

**Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the
Downers Grove Township Board of Trustees
4340 Prince Street, Downers Grove, Illinois 60515
April 15, 2021**

1. Call to Order

Supervisor Thoman called the meeting to order at 7:30pm.

Supervisor Thoman noted the requirements of tonight's meeting, that he was physically present at the normal meeting location as required, that he would make all the Motions as allowed by Township statute, and that all votes would be Roll Call votes.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Supervisor Thoman invited everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum

Deputy Clerk Mistretta called the roll. Present via Zoom were Trustee Van Der Laan and Trustee Ferguson. Present in person were Supervisor Thoman, Trustee Donner and Trustee Kelly.

Elected and Appointed Officials present in person were Deputy Clerk Susan Mistretta and Executive Administrator Christina West. Present via Zoom were Township Attorney Allan Alongi.

Mr. Mike Ockrim was present in person. Others present via Zoom were Ron Vining, Janet Winningham, Dave Ricordatti, Maryann Vazquez, Bonnie Wayman-Dodd, Mary Lemanski, Aaron Cleallo, Karol Sole, and Gerry Kirschbaum.

4. Motion to Conduct the April Board of Trustee Meeting Electronically

A Motion was made by Supervisor Thoman to conduct the April Board of Trustees Meeting electronically. Trustee Kelly seconded the Motion. There was no Trustee discussion.

Roll Call vote: Trustee Donner "Aye", Trustee Kelly "Aye", Trustee Ferguson "Aye", Trustee Van Der Laan "Aye", and Supervisor Thoman "Aye". Ayes 5, Nays 0, Absent 0. Motion carried.

5. Public Comment

Supervisor Thoman asked if there was anyone who had comments to make.

Bonnie Wayman-Dodd commented that although she missed both the Annual Town Meeting and the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Township Center, she was looking forward to seeing how the building will be used in the future.

Karol Sole remarked that the Annual Town Meeting held on Tuesday, April 13, 2021 was an "appalling display for Downers Grove Township residents". She also wanted to know what happened to promises of transparency, and was very disappointed overall.

Mary Lemanski brought up the point she was attempting to make about former Governor Rauner's Executive Order regarding the elimination of nepotism. She said she was approached after the Meeting by a person who said that there was no nepotism in Downers Grove Township.

Janet Winningham thanked Supervisor Thoman for the report he gave at the Annual Town Meeting. She also questioned what happened to the reports that were not made at the Annual Town Meeting, asking why they were missing and had nothing happened to report.

Maryann Vazquez thanked Supervisor Thoman for his service to Downers Grove Township.

Supervisor Thoman noted that he received one public comment via email from resident Frank White. Mr. White thanked Supervisor Thoman for giving his report, stated that he attended the Annual Town Meeting to get first-hand information, and he feels strongly that all reports should be delivered in person.

Mike Ockrim thanked all voters for participating in the last election. He added that, as a future Trustee, he is looking forward to serving the residents of Downers Grove Township. He offered a thank you to all of those leaving office, specifically Trustees Donner, Kelly, Van Der Laan, and Supervisor Thoman.

Supervisor Thoman ended the Public Comment portion of the Meeting by indicating that the Annual Town Meeting, as well as the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Township Center, are now available via video on the Downers Grove Township website.

6. Motion to Approve the Minutes of the Two Public Hearings from February 25, 2021, as Presented

A Motion was made by Supervisor Thoman to Approve the Minutes of the Two Public Hearings from February 25, 2021, as Presented. The Motion was seconded by Trustee Donner. Supervisor Thoman opened the Motion for Trustee discussion.

Trustee Ferguson does not agree with the changes made to the Minutes. She feels that the Minutes should reflect the verbatim comments of the speaker, regardless of how long the comments are. Supervisor Thoman remarked that the only changes made were to his comments and were made to reflect exactly what he said.

Roll Call vote: Trustee Donner "Aye", Trustee Kelly "Aye", Trustee Ferguson "No", Trustee Van Der Laan "Aye", Supervisor Thoman "Aye". Ayes, 4, Nay, 1, Absent, 0. Motion Carried.

7. Motion to Approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting from February 25, 2021, as Presented

A Motion was made by Supervisor Thoman to Approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting from February 25, 2021, as Presented. The Motion was seconded by Trustee Kelly.

Supervisor Thoman then moved to Amend the Minutes of the February 25, 2021 Board Meeting to Strike All Public Comment, all word for word Public Comment and Refer to the Videotaped Version of Said Meeting. The Motion was seconded by Trustee Donner. Supervisor Thoman then opened the Amended Motion for discussion by Trustees.

Trustee Van Der Laan disagrees with the Motion to Amend and recognized that although some comments could be deemed sensitive in nature, he disagreed with them being stricken from the written record.

Trustee Kelly reminded the Board that Minutes from the March 18, 2021 meeting were amended, and the Board Approved the Amended minutes, therefore the Board was agreeable to amending minutes.

Trustee Ferguson repeated her opinion that the minutes of a meeting should reflect the verbatim comments of all present.

The Video from Public Comments for the February 25, 2021 minutes can be viewed on our website.

Roll Call vote for Motion to Approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting from February 25, 2021, as Amended: Trustee Donner "Aye", Trustee Kelly "Aye", Trustee Ferguson "No", Trustee Van Der Laan "Nay", Supervisor Thoman "Aye". Ayes, 3, Nay, 2, Absent, 0. Motion Carried.

Roll Call vote for Motion to Approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting from February 25, 2021, as Amended:

Trustee Ferguson stated during the Motion to Approve the Amended minutes that Minutes should be the Minutes. The minutes should be factual and represent the actual content and I don't understand why that information would be removed.

Trustee Van Der Laan stated that Amending minutes in the past, didn't remove Public Comment and referring individuals to the video were accurate and factual and given the previous votes, I would be inclined to vote to adopt these minutes.

Trustee Donner "Aye", Trustee Kelly "Aye", Trustee Ferguson "No", Trustee Van Der Laan "Aye", Supervisor Thoman "Aye". Ayes, 4, Nays, 1, Absent, 0. Motion Carried.

8. Motion to Approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting from March 18, 2021, As Presented

Supervisor Thoman made a Motion to Approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting from March 18, 2021, as Presented. The Motion was seconded by Trustee Kelly. There was no Trustee discussion.

Roll Call vote: Trustee Donner, "Aye", Trustee Kelly, "Aye", Trustee Ferguson "Aye", Trustee Van Der Laan, "Aye", Supervisor Thoman, "Aye". Ayes, 5, Nay, 0, Absent, 0. Motion Carried.

9. Motion to Approve the Trustee Audit and Approval of Bills and Claims, As Presented

General Town Fund	04/14/2021 to 04/14/2021	\$46,014.69
General Road Fund	04/14/2021 to 04/14/2021	\$21,185.73

Supervisor Thoman made a Motion to Approve the Trustee Audit and Approval of Bills and Claims, as Presented. The Motion was seconded by Trustee Donner. There was no Trustee discussion.

Roll Call vote: Trustee Donner, "Aye", Trustee Kelly "Aye", Trustee Ferguson "Aye", Trustee Van Der Laan "Abstain", Supervisor Thoman, "Aye". Ayes, 4, Nays, 0, Abstain, 1, Absent, 0. Motion Carried.

10. Motion to Approve Agreement with Friends for Downers Grove Township Seniors

Supervisor Thoman made a Motion to Approve the Agreement with Friends for Downers Grove Township Seniors. The Motion was seconded by Trustee Kelly.

Supervisor Thoman informed the Board that the Agreement supports FFDGTS and states that insurance carried by Downers Grove Township will cover all FFDGTS events. Trustee Kelly commented that she was glad to see this happen because it was a concern of FFDGTS.

Roll Call vote: Trustee Donner, "Aye", Trustee Kelly "Aye", Trustee Ferguson "Aye", Trustee Van Der Laan, "Aye", Supervisor Thoman, "Aye". Ayes, 5, Nays, 0, Absent, 0. Motion Carried.

11. Supervisor's Report

Supervisor Thoman stated that since he had given his report at the Annual Town Meeting, he has nothing to add at this Meeting.

12. Old Business

Supervisor Thoman stated that the Township will be reinstating the Meals on Wheels Frozen Meal Distribution Program, beginning April 29, 2021. The Township will sponsor this event once each month through September 2021.

Trustee Donner stated that the outside audit will be completed during the current administration.

13. New Business

Trustee Ferguson stated that, while Supervisor Thoman's report at the Annual Town Meeting was helpful, there are many ways in which residents can find out what is going on at the Township and encourages residents to reach out to elected officials and staff at any time. She continued that she did not need to report on Senior and Youth Services because Supervisor Thoman covered that in his report. Furthermore, she cautioned that people should not make assumptions about why a report was not given. Trustee Ferguson ended her comments with a thank you to Supervisor Thoman for his service to the Township.

Trustee Van Der Laan thanked Supervisor Thoman and the other elected officials for their service to the Township. He further stated that it was his honor and pleasure to serve as Trustee.

Trustee Donner offered his thanks to Supervisor Thoman and added that if a person in the private sector had devoted as much time and energy to the construction of a building as Supervisor Thoman had, he would most likely receive a bonus. It is a testament to Supervisor Thoman's devotion to the Township that the new Township Center was completed. Trustee Donner also offered his thanks to Highway Commissioner Andy Anderson and Assessor Greg Boltz. Donner went on to criticize the Motion made at the Annual Town Meeting attempting to end Public Comment. He stated that everyone has the right to speak and that the Motion had no basis in logic. Finally, Trustee Donner offered his assistance to the new Board, if needed. He advised the new Board to do the budgets early to avoid residents being overcharged on the levy.

Trustee Kelly said that it was her honor and privilege to serve. She is pleased to serve as liaison to the Senior Advisory Council and Friends for Downers Grove Township Seniors. She thanked her fellow Board members, as well as the Downers Grove Township staff.

Supervisor Thoman thanked his staff and commented that it spoke well of the Township elected officials and staff to stand as a group at the Annual Town Meeting and vote against the cancellation of Board reports.

14. Motion to Adjourn

There being no further business to come before this Board, Supervisor Thoman made a Motion to Adjourn at 8:07pm. The Motion was seconded by Trustee Van Der Laan.

Roll call vote: Trustee Donner, "Aye", Trustee Kelly, "Aye", Trustee Ferguson, "Aye", Trustee Van Der Laan, "Aye", Supervisor Thoman, "Aye". Ayes, 5, Nay, 0, Absent, 0. Motion Carried.

The next regular Downers Grove Township Board of Trustees Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 20, 2021 at 7:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan R. Mistretta, Deputy Clerk, On Behalf of Township Clerk Lorraine Grimsby