

Official Proceedings of the Washington Township Board of Trustees
October 22, 2015
Washington Township Center
30200 Town Center Road, Beecher, IL

Supervisor Mike Stanula called the Special Board meeting to order at **7:01 p.m.** to discuss the Washington Township transportation service. The meeting agenda and a guest sign-in sheet are attached. Supervisor Stanula led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call:

Present: Supervisor Mike Stanula **Trustees:** Paul Goldrick, Mike Mach, Mark Herlitz, Ted Deery

Absent: None

Other Officials present: Clerk Joe Burgess

Public Commentary: None

BUSINESS ITEM:

- Washington Township Transportation Service – Supervisor Stanula told the Board that the newsletter had been mailed and it included information regarding the township losing the AOA transportation grant. The Fall Senior Breakfast is this Saturday and his goal for the meeting was for the board to consider the future of the Dial-a-Ride service and walk away with a unified statement as he discusses this issue at the breakfast and prepares for any possible questions.

Stanula is meeting with Will Ride representatives and Crete Township officials on Nov. 3 in Crete to learn about the Will Ride program. He has already requested and received some information including a blank contract that the township will need to review and then forward to attorney Tom Knuth. Will Ride is requesting that the township issues an Id card to all of our existing riders because an Id is required to use the Will Ride system. The township will also be responsible for all costs associated with the issuing the cards. Stanula stated that Will Ride did not include any cost details with the information he requested.

Stanula has also learned that Crete Township budgeted \$65,000 for transportation last year and only spent \$50,000. The total cost for Washington Township to run the program was \$172,000 over the last four quarters with an average cost per ride of \$23.20. Stanula said that if the township were to try and maintain the Dial-a-ride service for just Washington Township residents and could still average \$23 per ride, it would cost more than \$55,000 to keep the program. He pointed out that this number was predicated on a cost generated by the current ridership base, however scaling down the service would not guarantee that the cost per ride would remain the same and it could possibly rise. A scaled down system would require fewer buses and fewer employees but would still need a full time scheduler and many operating costs would not necessarily drop and they would no longer be split among other townships.

The board reviewed the current office staff and agreed that the township needs to maintain the current business hours and staff the office with one person five days a week. However, the responsibilities of that person would change dramatically if all transportation services were to shift to Will Ride.

The question of the township running its "own" transportation system was discussed and if making changes to the current program could reduce costs. Items considered in this discussion included employee wages, ridership limits, raising the suggested donation, charging for the service and limiting the service area that would be covered. No decisions were made but reducing expenses may be the only possibility to keep the service viable. It was also suggested that the township could keep the service and possibly reduce costs by operating it as a true "senior only transportation service". However, some board members asked what would happen to the riders who are not seniors but depend on the service. It was also pointed out that if the township were to only keep one bus and run it 5-days a week, it would still require one driver and scheduler at a cost of approximately \$40,000 per year and many other operational costs would still need to be covered. At the township's current ridership, one bus would have to make nine trips per day and some questioned if one bus could handle that volume based on the current size of the service area.

Trustee Deery said the board needs to know the cost of the Will Ride system in order to make the right decision and questioned how Will Ride could match the current service levels the township provides because of the distance Will Ride would have to travel every day just to get to Washington Township.

Stanula explained that the current budget allows for the program to run through the end of March 2016, but without the AOA grant, the township would have to spend an additional \$4000 per month over the budget to maintain the program. Stanula recommended that the township continue to run the Dial-a-Ride service "as is" until December 31 of this year. Once the board receives additional information from Will Ride including costs, the Board will be able to make an informed and fiscally sound decision on the future of transportation. There were no objections to Stanula's recommendation.

Upcoming Seminars and Meetings:

- November 2, 2015 – Washington Township Board Meeting – 7:00 PM

Adjournment:

Being no other business or discussion, Trustee Mach made a motion to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Trustee Herlitz, and after being unanimously approved by voice vote, the Board Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Joseph Burgess – Town Clerk

Approved by Board of Trustees: 11/5/2015

Guest Sign-in Sheet

[illegible]