

**Regular Meeting of the Elk Grove Township Board of Trustees
Elk Grove Village Hall Council Chambers
901 Wellington Ave, Elk Grove Village, IL 60007
January 20, 2020**

Minutes

- I. Call to Order. Supervisor Sweeney called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
- II. Roll Call. Present: Trustee Satern, Niewiardowski, Ingrassia, Keenley and Supervisor Sweeney. In attendance: Highway Commissioner Niewiardowski, Assessor Carosielli and Administrator Ploch.
- III. Public Comment. None
- IV. Consent Agenda. Supervisor Sweeney asked for a motion to approve the authorization for payroll and bills and to approve the Supervisors report consisting of information regarding Social Services, Employment Support, Transportation Services and Financials. A motion for approval was made by Trustee Satern and seconded by Trustee Ingrassia. *The motion passed on a 5-0 roll call vote.*
- V. Discussion and Approval of Minutes. Supervisor Sweeney asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the December 23, 2019 Regular Board Meeting. A motion to approve was made by Trustee Niewiardowski and was seconded by Trustee Satern.
- VI. Presentations. Clerk Busse presented a resolution recognizing the League of Women Voters (LWV) on their 100th anniversary for their years of civic service. Clerk Busse stated that the resolution was requested by the local chapter of the LWV and would be displayed at the chapter's 100 anniversary gala being held on February 14th. Supervisor Sweeney expressed concern with approving the resolution. He stated that while the LWV is a non-partisan organization it nonetheless is a political organization that takes positions on policy issues. He was concerned that by approving the resolution the Township could be 1) creating the perception that it is endorsing the LWV and its policy positions and 2) opening the door to requests from similar political organizations some of whom could have very controversial or questionable agenda's. He argued that the Township Board should remain strictly politically neutral and should stay away from any form of recognition or endorsement of a political organization. Trustee Ingrassia and Trustee Keenley expressed their agreement with Supervisor Sweeney. Trustee Satern, however, did not believe that recognition of the LWV anniversary and civic service equated to an endorsement of the organization's political positions. She felt that the Township Board could recognize the LWV for their 100 years of non-partisan public service without embracing the organizations stance on political issues. Trustee Satern made a motion to

approve the resolution recognizing the LWV. There was no second and the motion fell from the floor without action.

VII. Reports.

A. Assessor. Assessor Carosielli submitted a written report.

B. Clerk. Clerk Busse submitted a written report.

C. Highway Commissioner. Highway Commissioner Niewiardowski submitted a written report and asked Clerk Busse to open the bids for the sale of the Township's 1980 International Harvester truck and accessories. The accessories consisted of a Flink salt spreader, a Flink snow plow, Arrow Dynamic Mars lights, and a 1999 Audiomax Radion/weather package. The only bid received was from Paragon Mechanical in Arlington Heights for the sum of \$3,280. The bid was submitted on time and contained the required deposit check. Highway Commissioner Niewiardowski stated that the bid appeared to meet all of the bid requirements and would be forwarded to the Township attorney for final review before he approved it.

D. Supervisor. Supervisor Sweeney informed the Board that the completion date for the new Township Hall has been moved back to February 14th due largely to a delay in the delivery of three HVAC systems. He also reported that several issues have arisen that will result in approximately \$300,000 in additional costs. Existing doors and ceiling tiles are in poorer condition than initially thought and will need to be replaced. Additional wiring for data lines and the fire alarm system have been determined necessary. Finally, after much discussion, it has been decided to replace the old, low efficiency boilers with new high efficiency ones.

IX. Correspondence. None

X. Old Business. None

XI. New Business.

A. 2020-2021 Tentative Budget for Town Fund, General Assistance and Sewer. Supervisor Sweeney reviewed the Tentative Budget for the Town Fund, General Assistance and Sewer with the Board. There were no issues with the General Assistance or Sewer budgets but issues arose with the Assessors budget where Supervisor Sweeney proposed a reduction in funding from the \$235,600 requested by the Assessor to \$214,631. Assessor Carosielli stated that the Supervisor's proposed changes to her budget were unacceptable and unworkable. She asked for time to state the case for her original budget request to which Supervisor Sweeney agreed. Assessor Carosielli pointed out that the number of residents reaching out to her office for help with tax appeals, exemptions, corrections, etc. was consistently growing as property taxes continue to

sky rocket. She also noted that County Assessor's office was unpredictable in regards to when they announced information, mailed out bills or established appeal dates. Assessor Carosielli argued that to meet the ever increasing demand, to remain flexible in the face of the County's unpredictability and to provide the quality of service that Township residents deserve she needed a realistic fully funded budget and not a skeleton budget in order to properly execute her responsibilities. Assessor Carosielli passed out an analysis of her budget to each of the Board members. She preceded to talk through the analysis addressing each line item and stating what she believed was the absolute minimum that could be budgeted for each item. Ultimately, she offered up \$3,650 in budget cuts from equipment maintenance, travel, training, office supplies and Sidwell. She adamantly opposed any cuts in staff expenses. She argued that she needed three full time employees and reasonable additional funding for overtime and/or part time assistance or customer service would be dramatically impact. She defined reasonable overtime and/or part-time funding as \$17,000.

Supervisor Sweeney focused on the staffing line items where the Assessor's proposed budget expenditures would be rising from \$176,000 in-total in 2019-2020 to \$202,000 in-total for 2020-2021. He pointed out that during the 2017-2018 budget process the Board was told by the Assessor that if she was given a third full time employee the need for part-time assistance and overtime would be drastically reduced or eliminated going forward. Instead, he argued that even though the Assessor was given three full time employees her budget now, only two years later, included the \$17,000 for overtime or part-time assistance. He also reminded the Board that the argument for a third full time employee included the promise that the third person would be able to cover vacation and out of office time for the other two employees, part-time help would rarely be needed. Yet during this last year part-time help was brought in on several occasions to cover full time employee vacation and out of office time. Supervisor Sweeney argued that better personnel management was needed and not more money.

A Board discussion followed. Trustee Satern stated she clearly remembered the assertion that the hiring of the third full time employee would greatly reduce the need for part-time assistance but she also could see that the demand for Assessor services has been climbing consistently. She asked if a compromise could be reached. Assessor Carosielli noted that she has offered to cut \$3650 from her original budget request. Trustee Ingraffia stated that it was an insignificant amount and that it did not deal with the crux of the budget spending issue which is staffing costs. After further discussion Supervisor Sweeney made a motion to approve the Tentative 2020-2021 Town Fund, General Assistance and Sewer Budget as amended by his proposal. The motion was seconded by Trustee Ingraffia. *The motion passed on a 3-2 roll call vote.* However, due to Township policy requiring a second reading if an item is not passed by a super majority, the item will be added to the February Regular Board Meeting agenda for a final vote.

B. 2020-2021 Tentative Budget for Road District. Supervisor Sweeney reviewed the Tentative 2020-2021 Road District Budget with the Board. After a short discussion a motion was made by Trustee Ingraffia to approve the budget. The motion was seconded by Trustee Satern and *passed on a 5-0 roll call vote.*

C. Purchase of New Senior – Disabled Buses. Supervisor Sweeney reminded the Board that it had included \$80,000 in the 2019-2020 budget for the purchase of a new senior-disabled bus. He also pointed out that the buses have a projected 7-year usage life and that he was trying to get the Township's buses on to a replacement cycle where an old bus would be sold and a new or refurbished bus would be purchased every 2-3 years. He posited that establishing such a replacement cycle would keep the Township's fleet of buses in better condition and would allow for more efficient financial planning. Supervisor Sweeney stated that to get the buses properly slotted into this replacement cycle in addition to purchasing a new bus this fiscal year he would like the Board to consider approving the purchase of two used buses. These used buses would have shorter usage lives but they would fit nicely into the replacement cycle that he is trying to put into place. Stevens Auto in Palatine has a 2009 14 passenger bus with a completely rebuilt engine for sale for \$16,000. Wheeling Township also has a 2010 14 passenger bus with 90,000 miles for sale for around \$7000. The purchase of these three buses along with the sale or trade in of the Townships oldest bus would, in Supervisor Sweeney's opinion, afford the Township the benefit of a full fleet of buses (with backup) and would allow for a very workable and cost efficient replacement cycle. Trustee Niewiardowski was open to considering the plan but wanted to have the two used buses inspected by a qualified mechanic before any further discussion. He also asked if the purchase of the two used buses would make the acquisition of the new bus unnecessary. Supervisor Sweeney stated that the purchase of the new bus was his top priority and if the board was going to cut back on any part of his three bus proposal he would want the cutback to be one or both of the used buses. After further discussion, Supervisor Sweeney agreed to table the issue until the next regular board meeting when he would report back to the Board with the results of the used bus inspections.

XII. Adjourn. There being no further business Supervisor Sweeney asked for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Trustee Satern and seconded by Trustee Niewiardowski. The motion passed on a voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



George Busse, Clerk