

MINUTES OF DOWNERS GROVE TOWNSHIP
BOARD MEETING
November 6, 2014

A meeting of the Town Board of Downers Grove Township was held November 6, 2014 at the Downers Grove Township, 4340 Prince Street, Downers Grove, Illinois.

1. *Call to Order:* Supervisor Wurster called the meeting to order at 7:31 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 Trustee Abbate, Trustee Grimsby, Trustee Swanston, and Supervisor Wurster. A quorum was physically present. Supervisor Wurster called for a motion to allow Trustee Cuthbert to attend the meeting electronically, which motion was made by Trustee Abbate and seconded by Trustee Grimsby. All voted aye by roll call vote, and the motion carried. Trustee Cuthbert attended the meeting electronically by speaker phone. Attorney Alongi was present.
3. *Public Comment:* There was no public comment.
4. *Correspondence:* Clerk Hois said there was no correspondence.
5. *Minutes:* Supervisor Wurster called for a motion to approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting held on October 2, 2014. Trustee Grimsby made a motion to approve minutes, seconded by Trustee Abbate, and all voted aye.
6. *Invoices:* The Board of Trustees reviewed the invoices prior to the meeting:

General Town Fund	10/16	\$ 16,013.69
General Town Fund	11/06	\$ 6,378.57
General Road Fund	10/05	\$ 34,329.61
General Road Fund	10/15	\$ 87,552.76
General Assistance	10/01 to 10/30	\$ 1,896.29

Trustee Abbate made a motion to approve the invoices, which motion was seconded by Trustee Grimsby. Four members of the Board of Trustees voted aye to approve the invoices, and Trustee Cuthbert voted present.

7. *Board Meeting Schedule 2015:* The Downers Grove Township Board Meeting Schedule was discussed with the meetings having been moved to the third Thursday in the month. Trustee Swanston made a motion, seconded by Trustee Grimsby, all voted aye to approve the 2015 Board Meeting Schedule.
8. *Passage of Township Levy:* Supervisor Wurster introduced the topic of the levy, indicating he had several points to make:
 - a. Most other townships are requesting levy at 4.9%;

- b. The Township's only source of income is the real estate levy;
- c. Years ago, from 1993 to 1999, the Township did a zero to minus levy, fell behind on finances, it has taken many years to get back on track;
- d. When Supervisor Wurster took office the Township did not know if it would be able to meet payroll, we had to scrape by, e.g. instead of hiring a painter, the township employees painted building interior, the township used furniture borrowed or received by donation, the hallway carpet was shampooed by an employee to save money;
- e. Six to seven months of surplus is the recommended amount;
- f. Today, we are still thrifty and save money where possible, e.g. purchasing office supplies when discounts available at Office Depot;
- g. Trustee expense sheet shows \$169,000 per month operating expenses, with a balance remaining of around \$6,000 per month;
- h. Anticipated expenses for next year may include extending the parking lot at the Township office to Saratoga Avenue, and renovation of the cemeteries, and "there are some things we need to do that we have not done, because we did not have the money."

Supervisor Wurster recommended the 2% levy to "keep us rollin,'" and said he would ask the Board for approval to do parking lot and cemetery work.

Trustee Cuthbert said it looks like there is a surplus per month of \$6,700, which is about 4%. He noted that health insurance expenses may go down, and acknowledged the reality that other costs will go up. He said the 2% levy could lead to higher surplus per month, depending on amounts spent for capital expenditures and cost of living expenses. He would prefer a 0% levy.

Supervisor Wurster said the 501(c)(3) organization established to defray cemetery and dial-a-ride expenses has not yielded the desired results, as the amount of donations received has been less than anticipated, to date.

Supervisor Wurster made a motion requesting the Board to approve the Township levy at 2%, which motion was seconded by Trustee Abbate. Clerk

Hois took a roll call vote:	Trustee Abbate	Aye
	Trustee Swanston	Aye
	Trustee Grimsby	Nay
	Trustee Cuthbert	Nay
	Supervisor Wurster	Aye

The motion carried, with 3 in favor and 2 opposed. Township will levy 2%.

9. *Passage of Highway Department Levy:* Highway Commissioner Anderson spoke about why the Township Highway Department is asking for a 2% levy, reminding the Board of Trustees that 46% of the Highway Department levy goes back to the Villages in the Township. Commissioner Anderson referenced the email messages he had sent to the Trustee's in support of the 2% increase, which cited increased concrete, fuel, salt, asphalt, material and equipment prices. In addition, the EPA is mandating higher dump fees. Tree maintenance costs have risen, due in part to attack of the Emeral Ash borer.

Commissioner Anderson said, "We cannot afford a zero levy due to the fact that prices are always increasing." Trustee Grimsby asked if the Highway Department had ever had a zero levy, and the answer was "no." Trustee Cuthbert asked for the current cash balance, which was at \$1.2-1.3 million. Trustee Abbate said she is in favor of the supporting the 2% levy increase, noting that Villages she has interviewed have the same amount of roadway to maintain but twice the budget. The Township Highway Department is working well to maintain the roads and trees with less money, and she said the levy should not be less than 2%. Supervisor Wurster added that the Highway Department still has to maintain almost 70 miles of roadway. Commissioner Anderson responded to Trustee Swanston's questions about tree maintenance procedures. Trustee Grimsby said she does not support asking for the maximum amount of levy (4.9%) for the Highway Department.

Trustee Abbate made a motion to approve the 2% levy increase for the Township Highway Department, which motion was seconded by Trustee Swanston. Clerk Hois took the roll call vote:

Trustee Abbate	Aye
Trustee Swanston	Aye
Trustee Grimsby	Aye
Trustee Cuthbert	Nay
Supervisor Wurster	Aye

Motion carried, 4 in favor, 1 opposed. Highway Department levy will be 2%.

10. *Appointment of Thomas Anderson to Senior Citizen Advisory Committee:* The Board of Trustees reviewed the resume of Thomas Anderson, and Supervisor Wurster interviewed him. Mark Thoman said Thomas Anderson has attended the last two committee meetings, he fits in well with the group, and the committee chair and members support his nomination. Supervisor Wurster recommended that the Board approve Thomas Anderson's appointment to the Senior Citizen Advisory Committee for a term ending July 12, 2016. Trustee Swanston made a motion in favor of the appointment, which motion was seconded by Trustee Cuthbert. All voted aye, and the motion carried.

11. *Blue Cross/Blue Shield Health Insurance Renewal 2015:* Deputy Supervisor West said the Illinois Department of Insurance has not yet allowed the release of pricing information for the 2015 insurance renewal, therefore this item should be moved to the December 4, 2014 meeting agenda. David Enk will attend the December Board meeting to present and explain information.

12. *Supervisor's Report:*

First, Supervisor Wurster said the Electors at the October 28, 2014 Special Town Meeting approved the sale of Real Estate for at least 80% of the \$185,000 appraised price, as an assemblage with adjacent property at 1201 E. Ogden Avenue. He has talked with two brokers and a representative from the Village of Downers Grove who inquired about the appraisal price.

Second, the Holiday Recognition Luncheon will take place on Monday, December 8, 2014 at Papa Passero's restaurant in Westmont, Illinois.

13. *Old Business:* Trustee Cuthbert requested minutes from the October 28, 2014 Special Town Meeting. Clerk Hois said the minutes have been prepared and that the court reporter's record of the meeting should be received soon.

14. *New Business:* Supervisor Wurster said the refuse referendum passed by 62.3%, and suggested we talk to the refuse committee chair Jack Novak regarding next steps at the regular board meeting on December 4, 2014. He said we are not obligated to adhere to a timeline, and this could take a year.

15. *Adjournment:* There being no further business Trustee Abbate made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which motion was seconded by Trustee Grimbsby, all voting aye. The meeting was adjourned at 8:49 p.m

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Hois
Town Clerk