

**DOWNERS GROVE TOWNSHIP
171st ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
HELD ON APRIL 13, 2021**

MINUTES

The Annual Town Meeting (“ATM”) was held on April 13, 2021 at Ashyana Banquets, 1620 75th Street, Downers Grove, Illinois 60516. Township Clerk Lorraine Grimsby called the meeting to order at 7:30pm. Boy Scout Troop 99 posted the colors and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Clerk Grimsby opened the ATM by stating that (i) the meeting will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of State law and Robert’s Rules of Order, (ii) if any 15 or more registered voters in the Township have items for the Agenda, those items must be turned in to Clerk Grimsby by March 1, 2021, (iii) each speaker will be given no more than three minutes to speak, and (iv) voting will be done by voice vote unless otherwise indicated.

Clerk Grimsby introduced the Township’s elected officials as: Supervisor Mark Thoman, Assessor Greg Boltz, Highway Commissioner Andy Anderson, and Trustees Art Donner, Abby Ferguson, Karen Kelly and David Van Der Laan. Township Attorney Allan Alongi was also present.

Clerk Grimsby asked for a motion to waive the reading of the legal notice, as copies were posted prior to the ATM and distributed to all attendees of the ATM. Michael Hahne made the motion and was seconded by Barbara Baker. A majority voted in favor of the Motion to Waive the Reading of the Legal Notice and the Motion passed by voice vote.

Clerk Grimsby asked for a motion to waive the reading of the roll call of the electors. There were 72 registered voters in attendance. Laura Hois made the Motion and was seconded by Michael Hahne. A majority voted in favor of the Motion to Waive the Reading of the Roll Call of Electors and the Motion passed by voice vote.

Clerk Grimsby proceeded with requests for nominations for Moderator of the ATM. Allan Alongi nominated Gary Grasso. Michael Hahne seconded the nomination of Gary Grasso and the nomination passed by voice vote. There being no other nominations, Clerk Grimsby asked for a voice vote to close nominations for Moderator. The voice vote confirmed Gary Grasso as moderator of the ATM. Clerk Grimsby then administered the oath to Moderator Gary Grasso.

After summarizing the role of Moderator, Gary Grasso appointed Allan Alongi as Parliamentarian, and Jack Novak and Michael Hahne as Sergeants-at-Arms.

Moderator Grasso reminded the attendees that there was no ATM in 2020, so there would be no reading of the 2020 Minutes of Meeting. Then, Moderator Grasso called for a motion to waive the reading of the Minutes from the 2019 ATM, as copies had been distributed. A motion was made by Anthony Rosario and seconded by an unidentified voter. The Motion to Waive the Reading of the Minutes of the 2019 Annual Town Meeting passed by voice vote.

Moderator Grasso called for a motion to approve the Minutes from the 2019 ATM, as presented. Michael Hahne made the Motion to Approve the Minutes from the 2019 ATM, and the Motion was seconded by Anthony Rosario. The Motion passed by voice vote.

Moderator Grasso called for a motion to waive the reading of the financial statement for Fiscal Year March 1, 2020 through February 28, 2021, as copies had been distributed. A Motion to Waive the Reading of the Financial Statement was made by Michael Hahne and seconded by an unidentified voter. The Motion passed by voice vote.

Moderator Grasso then referenced the Resolution Authorizing Specific Powers to the Township Board, which was distributed to the Electorate as they entered the room. Moderator Grasso called for a motion to waive the reading of the Resolution Authorizing Specific Powers to the Township Board. A Motion was made by Anthony Rosario and seconded by David Olsen. The Motion passed by voice vote. Karol Sole, a Westmont resident voter, commented that there seemed to be a rush to get through the Agenda, which, she said, was in disregard to the importance of Township business. Moderator Grasso responded that the Motion was already made, seconded and carried by voice vote. Furthermore, Moderator Grasso indicated that he was following CDC guidelines which mandated that the "meeting be as short and as brief as possible".

Moderator Grasso went on to say that the CDC guidelines were responsible for his decision to ask for a motion to waive the reports by elected officials, saying they may be submitted in writing to be included in the permanent record. Said motion was made by Michael Hahne and seconded by Annette McNeely. Moderator Grasso asked for discussion of the Motion and was answered by Supervisor Thoman, who indicated that he would like to give his report. Furthermore, Thoman said that while the prior Motions to Waive were for items included in the packet given to each attendee, his report was not included.

Darien Alderman Tom Chlystek commented that, as taxpayers, the attendees were entitled to hear Thoman's report, which presumably would include how their tax dollars were spent.

Annette McNeely commented that she has every confidence in the Board being transparent and added that if anyone wants to know what is going on in the Township, they should just ask the Board.

Janet Reyham echoed the request for the reports to be presented, indicating that the ATM is a formal opportunity for the Board to explain their accomplishments for the year. The ATM is the appropriate format for a formal report.

Jaci Thoman also felt that the Board should take the time to present their reports at the ATM. She indicated that a lot is happening in the Township and most people are unaware of what has been going on. Furthermore, Jaci said that people took time out of their evening to come and hear the reports, it was posted that we were going to hear the reports, and now that expectation has been taken away.

Mary Lemanski reiterated that people had taken the time to come to the ATM and are giving the Board an opportunity to demonstrate their transparency.

Cathy Rager, a Township employee and resident, also called for the reports to be given, saying that exciting things are happening at the Township and the ATM was the appropriate time, especially since there was no ATM last year.

Moderator Grasso indicated that there was a Motion and a second waiting to be voted upon. Since the voice votes were too close to call, a count was necessary to be performed by the Sergeants-at-Arms. The "no" votes were totaled first. Supervisor Thoman drew everyone's attention to the fact that the entire Board of Trustees was standing to vote "no". The "no" votes totaled 15. The "yes" votes totaled 49.

Moderator Grasso then reminded all present that there would be a section for public comment, which would afford Supervisor Thoman an opportunity to speak. Supervisor Thoman asked if he would be able to go longer than the three-minute allotment speaking time, to which Moderator Grasso responded that he would give Thoman some leeway. Supervisor Thoman then confirmed that he would give his report during public comment.

Moderator Grasso read the Resolution for the 2022 Annual Town Meeting. The 2022 ATM will be held on Tuesday, April 12, 2022, beginning at 7:30pm. Michael Hahne made the Motion to Approve said Resolution, seconded by Scott Melrose. The Resolution was passed by voice vote.

The Open Forum portion of the ATM was initiated by Moderator Grasso, who motioned Supervisor Thoman to the podium. Supervisor Thoman gave his report, finishing in 9 ½ minutes. (Supervisor Thoman's entire report can be heard in the film of the ATM available on the Township's website.)

Moderator Grasso asked for any other comments or questions. Mr. Jay Wang requested to make a motion to close public comment, to which Moderator Grasso responded that it was not possible to close public comment.

Ms. Mary Lemanski commented that in 2018 then-Governor Rauner signed an Executive Order eliminating nepotism in state government. Ms. Lemanski urged the Township to follow Governor Rauner's example.

Darien Alderman Tom Chlystek commented on the necessity of hearing public official reports, as well as the necessity of ethics reform in all levels of government.

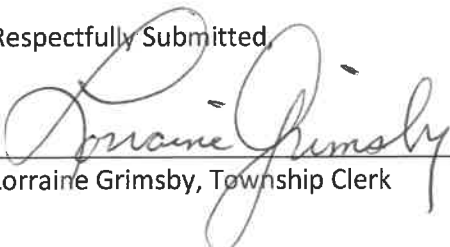
Karol Sole commented that she has attended nearly every Township Board meeting for the past twelve years. Ms. Sole thanked Supervisor Thoman for finding a way to give his report. Ms. Sole further stated that even though she attended nearly every meeting, she still learned things about the Township during Supervisor Thoman's report.


Annette McNeely commented that all of the information given tonight is available on the Township's website and urged the public to use the website.

Moderator Grasso asked if anyone else wanted to speak and was met with silence. Grasso further commented that several of the elected officials approached him before the ATM, saying that they were concerned about Covid and CDC regulations. Considering that, these officials did not wish to prolong the ATM by giving their reports. Moderator Grasso then officially closed the public comment section of the meeting.

Moderator Grasso adjourned the ATM and thanked everyone for attending and participating in your precious democracy. Good Night.

Respectfully Submitted,


Lorraine Grimsby, Township Clerk


Gary Grasso, Moderator