

**Minutes of a Regular Meeting of
Downers Grove Township Board of Trustees
4341 Saratoga Street, Downers Grove, Illinois 60515
December 14, 2023**

1. Call to Order

Supervisor Coultrap called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

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

3. Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum

Clerk Grimsby called the roll. Present were Supervisor Coultrap, Trustee Ricordati, and Trustee McCloy. Absent: Trustee Ockrim and Trustee Ferguson.

Elected and Appointed Officials present were Allen Alongi, Township Attorney, Highway Commissioner Andy Anderson and Township Clerk, Lorraine Grimsby.

Others present: Ms. Wojtas.

4. Public Comment

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

Due to technical issues the conversations were not recorded, therefore, Ms. Wojtas stated that parking for Senior events is a problem. The Board stated that with the popularity of the senior activities, they are aware of this problem and will be researching options.

With no further comments or discussion, Supervisor Coultrap ended the Public Comment portion of the meeting.

5. Motion to Approve the Minutes of the Board Meetings from November 16, 2023, as Presented.

Trustee Ricordati made a Motion to Approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting from November 16, 2023 as Presented. Trustee McCloy seconded the Motion. There was no Trustee discussion.

Roll Call Vote: Trustee Ricordati, "Aye", Trustee McCloy "Aye" and Supervisor Coultrap "Aye". Absent: Trustee Ferguson and Trustee Ockrim. Motion carried.

6. Motion to Approve the Trustee Audit and Approval of Bills and Claims, as Presented

General Town Fund	12/01/2023 to 12/31/2023	\$ 35,234.28
General Road Fund	12/01/2023 to 12/31/2023	\$655,137.74

Trustee McCloy made a Motion to Approve the Trustee Audit and Approval of Bills and Claims, as Presented, and the Motion was seconded by Trustee Ricordati. There was no Trustee discussion.

Roll Call Vote: Trustee Ricordati, "Aye", Trustee McCloy "Aye" and Supervisor Coultrap "Aye". Absent: Trustee Ferguson and Trustee Ockrim. Motion carried.

7. Motion to Approve 2023/2024 Levy Request for Downers Grove Township General Fund, General Assistance Fund, and IMRF Fund as presented.

Trustee Ricordati read the Ordinance aloud.

Supervisor Coultrap stated tonight, I am asking the board for a 4% increase in our tax levy. There are a couple of reasons for the increase. 1) We have seen a dramatic increase in General Assistance and Emergency Assistance cases. While we continue to set records on the number of LiHeap applications we are seeing that money comes from the County. General Assistance and Emergency Assistance, on the other hand, is money from our budget. There are many seniors that are on a fixed income or single mothers that are applying.

General Assistance is a state-mandated program. The program provides a monthly grant to any single adult with no income who is seeking employment or has a pending Social Security Disability application.

Emergency Assistance is for Township residents who meet the income guidelines and have a disconnection notice for gas, electric or water, and/or a five-day notice on rent. EA is administered to households once in a twelve-month period with a lifetime maximum of 5 times.

We have also seen a tremendous uptick in the use of the Senior Center and the programs we are providing. As of last week, we have had over 7,500 people in attendance for our programs. We will reach over 8,000 before the end of the year. With this growth comes increases in costs associated with the center. In addition, we are looking to increase programs throughout the Township and not just here in the Township Building in 2024.

Finally, we are looking to increase services in our office to the Township. We will be adding services such as license plate stickers and temporary handicap placards. With all this growth also comes increased Personnel costs.

Trustee Ricordati made a Motion to Approve the 2023/2024 Levy Request for Downers Grove Township General Fund, General Assistance Fund, and IMRF Fund. Trustee McCloy seconded the Motion. There was no Trustee discussion.

Roll Call Vote: Trustee Ricordati, "Aye", Trustee McCloy "Aye" and Supervisor Coultrap "Aye". Absent: Trustee Ferguson and Trustee Ockrim. Motion carried.

8. Motion to Approve 2023/2024 Levy Request for Downers Grove Township Road District as presented. Highway Commissioner Anderson stated that the Road District is requesting a 4.9% increase. Since all prices have increased, some big culvert projects will be worked on next summer and the cost of asphalt has increased dramatically. Highway Commissioner Anderson also stated that 46% of his budget goes back to the Villages and Townships.

Trustee Ricordati made a Motion to Approve the 2023/2024 Levy Request for Downers Grove Township Road District. Trustee McCloy seconded the Motion. There was no Trustee discussion.

Roll Call Vote: Trustee Ricordati, "Aye", Trustee McCloy "Aye" and Supervisor Coultrap "Aye". Absent: Trustee Ferguson and Trustee Ockrim. Motion carried.

9. Supervisor's Report

Supervisor Coultrap stated that attendance continues to rise for Senior Services, Passports and the Medical Lending Closet.

For classes and events at the Township Senior Center, please register at:

Register at: humanservices@dgtownship.com or 630-719-6670

10. Senior Center Report by Trustee Dave Ricordati: Trustee Ricordati presented upcoming events that are listed in the monthly Senior Events brochure. Brochure event schedules are available at: <https://www.dgtownship.com/senior-services/>

11. Assessor's Report

No report.

12. Highway Commissioner Report:

In the past month the Highway Department has been working on the following projects:

- a.) Our tree crew finished our brush pickup in section five bringing our fall pickup to a close. Our tree crew also trimmed a few trees from our work order list.
- b.) We repaired several storm sewers in Farmingdale North, Landsfield and Lake in the Woods subdivisions. These basins had sinkholes that formed in the road which our crew patched and back filled with gravel.
- c.) We had a couple of rainy days which gave the crew a chance to remove grass, leaves, and debris from our storm basins. This happened earlier in the month when only a few leaves had fallen. Our fall street sweeping will pick up the remaining leaves shortly after the Thanksgiving holiday.
- d.) We replaced culverts in Pleasantdale, the Gardens, Liberty Park, Bruce Lake and Brookeridge subdivisions.
- e.) We are currently patching all our open basin repair and culvert replacement spots, most of them were mentioned in the past two bullet points and the rest were left over from culverts we replaced with our Gradall program. We are trying to finish all our patching jobs this week since the asphalt plants usually close at Thanksgiving.
- f.) We have two trucks set up for winter operations just in case we have a surprise snow. These trucks can salt our bridge decks, hills, and curves if we need them to.

13. Old Business

There was no old business presented.

14. New Business

There was no new business presented.

15. Motion to Move to Executive Session pursuant to Open Meetings Act 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (11) and Open Meetings Act 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (21). Act 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (11): Discuss imminent or pending litigation and Act 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (21): Semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by Section 2.06.

Trustee Ricordati made a Motion to Move to Executive Session. Trustee McCloy seconded the Motion. There was no Trustee discussion.

Roll Call Vote: Trustee Ricordati, "Aye", Trustee McCloy "Aye" and Supervisor Coultrap "Aye". Absent: Trustee Ferguson and Trustee Ockrim. Motion carried.

16. Motion to Return to Open Session

Trustee McCloy made a Motion to Return to Open Session. Trustee Ricordati seconded the Motion. There was no Trustee discussion.

Roll Call Vote: Trustee Ricordati, "Aye", Trustee McCloy "Aye" and Supervisor Coultrap "Aye". Absent: Trustee Ferguson and Trustee Ockrim. Motion carried.

17. Closed Session Report

No report.

18. Motion to Adjourn

There being no further business to come before this Board, Supervisor Coultrap called for a Motion to Adjourn. Trustee McCloy made a Motion to Adjourn. The Motion was seconded by Trustee Ricordati. The Motion was carried by voice vote. The Meeting adjourned at 7:52 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lorraine Grimsby, Township Clerk