

Plainfield Township Board of Trustees Minutes from October 10, 2007

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
WILL COUNTY) **S.S.** approved Minutes
TOWN OF PLAINFIELD)

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES met at the Office of Town Clerk at 6:00 pm on **October 10, 2007.**

PRESENT:

Ken McCafferty	Town Trustee
Chuck Willard	Town Trustee
Paul Pesavento	Town Trustee
John Argoudelis	Supervisor

ABSENT:

Kim Sandstrom	Town Trustee
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OTHER OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Rosemary Pruss	Town Clerk
Richard Martin	Assessor

OTHERS PRESENT:

John Argoudelis acting as chairman and Rosemary Pruss acting as clerk. The following official business was transacted:

I. Meeting of October 10, 2007 was called to order at 6:10 pm.

II. Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer
Pledge of Allegiance and prayer were said.

III. Roll Call for Quorum: John Argoudelis – Present, Paul Pesavento –Present, Chuck Willard – Present, Ken McCafferty – Present, Kim Sandstrom - Absent.

IV. Approval of Agenda

A motion to approve the agenda with the addition that item H., filling vacancies, will be handled in closed session, was made by Ken McCafferty, seconded by Chuck Willard. Voice vote taken. Motion carries.

V. Approval of minutes from previous meeting

A motion to approve the minutes from the August 8, 2007 regular board meeting was made by Ken McCafferty, seconded by Paul Pesavento. Voice vote taken. Motion carries.

VI. SUPERVISOR’S REPORT

A. Kiwanis Club of Plainfield, Peanut Day High School Scholarships – Vickey Howell
(Taken out of order when Ms. Howell arrived.)

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Vicky Howell advised that efforts are being made to raise more money due to the added scholarship needs of Plainfield High School North and for retaining Key Club advisors. The board advised that they are familiar with and supportive of the activities of the Kiwanis Club in the community.

A motion to authorize a \$500.00 donation to the Kiwanis Club was made by Paul Pesavento and seconded by Chuck Willard. Roll call vote taken. Ken McCafferty – Aye, Chuck Willard – Aye, Paul Pesavento – Aye, John Argoudelis - Aye. Motion Carries.

B. Village Profile Ad

Ken McCafferty felt that the expense for this was too great. Chuck Willard favored the ad on the map instead, as it would get used and looked at more often. The board declined to take any action on purchasing another ad in the Village Profile.

C. Electronics Recycling Program – Will County Land Use

Monika McMillen advised the board that a miscommunication may have taken place between the township and Will County Land Use regarding setting up a large 10 x 20 foot trailer for electronics recycling. The clerk advised that the board only approved the recycling of paper, plastic and cans. It was the consensus of the board that the township does not want to pursue the additional project at this time. Someone from the Supervisor's office will contact Marta at the County to advise her to discontinue advertising this proposed service at the township.

D. Office Door Lettering Proposal

The board was in favor of the proposal to letter the doors.

A motion to authorize payment of \$218.60 to Plainfield Signs for door lettering at the administration building as outlined in the September 12, 2007 proposal was made Paul Pesavento and seconded by Chuck Willard. Roll call vote taken. Ken McCafferty – Aye, Chuck Willard – Aye, Paul Pesavento – Aye, John Argoudelis - Aye. Motion Carries.

E. Closed Meeting Tapes

A motion to destroy the closed meeting tapes of 9-13-06, 2-14-07 and 3-14-07 at the appropriate time outlined by law was made by Ken McCafferty and seconded by Paul Pesavento. Roll call vote taken. Chuck Willard – Aye, Paul Pesavento – Aye, Ken McCafferty – Aye, John Argoudelis - Aye. Motion Carries.

F. Thanksgiving Donation to Food Pantry

A motion to authorize a Thanksgiving donation of \$500.00 to the Plainfield Area Food Pantry was made by Chuck Willard and seconded by Paul Pesavento. Roll call vote taken. Paul Pesavento – Aye, Ken McCafferty – Aye, Chuck Willard – Aye, John Argoudelis - Aye. Motion Carries.

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G. Lily Cache and Franklin Heights – Redevelopment of US 30/I-55 Truckstop area

Supervisor Argoudelis advised that the Village and developer are talking and making plans for this development, but the concerns of the residents of two township subdivisions are not being addressed.

Ed Biggins, 23120 W. Lincoln Highway, Lily Cache, stated that this is all flood area. “You can’t do something on one side of the creek without affecting the other side of the creek. You can make it all look good on paper, but these developers have a history of creating problems that everybody else has to live with later.” He pointed out that the residents are all on wells and septic. “We need a provision to indemnify us when we get these terrible problems later.” The flood plain between Lily Cache and the creek is just a problem waiting to happen. It has had flooding problems in rainy years. Chuck Willard grew up in the area and described it as marshland.

Rosemary Pruss stated that she owns the last and the lowest house built in Lily Cache. Marge and Don Picha were present from Franklin Heights and also Don Nelson, who owns the 37-acre native prairie along the creek and adjacent to the proposed development. Winding Creek subdivision also has concerns. This subdivision is in the Village but was unable to get a representative to tonight’s meeting.

Rosemary Pruss stated that the residents have health and property concerns regarding well-pollution and flooding. Numerous government agencies have told her that the engineering is questionable. The proposed variances remove protections against flooding caused by such a project, which could raise the water table into resident’s basements and most likely cause flooding during heavy rains. She felt that, “This could create an emergency every time it rains.” The Village Planning Commission at the September 4, 2007 meeting where this plan was approved with variances, admitted that the water table is already going up in this area.

Don Nelson explained the rules of “compensatory storage.” If you want to fill in flood plain, you have to excavate somewhere else. The village ordinance requires 1: 1.5 ratio. Rosemary Pruss advised that the county of DuPage adopted this same ratio and does not give variances in a flood plain. Don Nelson pointed out that the Village of Plainfield also does not allow variances. It was suggested that the variance on compensatory storage is being put into the annexation agreement as a maneuver so that the developer does not have to follow the ordinance – it becomes “grand-fathered in.” Ed Biggins felt that the Village would not be interested in this area if it wasn’t for the sales tax to be generated. The Village board should be sensitive to residents’ concerns based on existing water issues in the Village of Plainfield at the Arbors and Lakelands and other areas.

The residents also complained about not being notified or being insufficiently notified. Supervisor Argoudelis suggested going to a Village board meeting and asking to be put on a notification list. He suggested having a substantial amount of people present when the issue is to be voted on, including Village residents from Winding Creek. It was generally felt that Village residents carry more weight. Ms. Pruss advised that the trustees have been invited to walk the area and a petition with 45 names has been presented to each board member and the mayor.

from Franklin Heights asked what are we wanting them to do. Rosemary Pruss said that residents are concerned that the engineering plan, even without a variance, will not work. Ed Biggins pointed out that the entire area from Crest Hill to Plainfield used to be a swamp. We do not want the variance granted. “Engineering that works, that’s all we are asking for.” “Do no harm.”

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Don Nelson pointed out that the commercial part of the project does not have to be changed. Compensatory storage can be done on the other side of Mink Creek in order to meet the Village's ordinance. If the developer loses a few acres to the north, it does not change the currently proposed development. No sales tax dollars would be lost. He felt that the Village Planning Commission already had their minds made up to do the project exactly as currently laid out. Supervisor Argoudelis pointed out that it is the Village Board that will make the final decision. Rosemary Pruss said she felt the developer is trying to push the Village into bad decisions in order to maximize profit.

Don Nelson also pointed out that he purchased his 37 acres and created the native prairie based on the assumption that the Village would follow its own ordinances when developing adjacent properties. He also pointed out that at the Village Planning Commission meeting, Mr. Garrigan did not even have the variances being requested by the developer included in his report. Mr. Nelson also raised a question as to whether the Village is involved with a potential train station location as part of this development, which has recently been hinted at in local papers.

Supervisor Argoudelis advised the residents that The Village of Plainfield has the authority to approve and annex the area, but the township can make a recommendation. He suggested residents attend all Village meetings and let the board know their thoughts and concerns. He also recommended getting the Conservation Foundation to present a professional opinion as to the issues.

H. Executive Session – to fill vacancies of the Clerk and the Tax Collector (taken out of order before elected officials reports)

A motion to go into executive session was made by Ken McCafferty and seconded by Chuck Willard. Voice vote taken. Motion Carries.

A motion to come out of executive session was made by Paul Pesavento and seconded by Chuck Willard. Voice vote taken. Motion Carries.

I. IMRF Early Retirement Program

Andi French, Township Administrator, reported that Jim Pubentz, the Cemetery Sexton, has inquired into taking an early retirement. The cemetery board was looking into the cost of providing the pay-amount needed, which amounted to an additional liability of \$254,000.00. This amount would have to be funded. The township would have been required to pass an ordinance and assume the liability for this amount if for some reason the cemetery could not continue payments. The item will be removed from the agenda since this amount has not turned out to be feasible. If the cemetery board finds a way to make it feasible, the township will put it back on the agenda.

J. Township Building Issues

A proposal for an increase in his fees and charges was submitted by Mark Angelus, who currently provides handyman, snowplowing and other services to the township. Although Paul Pesavento felt that \$45.00 per hour was a lot of money, it was generally agreed that Mr. Angelus is consistent, efficient and knows the building needs. Mr. Angelus noted on his proposal that he has

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not asked for an increase in two and one half years. Snow removal increases were considered to be minimal.

A motion to accept Mark Angelus' proposal dated October 5, 2007 for handyman services with an increase to \$45.00 per hour was made by Paul Pesavento and seconded by Ken McCafferty. Roll call vote taken. Ken McCafferty – Aye, Chuck Willard – Aye, Paul Pesavento – Aye, John Argoudelis - Aye. Motion Carries.

A motion to accept Mark Angelus' proposal dated October 5, 2007 for snow plowing and related services was made by Paul Pesavento and seconded by Ken McCafferty. Roll call vote taken. Chuck Willard – Aye, Paul Pesavento – Aye, Ken McCafferty – Aye, John Argoudelis - Aye. Motion Carries.

It was reported that Mr. Angelus has been cleaning up some of the peeling paint around the doors and caulking as needed.

VII. REPORTS

A. Senior Coordinator

Written Report

Kathy Whalen submitted a written report.

Andi French reported that the Senior Christmas Luncheon at the American Legion expects to serve between 200 and 250 people this year and will be catered by Bob and Sis's. The cost of food is \$8.00 per person. The township traditionally pays for the food for this event.

A motion to authorize an amount equal to the per person expense based on the number of attendees at the Senior Christmas Party was made by Paul Pesavento and seconded by Chuck Willard. Roll call vote taken. Paul Pesavento – Aye, Ken McCafferty – Aye, Chuck Willard – Aye, John Argoudelis - Aye. Motion Carries.

A motion to authorize up to \$300.00 for party favors at the Senior Christmas Party was made by Chuck Willard and seconded by Paul Pesavento. Roll call vote taken. Ken McCafferty – Aye, Chuck Willard – Aye, Paul Pesavento – Aye, John Argoudelis - Aye. Motion Carries.

B. Disabilities

Paul Pesavento reported that the date has been set for the Disabilities Bowling Party. It will take place February 17, 2008 from 2-4 p.m.

C. Emergency Management Coordinator

Chuck Willard provided the board members with a copy of an "After Action Report" on the severe weather/flooding event of August 22, 23 and 24, 2007. This was prepared by the Plainfield Emergency Management Agency and described the events and actions taken during those three days. Mr. Willard said the cooperation between agencies and the professionalism of the publication was obvious.

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D. "Plainfield Township Presents"

Ken McCafferty received a thank you note from the Alzheimers Association. He reported that the four-session event averaged 26 participants.

E. Senior Shuttle Bus

Monika McMillen provided the monthly review showing the changes in ridership, mileage, etc. Substitute drivers have not yet been needed. A "casino day" is being planned at the request of the seniors.

Ms. McMillen recently attended Representative Tom Cross' Senior Expo where she passed out information on the township shuttle bus.

F. Youth

No report

VIII. ELECTED OFFICIALS REPORTS

A. Assessor

Rick Martin asked for an update on his requested township credit card. Andi French advised that it has been applied for.

Mr. Martin also asked for the status of the legal opinion on his proposed bonus program. Supervisor Argoudelis said this issue was not pursued after Mr. Martin indicated he was not going to implement it. However, he will now ask the township attorney to research it.

Ken McCafferty asked the assessor if he had already rolled the bonuses into his employees salary increases. Mr. Martin stated he had done this, at a rate of 2/3 of the proposed bonus. He said both taking the salary increases and bonuses will come out of the same line item.

Mr. Martin reported that the last category that has been ignored for reassessment is farm properties. He stated that about 35 are questionable and may be changed. Mr. Martin said farm lands are subsidized land. They will be fully researched and changed as of January 1st, 2008 if necessary. Some are difficult to classify and will be moved up to the county level for reassessment.

Mr. Martin reported that while Frankfort had 664 appeals, Plainfield had only 64 appeals.

B. Clerk

Rosemary Pruss thanked the supervisor and board for listening to the residents of the two township subdivisions. She also expressed sincere appreciation for the wonderful experience of working with them these past years. "I could not have asked for a nicer group of people than those sitting here and Pat Herman."

For her last report before retirement, she advised that the Department of State has issued 17.5 million passports so far this fiscal year and that wait times are returning to normal. She suggested

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