

Official Proceedings of the Washington Township Board of Trustees
March 4, 2024
Washington Township Center
30200 Town Center Road, Beecher, IL

Supervisor Stanula called the meeting to order at **7:00 p.m.** to pay bills for the month of **February** and transact any other business that may come before the Board of Trustees. The meeting agenda and guest sign-in sheet are attached. Stanula led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call:

Present: Supervisor Mike Stanula **Trustees:** George Obradovich, Teresa Peterson, Mark Herlitz, Tracy Heldt **Absent:** None

Other Officials present:

Clerk Joe Burgess, Highway Commissioner Mike Smith and Assessor Pat Peters

Approval of the Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes Dated February 5, 2024:

Supervisor Stanula asked if there were any corrections or additions to the February 5, 2024, Board meeting minutes as presented. Being none, he asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

Motion:

Trustee Herlitz made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 5, 2024, Board meeting as presented. Trustee Obradovich seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion and the motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Public Commentary: None

Reports:

1. **Road Commissioner** - Commissioner Smith reviewed his written report (attached). There was no discussion regarding his report.
2. **Assessor** - Assessor Peters reported that the county has scheduled their annual "tax exemption" event for May 29 at the Washington Township Center from 10 am to 2 pm. Peters also reported that the township won all four property tax appeal cases that were heard by the Will County Supervisor of Assessments.
3. **Clerk** - A Senior Movie Night is scheduled for March 26 at 6:30 pm at the township center. Early Voting for the 2024 Primary Election started today. Will County is using all new voting equipment for this election, and it is working well. Burgess reported that First Community Bank and Trust has offered to pay for approximately half of the new mid-year newsletter that will be sent out in late May or early June. The bank will receive a half page ad in the newsletter for their \$650 sponsorship.
4. **Supervisor's Report** - Supervisor Stanula reported that a small roof leak over the meeting room has been repaired. The contractor found an open seal and the work was covered under warranty.

Stanula has opened corporate charge accounts with Menards and Grainger. He is going to purchase a new refrigerator for the conference room from Menards and order touchless bathroom fixtures from Grainger. The touchless fixtures are part of the reimbursement program received from Will County's American Rescue Act grant that was awarded to the township last year.

5. Trustees Report – No report.
6. Transportation Report – The Washington Township Dial-a-Ride program provided 72 trips for residents in February.
7. General Assistance Report - There were no new cases for General Assistance in February.
8. Community Building – No report.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Consideration and Approval of Revised Washington Township Employee Handbook – The handbook will be sent to the township's new legal counsel for review.
2. Community Calendar Application – Clerk Burgess will contact CLR Digital Solutions to get more information on how soon the application will be ready for use.
3. Consideration and Approval of Updated Public Commentary Policy – Per the township's legal counsel's recommendation, Item # 3 on the policy was updated to read "Each person addressing the Board will be limited to 5 minutes. Public commentary on any single agenda item or topic shall be limited to a total 25 minutes. All public commentary at any meeting shall not exceed 60 minutes." The Board agreed to the policy change.

Motion:

Trustee Obradovich made a motion to approve the revised Washington Township Public Commentary Policy dated 3/4/2024 as presented. Trustee Peterson seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion and the motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

4. Consideration and Approval of Updated Expense & Travel Reimbursement Policy – As per the February meeting recommendation, the policy was updated to include that "Spending limits for this policy are set forth as per the current "Washington Township Purchasing and Bid Policy". No other changes were made, and the Supervisor asked for a motion to approve the policy.

Motion:

Trustee Herlitz made a motion to approve the Washington Township Expense and Travel Reimbursement Policy dated 3/4/2024 as presented. Trustee Heldt seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion and the motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

5. Consideration of Beecher Fire District Mental Health Program – Fire Chief Joe Falaschetti & Lieutenant Tim McGannon addressed the Board. Falaschetti explained that the department had responded to over 170 health related calls in 2023 including 23 calls for “battery”, 16 drug related, 3 suicides, 2 for gunshots and over 100 for other psychiatric health issues. He said the number of calls is “alarming” for our population and the department’s goal is to provide residents better resources to help them through their crisis situations. The primary purpose of the proposed mental health program is to train the department to better recognize and assist with these types of situations and provide immediate resources (Thriveworks) for them. Utilizing Thriveworks, residents can get help within hours rather than days or weeks and it is covered by nearly all insurance companies. Local residents that have no insurance or who aren’t completely covered can get their bills partially or completely paid through this program. Falaschetti said because the township has so many programs for residents and the township’s area mirrors nearly all of the fire district’s area, they believe the mental health program would be best suited if the township and the fire district became co-sponsors of the program. He suggested an amount of \$10,000 would be a good start to fund the program. Trustee Heldt asked if there were any “holes” in the system and Falaschetti said there is a meeting scheduled with Thriveworks on Wednesday, March 6 to finalize details and get all their questions answered. He invited any Board member to attend. The pilot program was developed by the Joliet Fire Department and has shown very positive results in lowering the number of psychiatric calls, reducing suicides and providing their residents real options for their needs. The program has been so successful that Will County is working on funding to roll out the program to the entire county within the next two years.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Consideration and Approval of Pending Zoning Applications – Supervisor Stanula reported that a 39-acre solar farm is being planned on property located south of Indiana Avenue and west of Western Avenue. Stanula said the state will not allow local authorities to interfere with renewable energy projects.
2. Consideration to Open the Closed Executive Session Minutes Dated March 23, 2010 – See agenda item #6.
3. Consideration to Open the Closed Executive Session Minutes Dated January 7, 2013 – See agenda item #6.
4. Consideration to Open the Closed Executive Session Minutes Dated July 1, 2013 – See agenda item #6.
5. Consideration to Open the Closed Executive Session Minutes Dated February 3, 2014 – See agenda item #6.
6. Consideration to Open the Closed Executive Session Minutes Dated January 4, 2016 - The Board determined that all the closed minutes as listed should remain closed and only one motion be made that would include all the minutes under consideration.

MOTION:

Trustee Herlitz made a motion that the Closed Session minutes dated March 23, 2010, January 7, 2013, July 1, 2013, February 3, 2014, and January 4, 2016, remain closed to the public. Trustee Heldt seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion and the motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

7. Consideration and Approval of Fiscal Year 2024-25 Board Meeting Dates – The Board reviewed the meeting dates proposed (attached) for fiscal year 2024-2025 and there were no changes.

MOTION:

Trustee Obradovich made a motion to approve the Washington Township 2024-25 meeting date schedule as presented. Trustee Peterson seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion and the motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

8. Consideration and Approval of the 2024 Annual Town Meeting Agenda – The Board reviewed the 2024 Annual Town Meeting agenda (attached). There were no requests from the public to update the Town Meeting agenda prior to the March 1 deadline.

MOTION:

Trustee Peterson made a motion to approve the 2024 Annual Town Meeting Agenda as presented. Trustee Heldt seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion and the motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

9. Consideration and Approval of 2024-25 Town Budget Ordinance #24-01 – Clerk Burgess will begin preparing the preliminary draft of the 2024-25 Town Account budget and will present it to the Board at the next Board meeting.
10. Consideration and Approval of 2024-25 Road & Bridge Budget Ordinance #24-02 – Commissioner Mike Smith will begin preparing the preliminary draft of the 2024-25 Road & Bridge budget.
11. Consideration for Washington Township Electrical Aggregation Renewal – The township's 3-year electrical aggregation agreement with Dynegy Energy Services is up for renewal in May. According to information provided by energy broker Nania Energy, approximately 65% of township residents are participating in the program and the current energy bid is 3% lower than ComEd pricing. If the agreement is approved, residents will once again have the option to "Opt-out" of the program and chose their own energy provider. Supervisor Stanula is waiting for the updated renewal agreement and recommended that the Board reviews it at the next meeting.

PAYMENT OF BILLS:

General Assistance

The township's accountant has requested that two payments be made to transfer funds to the Community Building Fund and Insurance Fund. These transfers are necessary due to how Will County deposits funds into the township's accounts.

MOTION:

Trustee Herlitz made a motion to approve payment from the General Assistance Account for the month of **February** totaling **\$10,523.72**. Trustee Peterson seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion and the motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Town Account (including Transportation Fund)

The board reviewed the **February** bills as reviewed by the Supervisor and presented by the Clerk. There were no questions regarding the bills.

MOTION:

Trustee Heldt made a motion to approve payment of all applicable payroll, bills, debits, and appropriate transfers from the Town Account for the month of **February** totaling **\$10,001.45**. Trustee Herlitz seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion and the motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Road & Bridge Bills

The board reviewed the Road District's **February** bills as prepared by Commissioner Mike Smith and presented by the Clerk.

MOTION:

Trustee Peterson made a motion to authorize payment of all applicable payroll, bills, and appropriate transfers or debits from the Road & Bridge Account for the month of **February** totaling **\$31,213.02**. Trustee Heldt seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion and the motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Upcoming Seminars and Meetings

- **March 25, 2024** - Monthly Board Meeting @ 7 pm at the Washington Township Center

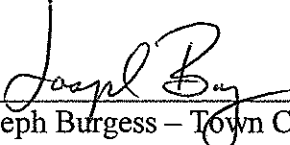
Announcements:

- **March 26** – Senior Movie Night at 6:30 at the Washington Township Center

Adjournment:

Being no additional business to discuss, Trustee Herlitz made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Heldt seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion and the motion was unanimously approved by voice vote. The Board Meeting adjourned at **7:44 pm**.

Respectfully submitted,



Joseph Burgess – Town Clerk

Approved by Board of Trustees: 3/25/2024

Washington Township

Highway Department

30200 Town Center Dr.

Beecher, Illinois 60401

708- 946-6459 Fax 708-946-6459

Michael Smith Highway Commissioner

1. Getting a jump on ditch cleanings and culvert replacements.
2. Working on tree removal and brush clean up.
3. Sign detail. Replacing/straightening signs.
4. As soon as the threat of inclement weather is gone, we will begin hauling stone and chips in preparation for the season.
5. Fs won the fuel bid. We are locked in at \$3.29 for unleaded and \$3.58 for diesel.

Michael Smith

Highway Commissioner

Washington Township Public Commentary Policy
Approved 3/4/2024

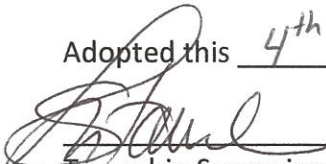
Public Act 96-1473 subsection 2.06(g) states; "Any person shall be permitted an opportunity to address public officials under the rules established and recorded by the public body".

PURPOSE: This policy outlines the Washington Township rules pertaining to "Public Commentary" at any Washington Township open meeting including; ALL board meetings, committee meetings, planning & zoning meetings, workshop meetings or other meetings which may be required.

1. Public Commentary will be allowed only at the allotted time as designated on the meeting agenda. Members of the audience should state their comment or question during public commentary to be noted for the record. However, if appropriate, the Chairman may allow other commentary or questions during the meeting. Appropriate does NOT include interruption or disruption during board member presentation of agenda items or during bid opening or during board member discussion.
2. Any person wishing to address the board MUST sign in on the meeting "Sign In" sheet and on the "Request for Public Commentary" form. Public comments will be presented in the order as they appear on the "Request for Public Commentary" form. No person signing in under an "alias" will be recognized.
3. Each person addressing the Board will be limited to 5 minutes. Public commentary on any single agenda item or topic shall be limited to a total 25 minutes. All public commentary at any meeting shall not exceed 60 minutes.
4. Abusive behavior and profanity will not be allowed. Anyone engaging in such behavior may forfeit their right to speak and may be asked to leave.
5. Continued disruption of meetings that impedes this board from conducting government business as outlined on the agenda will also not be tolerated. Anyone engaging in this behavior may also be asked to leave.

Please note that "public officials" are not required to engage in debate, be made available for abusive, threatening or harassing behavior or required to provide immediate answers to questions raised by the public.

Adopted this 4th day of MARCH, 2024.



Township Supervisor



Attest - Township Clerk (Seal)



**Washington Township
Board of Trustees
Meeting Schedule 2024 - 2025**

Location

**Washington Township Center
30200 Town Center Road
Beecher, IL 60401**

All meetings start at 7:00 PM unless indicated otherwise.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Weekday</u>
May 6, 2024	Monday
June 3, 2024	Monday
July 1, 2024	Monday
August 5, 2024	Monday
September 4, 2024	Wednesday
October 7, 2024	Monday
November 4, 2024	Monday
December 2, 2024	Monday
January 6, 2025	Monday
February 3, 2025	Monday
March 3, 2025	Monday
March 24, 2025	Monday

Any person requiring special accommodations should notify Supervisor Mike Stanula at (708) 946-2026, prior to the meeting date to make necessary arrangements.

Approved: 3/4/24 - Joe Burgess - Clerk

**Washington Township
2024 Annual Town Meeting
April 9, 2024 – 7:00 PM
Agenda**

1. Call to Order – (Clerk)
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Welcome
4. Election of Meeting Moderator
5. Clerk Administers “Oath of Moderator” to Moderator
6. Approval of Minutes from 2023 Annual Town Meeting
7. Clerk presents Supervisor’s Annual Financial Statements
 - Consolidated Funds
 - Town Account
 - Insurance Fund
 - General Assistance
 - Road & Bridge
 - Joint Bridge
 - Community Building
8. Set Hour for 2025 Annual Town Meeting
9. Consider Motion to Pay Meeting Moderator
10. Motion to Adjourn

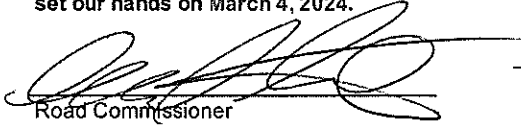
**Approved Claims - Board of Township Trustees
Road & Bridge Account**

State of Illinois)
Will County) ss.
Washington Township)

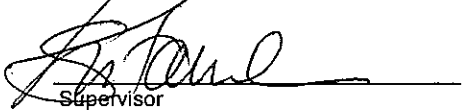
We the undersigned, comprising the Board of Trustees of
Washington Township, having duly met at the Clerks office on March 4, 2024, for the
purpose of auditing the Road & Bridge account, do hereby certify that the following claims or demands
against said township were presented, and examined, were allowed at said meeting, to wit:

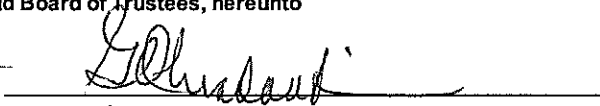
Claim #	Date	To Whom Allowed	Ck #	Nature of Claim	Amount
9006	2/8	Village of Beecher	9475	Equipment Fuel - 1/1/23 to 1/31/23 - Inv # 916	\$ 4,112.56
9007	2/8	Sluiter Auto Electric	9476	Parts - Inv # 520310	\$ 225.00
9008	2/8	RP Lumber	9477	Supplies - Inv # 1999231 / 1845063 / 1986969	\$ 48.54
9009	2/8	ComEd	9478	Utilities - Acct #1659047007 - Bill date - 1/31/24	\$ 246.60
9010	2/8	Gallagher Materials Corp.	9479	Processed RAP & UPM - Inv # 29180 / 32457	\$ 1,333.24
9011	2/13	M&K Truck Center	9480	Parts - Inv # 190065SC	\$ 71.96
9012	2/13	Great Lakes Distributing	9481	Wash bay parts - Inv # 227566	\$ 226.95
9013	2/13	Tifco Industries	9482	Mirror - Inv # 71947342	\$ 123.90
9014	2/13	Cintas Uniforms	9483	VOID	\$ -
9015	2/13	Surf Air Wireless	9484	Internet service - Acct # 93011007437 - Bill date 2/1/24	\$ 64.95
9016	2/13	AT&T	9485	Phone - Acct # 7089466459-619-2 Inv # 7089466459-02	\$ 286.40
9017	2/16	February Payroll - QuickBooks	Misc	Payroll, IMRF & other government payroll liabilities	\$ 24,472.92
Total disbursements					\$ 31,213.02

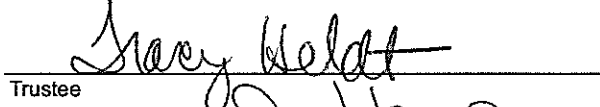
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we, the members of said Board of Trustees, hereunto
set our hands on March 4, 2024.


Road Commissioner


Township Clerk


Supervisor


Trustee


Trustee


Trustee


Trustee


Approved Claims - Board of Township Trustees
Town Account

State of Illinois)
Will County) ss.
Washington Township)

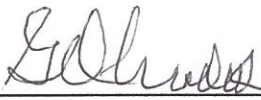
We the undersigned, comprising the Board of Trustees of Washington Township, having duly met at the Township office on **March 4, 2024**, for the purpose of auditing Town accounts, do hereby certify that the following claims or demands against said township were presented, and examined, were allowed at said meeting, to wit:

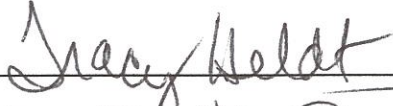
Claim #	Date	To Whom Allowed	CK	Nature of Claim	Amount
6407	2/8	Village of Beecher	9142	Bus fuel - 12/1/23 to 12/31/23 - Inv # 917	\$ 111.87
6408	2/8	ComEd	9143	Electric bill - Acct # 4341116018 - Bill date 1/31/24	\$ 335.62
6409	2/8	Tammy Hitzelburger	9144	Mileage reimbursement (Riverside & Joliet)	\$ 90.45
6410	2/13	Riverside Workforce Medical	9145	Drug screen (Fuhmann) - Inv # 0119675	\$ 78.00
6411	2/13	Walt's Foods	9146	VOID	\$ -
6412	2/13	NICOR	9147	Utilities gas - #55877029193 - Bill date - 1/9/24	\$ 306.04
6413	2/15	Intuit Software	EFT	ACH payroll charges	\$ 77.76
6414	2/16	February Payroll - QuickBooks	Debit	ALL payroll, IMRF & other government payroll liabilities	\$ 9,001.71
TOTAL ALL DISBURSEMENTS					\$10,001.45


IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we, the members of said Board of Trustees, hereunto set our hands on **March 4, 2024**.


Township Supervisor


Township Clerk


Trustee


Trustee


Trustee


Trustee

**Approved Claims - Board of Township Trustees
General Assistance Account**

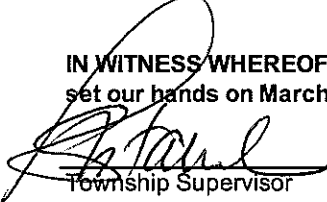
State of Illinois)
Will County) ss.
Washington Township)


We the undersigned, comprising the Board of Trustees of Washington Township, having duly met at the Township office on March 4, 2024 for the purpose of auditing the General Assistance account, do hereby certify that the following claims or demands against said township were presented, and examined, were allowed at said meeting, to wit:

Claim #	Date	Vendor / CASE NUMBER	CK	Nature of Claim (EA or GA)	Amount
	2/1	Community Building Fund	1299	Property Tax Transfer "true-ups" - per Accountant	\$1,506.41
	2/1	Washington Township Insurance Fund	1300	Property Tax Transfer "true-ups" - per Accountant	\$9,017.31
TOTAL ALL DISBURSEMENTS					#####

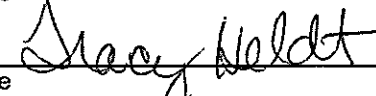
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we, the members of said Board of Trustees, hereunto set our hands on March 4, 2024.

#10523.72

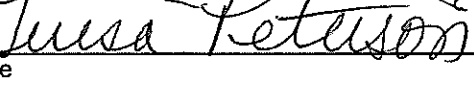

Township Supervisor


Trustee


Township Clerk


Trustee


Trustee


Trustee

**Washington Township Board Meeting
March 4, 2024 - 7:00 pm
Meeting Agenda**

Call to Order / Roll Call

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Board Meeting Minutes Dated February 5, 2024

Public Commentary

Reports

1. Road Commissioner
2. Assessor
3. Clerk
4. Supervisor's Report
5. Trustee's Report
6. Transportation Report
7. General Assistance Report

Old Business

1. Consideration and Approval of Revised Washington Township Employee Handbook
2. Community Calendar Application
3. Consideration and Approval of Updated Public Commentary Policy
4. Consideration and Approval of Updated Expense & Travel Reimbursement Policy
5. Consideration of Beecher Fire District Mental Health Program

New Business

1. Consideration and Approval of Pending Zoning Applications
2. Consideration to Open the Closed Executive Session Minutes Dated **March 23, 2010**
3. Consideration to Open the Closed Executive Session Minutes Dated **January 7, 2013**
4. Consideration to Open the Closed Executive Session Minutes Dated **July 1, 2013**
5. Consideration to Open the Closed Executive Session Minutes Dated **February 3, 2014**
6. Consideration to Open the Closed Executive Session Minutes Dated **January 4, 2016**
7. Consideration and Approval of Fiscal Year 2024-25 Board Meeting Dates
8. Consideration and Approval of the 2024 Annual Town Meeting Agenda (April 9)
9. Consideration and Approval of the 2024-2025 Town Budget (Approve in May)
10. Consideration and Approval of the 2024-2025 Road District Budget (Approve in May)
11. Consideration for Washington Township Electrical Aggregation Renewal

Payment of Bills

Town Acct, Road District, General Assistance (as required)

Upcoming Seminars and Meetings

- **March 25, 2024** – Monthly Board Meeting @ 7 pm

Announcements

- None

Adjournment

Any disabled person requiring special accommodations should notify Supervisor Mike Stanula *prior* to the meeting date to make necessary arrangements. Supervisor Stanula may be reached at 708-946-2026.

The Washington Township Public Commentary Policy will be followed and is printed on back of the agenda.

A CLOSED (EXECUTIVE) SESSION MAY BE HELD AT ANY POINT DURING THE MEETING.