. Commissioner Niewiardowski submitted a written report.

A motion was made to accept the reports as presented by Trustee Niewiardowski. Trustee Keenley seconded the motion. *The motion passed on a voice vote.*

IX. Correspondence. None

X. Old Business. 2019-2020 Tentative Budget for Town Fund, General Assistance and Sewer.

1. Town Fund. Supervisor Sweeney reviewed the tentative Town Fund budget. He noted that the agency grants have been included in the budget at 2018-2019 levels. The final decision on the agency grant amounts will be made by the Board at a yet to be determined separate Board meeting. The only significant discussion pertained to the Assessor's budget. Supervisor Sweeney proposed a substantial change to the Assessor Carosielli's requested budget of \$238,000. Supervisor Sweeney argued that the Assessor has consistently over budgeted and has for years returned funds to the Township. He argued that an exaggerated, overly cushioned budget makes meaningful financial planning very difficult. He pointed out that this fiscal year it appears the Assessor will be refunding almost \$30,000. He sees no reason for the \$8,500 increase the Assessor is requesting and, instead, is proposing a more "realistic" budget of \$204,000. Assessor Carosielli countered by stating that she needs her requested budget of \$238,000 to properly deal with the 50% increase in tax appeals that she expects to see in the upcoming 2019-2020 triennial reassessment year. To meet the triennial reassessment year demand in an effectively and timely fashion and to provide valuable taxpayer workshops she argued that she would need to spend more on overtime pay and part time workers. Furthermore, she stated that she expects higher communication expenses, such as robo calls and emails, to assist in educating the Township taxpayer. Supervisor Sweeney pointed out that the Board had approved an increase of almost 30% in fiscal year 2017-2018 to make it possible for the Assessor to hire a third full time staff member. It was his understanding that this additional staff hire was justified by arguing that it would dramatically reduce the need for overtime pay and part time hiring. He also noted that even in triennial reassessment years the Assessor has returned substantial funds at the end of the year. Finally, he noted that there are no plans for a major project in the Assessor's office this coming fiscal year and that the current staff has comfortably handled a large digitalization conversion project in the current year. He again stated that he wanted the Township to be working with an honest, realistic budget and that "excessive cushions" are a lazy way to manage taxpayer money. Assessor Carosielli strongly disagreed with Supervisor Sweeney's assessment of her budget. She stated that she has been a good steward of her office's funding and has always returned unneeded funds. She stated that a budget of \$204,000 would not allow her office to properly do its job.

2. General Assistance. Supervisor Sweeney reviewed the General Assistance tentative budget. There was no discussion.

3. Sewer. Supervisor Sweeney reviewed the Sewer tentative budget. There was no discussion.

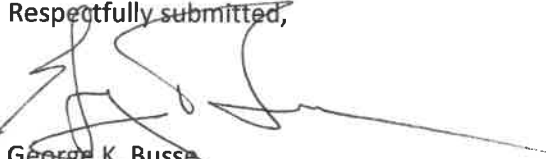
A motion was made by Supervisor Sweeney to approve the Tentative Budget for Town Fund, General Assistance and Sewer with the proposed changes to the Assessor's budget. The motion was seconded by Trustee Ingraffia. *The motion passed on a 4-1 roll call vote.*

- B. 2019-2020 Tentative Budget for the Road District. Highway Commissioner Niewiardowski reviewed the Road District tentative budget for 2019-2020 and noted that the costs for maintaining the Township Hall building were no longer divided between the Town Fund and the Road District. These costs are now completely covered by the Town Fund. The sole Road District Employee's salary is now being fully included in the Road District Budget where he is spending 100% of his time. This salary reallocation adds approximately \$39,000 to the Road District Budget. All building maintenance costs are now in the Town Fund budget. He also pointed out that \$675,000 of the Road Maintenance line item was associated with the Road District's major road upgrade project. This project will be completed in fiscal year 2019-2020. After a short discussion a motion was made by Trustee Ingraffia and seconded by Trustee Niewiardowski to approve the tentative 2019-2020 budget for the Road District. *The motion passed on a 5-0 roll call vote.*

XI. New Business. None

XII. Adjourn. There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Trustee Satern and seconded by Trustee Nierwiardowski. *The motion passed on a voice vote.* The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



George K. Busse
Elk Grove Township Clerk