

MINUTES OF DOWNERS GROVE TOWNSHIP
BOARD MEETING
August 3, 2017

Regular meeting of the Supervisor and Board of Trustees of Downers Grove Township held on Thursday, August 3, 2017 at 4340 Prince Street, Downers Grove, Illinois.

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Supervisor Thoman.

2. Pledge of Allegiance:

Supervisor Thoman lead everyone in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Roll Call:

Board members present at roll call were Trustee Arthur P. Donner, Trustee Abby Ferguson, Trustee Dave Kalet, Trustee Karen Kelly and Supervisor Mark Thoman. A quorum was physically present.

Absent: None

Also present was Township Attorney Allen Alongi and Clerk Lorraine Grimsby.

7. Lauren Aramburu: Presentation on Township Provided Youth Services in cooperation with school. Prior to the beginning of the meeting, Supervisor Thoman asked residents if they agreed with moving up #7 agenda item to following Roll Call. Residents agreed.

Ms. Aramburu, Life Skills Instructor, provided an overview of her job responsibilities related to youth services for local high schools and middle schools. Main responsibility is Peer LED Prevention Education Life Skills Programs which is a prevention leadership program that provides life skills education with focus on alcohol, tobacco and other drug information. Snowball and Snowflake provide for students to build confidence and positive experiences. These programs offers a weekend retreat that is collaboratively organized and run by students and high school adult staff. The weekend is prevention based focusing on good decision-making, current teen issues, and positive messages on staying alcohol, tobacco and drug free. Life Skills are currently provided to 5 local schools. Ms. Aramburu also received the Adult Leader of the Year Award for 2016.

4. Public Comment:

Residents made the following comments and asked about: 1) the timing of suspending the Peer Jury programs, 2) donors are willing to support the program, 3) benefits and support of the program, 4) amount of State funding that was lost, 5) how was decision made on which program to eliminate, 6) total cost of program and hours to run program 7)Twp should find money in the budget, 8)) will the Township manage or help find a solution to keep the program, 9) Thank You letters should be sent to Peer Jurors.

In response to resident questions and comments, Supervisor Thoman stated that Peer Jury has been suspended, the cases that are in process will be finalized. Estimates of the costs were distributed to everyone. Decision to suspend the program was determined

by the reach of the program and the number of students that benefited, cost and because Peer Jury falls outside the Township purview. The County and Municipalities are authorized to provide programs for older juveniles. Other revenue sources have been explored.

After a lengthy Public Comment, Trustee Ferguson thanked everyone for coming and expressing their comments and stated that a decision can't be made tonight, but moving forward, we could find a solution and recommended this be placed on the September 7th agenda for further updates.

Attorney Alongi stated that when the Peer Jury was started 15 years ago, it was funded/implemented through a small sliver of law 60ILCS 1-85-13 1, now the funding has been terminated.

In conclusion, Supervisor Thoman restated that the Peer Jury program was suspended because of the lack of State funding for Youth Services and because Peer Jury falls outside the Township purview, but there is a path forward for the residents of the Township to reach out to the Municipalities with funding, knowledge and organization to see if they are willing to participate in an enterprise scale, privately funded program. Supervisor Thoman will assist with providing statistical information and help coordinate a 501 (c) 3 to implement the Peer Jury somewhere else.

5. Motion to Approve the Minutes of Board Meeting, July 20, 2017.

Trustee Kalet made a motion to approve the July 20, 2017 minutes as presented, motion seconded by Trustee Kelly, Trustee Kalet, Ferguson, Kelly and Supervisor Thoman voted aye, Trustee Donner abstained. Motion Carried.

6. Trustee Audit and Approval of Bills and Claims.

No bills or claims for this meeting. Supervisor Thoman moved to have the Audit and Approval of Bills and Claims on next month's agenda, motion seconded by Trustee Kalet, all voted aye. Motion Carried.

8. Preliminary Budget Overview.

Supervisor Thoman provided a PowerPoint preliminary budget overview and schedule of key dates for further review and approval. More in depth discussions will be held at future meetings.

9. Supervisor's Report.

1. Dial-A-Ride: 6 month statistics were distributed and complaints are now tracked. Contract discussions will be on a future agenda. Contract renewal December 31, 2017.

10. Old Business.

None at this time.

11. New Business.

Trustee Ferguson restated that the Peer Jury should be place on the September 7th agenda. This provides time to get better statistics and answers together. At that time, we will also see if other arrangements have been made for an entirely new program through the County or Municipality, which has the authority.

12. Executive Session.

No Executive Session for this meeting.

13. Motion to Adjourn

Trustee Donner motioned to adjourn, seconded by Trustee Ferguson, all voted aye. Motion Carried.

The next regular Downers Grove Township Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, August 17, 2017.