

**MINUTES DOWNERS GROVE TOWNSHIP PUBLIC HEARING HIGHWAY BUDGET
MARCH 16, 2017**

The hearing on Highway (Road District) Budget was called to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Township boardroom, 4340 Prince Street, Downers Grove, Illinois by Supervisor Thoman. Board members attending were Trustees Abbate, Boltz, Cuthbert, Grimsby, and Supervisor Thoman. Clerk Hois and Attorney Alongi were present.

Clerk Hois read the legal notice that had been published in the Downers Grove Suburban Life newspaper, February 8, 2017. Highway Commissioner Anderson said 46% of the budgeted funds the Road District receives go back to the municipalities.

Public discussion followed. Questions raised regarding highway department personnel salaries and contractual services performed by third parties, e.g. asphalt work, were answered by Highway Commissioner Lawrence "Andy" Anderson.

After all questions were answered Supervisor Thoman made a motion to adopt the highway budget for fiscal year 2017-18 as presented, which motion was seconded by Trustee Abbate. A roll call vote was taken. Board members Abbate, Boltz, Cuthbert, Grimsby, and Thoman all voted aye. Motion to adopt passed 5 to 0.

Adjournment was made at 7:06 p.m.

**MINUTES DOWNERS GROVE TOWNSHIP PUBLIC HEARING TOWNSHIP BUDGET
MARCH 16, 2017**

The hearing on the Township Budget was called to order at 7:15 pm by Supervisor Thoman at the Township boardroom 4340 Prince Street, Downers Grove, Illinois. Board members in attendance were Trustees Abbate, Boltz, Cuthbert, Grimsby, and Supervisor Thoman. Clerk Hois and Attorney Alongi were present.

Clerk Hois read the legal notice that had been published in the Downers Grove Suburban Life newspaper on February 8, 2017. Supervisor Thoman presented, thanked Trustees for input, and said the 470 capital projects funds transfer would be put on hold as an amendment to the proposed budget, with funds kept in reserve.

Public discussion followed, with questions raised and answered regarding professional services, capital fund for safety and security construction purposes, general assistance, meal assistance, and dead tree removal. Trustee Cuthbert made a motion to waive the reading of the township budget, as copies had been distributed to everyone, which motion was seconded by Supervisor Thoman, and all voted aye.

Adjournment was made at 7:28 p.m.

Laura Hois, Town Clerk

MINUTES OF DOWNERS GROVE TOWNSHIP
BOARD MEETING
March 16, 2017

A meeting of the Town Board of Downers Grove Township was held March 16, 2017 at the Downers Grove Township, 4340 Prince Street, Downers Grove, Illinois.

1. *Call to Order:* Supervisor Thoman called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m., and everyone present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. *Roll Call:* Town Clerk Hois called the roll. Board members in attendance were Trustees Abbate, Boltz, Cuthbert, Grimsby and Supervisor Thoman. A quorum was physically present. Attorney Alongi was present.
3. *Public Comment:* NONE, attendees indicated they wished to comment later in the meeting.
4. *MINUTES OF Board Meeting from February 16, 2017:* Trustee Abbate made a Motion to accept the minutes as presented, seconded by Trustee Cuthbert, all voted aye and the minutes were accepted.
5. *TRUSTEE AUDIT and Approval of Bills and Claims:* Trustee Abbate made a motion to approve Bills and Claims as presented, seconded by Trustee Cuthbert, all voted aye and they were approved.
6. *Consider request made by a petition of electors of Downers Grove Township to add to the Agenda for the Annual Town Meeting for April 11, 2017 a referendum question to be placed on the ballot in March, 2018:* Supervisor Thoman introduced the topic and read the requested item as submitted petitioners. Trustee Abbate made a Motion to approve the item requested, motion seconded by Trustee Cuthbert, and discussion followed.

Supervisor Thoman said he had provided the Trustees with a list of items from Section 30 of the Illinois Township Code that can be addressed by electors. He cited Dillon's Rule, which says if the power is not expressly given, it does not exist - there is no reference in the Township Code to a "Welcoming Township Ordinance." There is an Illinois Attorney General opinion from 1996, still valid, which says the powers of the electors do not extend beyond the Township itself. Supervisor Thoman said he would vote against the petition because it does not fit within the four corners of the Township Code.

Attorney Alongi agreed, saying that there is no relevant connection between the referendum request and the applicable provisions in the Township Code. Clerk Hois had also researched the subject request and found the proposed agenda item is not relevant to powers granted to the electors under the Township Code.

Trustee Abbate amended her motion to state Motion to deny the Agenda item as presented and requested to be added to the Agenda for the Annual Town Meeting for April 11, 2017 as a referendum question to be placed on the ballot in March, 2018. Trustee Cuthbert seconded the amended motion. All the Board members voted aye in favor of the amended motion, the petition was denied 5-0.

7. *Approve Agenda for the Annual Town Meeting – April 11, 2017:* Trustee Abbate made a Motion to approve the Agenda as presented for the Annual Town Meeting, to be held Tuesday, April 11, 2017 at Ashyana Banquets, 1620 75th Street, Downers Grove, IL 60516, which motion was seconded by Trustee Grimsby, and discussion followed. Supervisor Thoman invited public comment.

Ardyth Duhatschek-Krause, of Darien, asked to go back to understand what was just denied. Supervisor Thoman responded that the statutes governing counties and municipalities in Illinois differ from the Township Code. The Township Code is different in that it limits the powers of electors and the powers of the board of trustees to those powers relevant to the business of the Township which are enumerated in the Township Code. Ms. Krause's commented 'isn't that a shame.'

Trustee Cuthbert made a Motion to amend the Motion on the floor to add items to the Annual Town Meeting Agenda, as follows:

- #1 "Shall the Downers Grove Township General Assistance food fund continue to provide additional food assistance for senior citizen residents of the Township?"

Trustee Grimsby seconded the Motion to amend the Annual Town Meeting Agenda to add item #1. All voted aye and item #1 was added to the Agenda.

Trustee Cuthbert made a motion to add a second item to the Annual Town Meeting Agenda, as follows:

- #2 "Shall Downers Grove Township continue to provide additional funds to remove trees infected by the emerald ash borer from unincorporated Township right of ways?"

Trustee Abbate seconded the Motion to amend the Annual Town Meeting Agenda to add item #2. All voted aye and item #2 was added to the Agenda.

Trustee Cuthbert made a motion to add a third item to the Annual Town Meeting Agenda, as follows:

- #3 "Shall the Downers Grove Township Clerk (as a part time position) qualify to participate in the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund?"

Trustee Grimsby seconded the Motion to amend the Annual Town Meeting Agenda to add item #3. All voted aye and item #3 was added to the Agenda.

Trustee Abbate made a Motion to approve the Annual Town Meeting Agenda as amended three times, all voted aye and the motion carried.

8. Approve Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for the Township for Fiscal Year March 1, 2017 – February 28, 2018. Trustee Abbate made a Motion to Approve the Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for the Township for Fiscal Year March 1, 2017 – February 28, 2018 as proposed at the Public Hearing on Budget, which motion was seconded by Trustee Cuthbert.

Supervisor Thoman invited public comment. Ardyth Duhatschek-Krause asked about trees and cemeteries. Discussion followed regarding the boundaries of the Oak Hill and Oak Crest cemeteries being partially within Downers Grove Township and partially in Lisle Township. Clerk Hois will research this question by checking the real estate file and will provide information.

There was no further discussion on the budget.

Clerk Hois did a roll call vote on the Motion: Trustee Abbate aye, Trustee Boltz aye, Trustee Cuthbert aye, Trustee Grimsby aye, Supervisor Thoman aye. The motion to approve the Downers Grove Township budget carried 5-0.

9. *Supervisor's Report:*

- a. Supervisor Thoman referenced the Board's denial of the petitioners' request for a "Welcoming Township Ordinance" and said that while their hearts were in the right place, the Township cannot solve the world's problems. It can, however, control horse drawn vehicles.
- b. As the Township's recent records disposal project was completed with the shredding of old documents in accordance with authorizations granted by the local records commission, Supervisor Thoman found some historical gems including a 1992 article stating the total general fund budget was \$2.92 million.
- c. The Assessor's Office had 19 full-time employees in 1992, and today the Office has 13 full-time employees and one independent consultant. Technology has been effectively utilized to keep employee costs down.

10. *Old Business:* NONE.

11. *New Business:* Trustee Boltz said good job, keep up the good work on budgets. Trustee Cuthbert mentioned he had heard about a potential annexation in unincorporated Clarendon Hills. He asked Supervisor Thoman to investigate it.

Discussion followed regarding the Village of Clarendon Hills' work on a comprehensive plan. Unincorporated area residents concerns are: private well water line, septic fields, and general comprehensive plan issues.

Supervisor Thoman noted that unincorporated area residents comprise the 5th largest community in the Township. He said he would keep an eye on proposed annexations.

12. *Executive Session*: NONE.

13. *Motion to Adjourn*. Trustee Abbate made a Motion to Adjourn, seconded by Trustee Cuthbert. All voted aye. The meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Hois
Town Clerk

The next regular Downers Grove Township Board Meeting will be held April 20, 2017, 7:30 p.m.