

Official Proceedings of the Washington Township Board of Trustees
May 6, 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 April 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:** Teresa Peterson, Mark Herlitz, Tracy Heldt

Absent: George Obradovich

Other Officials present:

Clerk Joe Burgess and Highway Commissioner Mike Smith

Invited Guest

Chris Russell from CLR Solutions (Phone application vendor)

Approval of the Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes Dated March 25, 2024:

Supervisor Stanula asked if there were any corrections or additions to the March 25, 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 March 25, 2024, Board meeting as presented. Trustee Peterson 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 was not in attendance but left the following written report. *"I will not be attending the Board meeting. The tax bills arrived in the mailbox today. I have been able to field all the complaints and questions through today. So far so good. They just want to be heard and wanted explanations. I have met with 34 taxpayers and assisted with taxpayer's exemptions. I started receiving taxpayer's questions last Wednesday due to Will County Treasurer new automated text to receive the tax bill and able to see the bill online at the Will County Treasurer site. I am expecting to be back in the office tomorrow with more exemption appointment's because they will not be available during our township exemption day on May 29th. Have a great meeting."*
3. **Clerk** – Clerk Burgess reported that the fall newsletter was mailed in late April at a total cost of \$3,309.90. The township received a total of \$1025 in advertising from participating vendors.

4. Supervisor's Report - Supervisor Stanula reported the Household Waste and Electronics Recycling Event was taking place this Saturday (May 11) from 8 am – 3 pm. The event is presented by Will County Green, and they will begin setting up on Friday, May 10.

The township accountant discovered a payroll error at the end of the 2023-24 fiscal year. Highway Commissioner Mike Smith's contributions to his insurance plan were being taxed when they should have been withdrawn pretax. The error also affected Road District employee Alan Luchene. Calculations were made and Luchene was refunded \$2,200 from the Road District and Smith received \$7,910, which was split between the Town and Road District accounts. The error occurred over 3 years and has since been corrected. The Board will approve these payments under "Payment of Bills".

Supervisor Stanula read an article in the recent edition of "*The Vedette*" reporting how the proposed new solar farm being developed by Turning Point Energy and located at west Indiana Ave and south Western Avenue in Washington Township, would create jobs, increase tax revenue and improve the soils in the area. The article also noted that the Village of Beecher submitted a letter of "non-objection" to the Will County Land Use Department. The village had the right to address the issue because the solar farm is located within 1.5 miles of the village limits. Stanula did not agree with the article and discussed a letter the Board sent to the county in 2021 opposing solar farms in the area until landscaping, grass cutting, noise and other items were properly addressed and enforced. An existing solar farm in Washington Township had to be threatened in order for them to finish the landscaping and cut the grass on a regular basis.

Stanula said Turning Point is requesting a variance to only mow the property once a year versus the 5 times currently required. They are also requesting that mowing only be required when the grass reaches 36" tall versus the current requirement of 13". The Board objected to the variance requests and Stanula will prepare a letter and forward it to Will County Land Use immediately. A hearing regarding the special zoning requests is scheduled for tomorrow, May 7 in Joliet.

Stanula noted the State of Illinois has made it nearly impossible to stop solar farms from being built and many objections are ignored. The best alternative is to make sure the solar farms are being well maintained and don't become eye sores in the areas where they are located.

5. Trustees Report – No report.
6. Transportation Report – The Washington Township Dial-A-Ride service provided 16 trips in April.
7. General Assistance Report - There were no new cases for General Assistance in April.
8. Community Building – The Board is going to contact the 4th of July Commission regarding the placement of porta-johns during the annual celebration. The portable toilets are put on the Community Building's property, and it kills the grass every year. They are going to request that this area is either converted to stone or paved to prevent this from occurring in the future.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Consideration and Approval of Revised Washington Township Employee Handbook – The handbook is currently being reviewed by the township’s legal counsel.
2. Community Calendar Application – Chris Russell presented a demonstration of the current version of the Community Calendar phone application to the Board. The application is easy to navigate and pulls many community events from local websites. The app allows for local entities to request an event be added to the calendar, however, all events must be approved by the township representative overseeing the app. Items that the Board requested included changing the background color of the app, keeping all school activities off the main page and giving the school a separate menu, and adding a “Terms of Condition” disclaimer that must be accepted by applicants before submitting an event. Currently the Board is suggesting that events must be true “community” events that would be suitable for all ages to attend as well as senior or youth events. Private parties, bar events (over 21 crowds), religious services, and events not held in Washington Township would be prohibited. The application could be live by June 1st.
3. Consideration & Approval of Thriveworks Participation Contract (Beecher Fire District) – The township’s attorney reviewed the Thriveworks contract and made some recommendations that included adding verbiage to address HIPPA and FOIA requirements as well as confidentiality. Thriveworks was contacted and agreed to the updates. TOIRMA was then contacted regarding the insurance requirements and their attorney also requested HIPPA and confidentiality clauses and are requiring that the township is named as an “additional insured” in the contract. Thriveworks was unable to address this issue prior to tonight’s meeting and the Board will not act until the insurance issue is addressed and an updated agreement is sent to the Board.
4. Consideration and Approval of 2024-25 Town Budget Ordinance #24-01 – The Board reviewed the tentative budget and \$1000 was added to cover the cost of the phone application and \$25,000 was added to Capital Outlay to potentially replace the current road sign to an electronic sign board. Total expenditures for all accounts are **\$347,786.00**.

MOTION:

Trustee Herlitz made a motion to **tentatively** approve the 2024-25 Town Budget Ordinance #24-01 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 and Approval of 2024-25 Road & Bridge Budget Ordinance #24-02 – Commissioner Smith reviewed his proposed budget. Smith explained that like last year, he puts additional spending in the budget in case the district has the opportunity to complete more work than is scheduled. The budget includes adding a second full-time employee (Keaton Luchene) and replacing the box on the 1997 Mack “R” model truck. Smith said the truck is still in very good condition and just needs a new dump box. The expenditures for all accounts are **\$1,081,900**.

MOTION:

Trustee Heldt made a motion to **tentatively** approve the 2024-25 Road & Bridge Budget Ordinance #24-02 as presented. Trustee Peterson seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion and the motion was **unanimously approved by voice vote**.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. *Consideration and Approval of Pending Zoning Applications* – The zoning requests were addressed during the Supervisor’s report.
2. *Consideration and Approval Beecher 4th of July Commission Sponsorship* - The Beecher 4th of July Commission has sent their annual letter asking for sponsorships for the annual 4th of July Celebration at Fireman’s Park. The township approved a \$1500 sponsorship last year.

MOTION:

Trustee Heldt made a motion to approve a **\$1,500** sponsorship to the Beecher 4th of July Commission. Trustee Herlitz seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion and the motion was **unanimously approved by voice vote**.

3. *Consideration and Approval of Road & Bridge Resolution 2024-01, “A Resolution Establishing the Washington Township Highway Department Authority”* – The township’s salt vendor is requiring a document authorizing Highway Commissioner Mike Smith to purchase salt. Our attorney was contacted and indicated Illinois Township Code gives the commissioner authority and created this resolution to satisfy the requirement.

MOTION:

Trustee Heldt made a motion to approve *Road & Bridge Resolution 2024-01, “A Resolution Establishing the Washington Township Highway Department Authority”*. Trustee Herlitz seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion and the motion was **unanimously approved by voice vote**.

4. *Set Time and Date for 2024 Town and Road District Budget Hearings* – Clerk Burgess recommended holding the Road & Bridge Budget Hearing on June 3 at 6:30 pm and holding the Town Budget Hearing on June 3 at 6:45 pm.

MOTION:

Trustee Peterson made a motion to schedule the Road & Bridge Budget Hearing on June 3 at 6:30 pm and to schedule the Town Budget Hearing on June 3 at 6:45 pm. Trustee Heldt seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion and the motion was **unanimously approved by voice vote**.

PAYMENT OF BILLS:

Road & Bridge Bills

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

MOTION:

Trustee Heldt 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 **April** totaling **\$58,207.57**. Trustee Herlitz 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 **April** bills as reviewed by the Supervisor and presented by the Clerk. There were no questions regarding the bills.

MOTION:

Trustee Herlitz made a motion to approve payment of all applicable payroll, bills, debits, and appropriate transfers from the Town Account for the month of **April** totaling **\$23,823.60**. Trustee Peterson seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion and the motion was **unanimously approved by voice vote**.

Payroll Adjustment Payments

MOTION:

Trustee Heldt to approve the payroll adjustment reimbursements of **\$7910.00** to Highway Commissioner Mike Smith and **\$2208.00** to Road District employee Alan Luchene as per our accountant's recommendation. Trustee Peterson seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion and the motion was **unanimously approved by voice vote**.

Upcoming Seminars and Meetings

- **June 3, 2024** – Road District Budget Hearing @ 6:30 pm at the Washington Township Center
- **June 3, 2024** – Town Budget Hearing @ 6:45 pm at the Washington Township Center
- **June 3, 2024** - Monthly Board Meeting @ 7 pm at the Washington Township Center

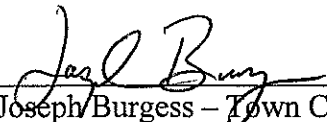
Announcements:

- **May 9** – Financial Fraud Presentation by First Community Bank and Trust @ 9 am at Washington Township Center
- **May 22** – Senior Movie Night at 6:30 at the Washington Township Center
- **May 29** – 2024 Exemption Event from 10 am – 2 pm 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 **8:19 pm**.

Respectfully submitted,


Joseph Burgess – Town Clerk

Approved by Board of Trustees: 6/3/2024

Washington Township

Highway Department

30200 Town Center Dr.

Beecher, Illinois 60401

708- 946-6459 Fax 708-946-6459

Michael Smith Highway Commissioner

1. Bid letting for the Yates Ave/Lia Lane project will be May 15th. Completion date is no later than July 31st.
2. We have spent the last couple weeks hauling maintenance stone.
3. We have a crew working on culvert replacements and clean outs.
4. Mowing will begin next week.

Michael Smith

Highway Commissioner

Solar Farm Closer to Beecher **Spread the love**

By Jeff Vorva

A solar farm took a major step in arriving on the outskirts of Beecher.

The village board voted April 22 to submit a letter of non-objection to the Will County Land Use Department for a special use permit for the TurningPoint Energy facility, which will be located south of West Indiana Avenue and east of South Western Avenue.

TurningPoint Managing Director of Development Jordan Belknap said the project will be on close to 40 acres of land.

He said the facility will create jobs, offers savings on electricity for those who opt in, increases tax revenue, eases the burden on the current power transmission system, improves soil in the area, reduces erosion in the soil, and that it is quiet.

In 2022, the Denver-based company had plans to enter 40 projects in Illinois. According to a news release, for every community the company develops, it will make a charitable community investment commitment. It also has developments in Maine, Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island.

Money for police work

The board awarded Scottsdale Arizona-based Axon Enterprise a \$49,995.20 contract for body cameras for police officers.

It also awarded almost as much -- \$44,705 -- for a 2024 Ford Explorer from Terry's Ford of Peotone.

Fourth of July bands

Although the village board has not announced all of the bands performing at the 2024 concert series, the Fourth of July lineup is set.

The rock group Sniper will play on July 3 at the Fourth of July festival at Fireman's Park. The Ryan Craig Band and Juke Box Hero perform on July 4, South Side Social Club performs on July 5, and Anthem performs on July 6.

Beecher bits

- The splash pad in Fireman's Park is scheduled to reopen on May 20 and will remain open until an undetermined date in the fall.

- The village's pickleball courts are open and will be open daily until 10 p.m.

- There will be a hazardous waste drop off event in the village from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on May 11.

Dropping off is by appointment only. Visit willcountygreen.com to make an appointment and find out the location information for the event.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-01

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, Washington Township, a unit of local government and an Illinois township, that is governed by the Illinois Township Code 60 ILCS 1/1-1 *et seq.* and operates under the provisions of the same; and

WHEREAS, the Washington Township Highway Department, as a department of Washington Township, is governed by 60 ILCS 1/73-5 of the Township Code; and

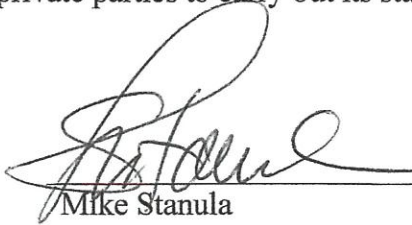
WHEREAS, the Highway Commissioner, the head of the Washington Township Highway Department is governed by the Illinois Township Code and is further governed by certain provisions of the Illinois Highway Code, specifically 605 ILCS 5/6-101 *et seq.*; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 605 ILCS 5/6-107 of the Illinois Highway Code, the Highway Commissioner of the Washington Township Highway Department has the authority to, among other authority, make all such contracts as may be necessary in the exercise of the powers of the District; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act 50 ILCS 220/1 *et seq.* and Section 10 Article VII of the 1970 Illinois Constitution a public body is authorized to enter into intergovernmental agreements with other governmental bodies.


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of the Washington Township that the Washington Township Highway Department has the authority to enter into agreements and or contracts with public and private parties to carry out its statutory functions.

Passed this 6 day of MAY 2024.



Mike Stanula
Washington Township Supervisor

ATTEST:


Joe Burgess
Washington Township Clerk

Aye: 4
Nay: 0
Abstain: 0

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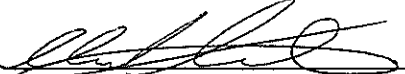
**Approved Claims - Board of Township Trustees
Road & Bridge Account**


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 May 6, 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:

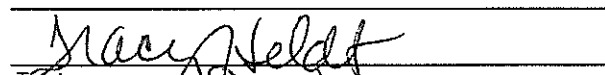
Claim #	Date	To Whom Allowed	Ck #	Nature of Claim	Amount
9055	4/3	Village of Beecher	9523	Equipment Fuel - 3/1/24 to 3/31/24 - Inv # 930	\$ 4,306.50
9056	4/3	DeJong Equipment	9524	Parts - Inv # CR55422	\$ 76.95
9057	4/3	Cargill, Inv	9525	Salt - Inv # 2909194495 / 2909324214	\$ 15,811.91
9058	4/3	VCNA Prairie Material	9526	Stone - Inv # 891420615 / 891417714 / 891416730 / 891424162 / 8914425246 / 891423486 / 891422635 / 891430184	\$ 6,066.83
9059	4/12	ComEd	9527	Utilities - Acct #2497892222 - Bill date - 4/24/24	\$ 216.04
9060	4/12	Cintas Uniforms	9528	Uniforms - Acct # 14943430 from 3/1/24 - 3/31/24	\$ 724.00
9061	4/12	Surf Air Wireless	9529	Internet service - Acct # 93011007437 - Bill date 4/1/24	\$ 64.95
NA	4/12	Check Voided	9530	VOID	\$ -
9062	4/12	Walt's Foods	9531	Water - Inv # 5041911052	\$ 45.56
9063	4/12	Napa Auto Parts	9532	Parts - Inv # 118671	\$ 857.04
9064	4/12	TIFCO Industries	9533	Shop supplies - Inv # 71964370	\$ 602.39
9065	4/12	Dahlberg Accounting Solutions	9534	Professional services - Inv # 283 (March)	\$ 744.00
NA	4/12	Mike Smith	9535	Reimbursement for propane (Tractor Supply)	\$ -
9066	4/19	NICOR	9536	Acct #58285823769 / Bill date 4/9/24	\$ 243.42
NA	4/19	Check Voided	9537	VOID	\$ -
NA	4/19	Check Voided	9538	VOID	\$ -
9067	4/19	Will County Highway Commissioners Assoc.	9539	2024 Dues	\$ 100.00
9068	4/25	Village of Beecher	EFT	RB Health Insurance - Inv # 2024-04	\$ 5,703.02
9069	4/26	April Payroll - QuickBooks	Misc.	Payroll, IMRF & other government payroll liabilities	\$ 22,644.96
Total disbursements					\$ 58,207.57

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we, the members of said Board of Trustees, hereunto
set our hands on May 6, 2024.



Road Commissioner


Township Clerk


Supervisor


Trustee


Trustee


Trustee

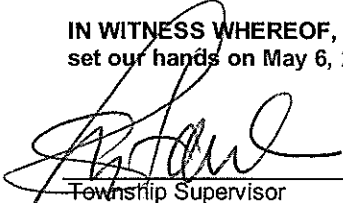
Approved Claims - Board of Township Trustees
Town Account

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 May 6, 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
6447	4/3	Riverside Workforce Medical	9180	Drug screen (Fuhmann) - Inv # 01120059	\$ 271.00
6448	4/3	KG&G LLC	9181	Legal fees - Statement # 60571	\$ 110.00
6449	4/3	The Vedette	9182	Annual Town Meeting & Meeting dates - Inv # 24-154	\$ 185.00
6450	4/3	Joliet Slammers	9183	Senior trip - Contract # 4728 (20 tickets)	\$ 360.60
6451	4/3	Village of Beecher	9184	Bus fuel - 3/1/24 to 3/31/24 - Inv # 931	\$ 64.83
6452	4/3	Spectrotel	9185	Phone service - Acct # 343999 - Inv # 12165407	\$ 208.14
6453	4/3	Comcast	9186	Internet and Cable # 10295 - Bill date - 3/24/24	\$ 309.91
6454	4/3	Quill Corporation	9187	Office supplies - Inv # 37270506 / 37757983 / 37780600 / 37790288	\$ 464.47
6455	4/3	A Stars & Stripes Flag Corp.	9188	Township flag - Inv # 22131	\$ 150.56
6456	4/3	Mark Rossi	9189	Mileage reimbursement for measuring	\$ 8.04
6457	4/3	Mike Fuhmann	9190	Mileage reimbursement for travel / training	\$ 154.62
6458	4/12	Tracy Heldt	9191	Moderator Pay - Annual Town Meeting	\$ 150.00
6459	4/12	Village of Beecher	9192	Concert in the Park	\$10,000.00
6460	4/12	Quill Corporation	9193	VOID	\$ -
NA	4/12	Check Voided	9194	VOID	\$ -
6461	4/12	Pace Vanpool	9195	Monthly Van rental - Inv # 633964	\$ 100.00
6462	4/12	Walt's Foods	9196	Senior Movie supplies - Inv # 5059651424	\$ 83.37
6463	4/12	Dahlberg Accounting Solutions	9197	Professional services (March) - Inv # 282	\$ 930.00
6464	4/12	Region Key LLC	9198	Door repairs - Inv # 015	\$ 217.50
6465	4/12	Riverside Workforce Medical	9199	Drug screen (Giandonato) - Inv # 00121290	\$ 78.00
NA	4/12	Check Voided	9200	VOID	\$ -
6466	4/12	ComEd	9201	Electric bill - Acct # 4544334000 - Bill date 4/4/24	\$ 285.68
6467	4/19	Menards	9202	Refrigerator - Inv # 95712	\$ 499.00
6468	4/19	NICOR	9203	Utilities gas - #55877029193 - Bill date - 4/9/24	\$ 192.07
6469	4/19	Joe Burgess	9204	Bus Parking (White Sox Game - 4/13/24) - # 128686145	\$ 60.00
6470	4/23	Tammy Hitzelburger	9205	Mileage reimbursement (Drug test)	\$ 24.79
6471	4/23	Patricia Peters	9206	Mileage / travel reimbursement (Assessor's Meeting)	\$ 50.92
6472	4/26	April Payroll - QuickBooks	Debit	ALL payroll, IMRF & other government payroll liabilities	\$ 8,865.10
TOTAL ALL DISBURSEMENTS					\$23,823.60


IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we, the members of said Board of Trustees, hereunto
set our hands on May 6, 2024.



Township Supervisor




Township Clerk



Trustee



Trustee



Trustee

Trustee

**Washington Township Board Meeting
May 6, 2024 - 7:00 pm
Meeting Agenda**

Call to Order / Roll Call

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Board Meeting Minutes Dated March 25, 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 & Approval of Thriveworks Participation Contract (Beecher Fire District)
4. Consideration and Approval of the 2024-2025 Town Budget Ordinance # 24-01
5. Consideration and Approval of the 2024-2025 Road District Budget Ordinance #24-02

New Business

1. Consideration and Approval of Pending Zoning Applications
2. Consideration and Approval Beecher 4th of July Commission Sponsorship
3. Consideration and Approval of Road & Bridge Resolution 2024-01, "A Resolution Establishing the Washington Township Highway Department Authority"
4. Set Time and Date for 2024 Town and Road District Budget Hearings

Payment of Bills

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

Upcoming Seminars and Meetings

- **June 3, 2024** – Monthly Board Meeting @ 7 pm

Announcements

- **May 9, 2024** – Financial Fraud Presentation by First Community Bank and Trust @ 9 am at Washington Township Center
- **May 22, 2024** – Senior Movie Night @ 6:30 pm at Washington Township Center

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.

