

**SOUTH MOLINE TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**

October 19, 2020

PRESENT — Tracy Best, Supervisor; Rick Mellinger, Assessor; Brian Forsberg, Trustee; Mark Lundahl, Trustee; Bob Schultz, Road Commissioner; and Nick Vyncke, Clerk
Attending electronically - Andrea Anderson, Trustee; and Lisa Griffin, Trustee.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER — Meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Supervisor Best.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES — Motion by Anderson, second by Lundahl, that we approve the minutes of October 6, 2020. Motion carried, with all voting in favor.

OFFICIALS' REPORTS —

- a. **Road Commissioner** — Our truck will be blasted and painted. We will have new cutting edges for the snow plows and be ready for snow.
- b. **Assessor** — We are waiting on the county. They are two months behind schedule.
- c. **Cemetery** — All is going well.
- d. **Seniors** — All is fine. We are still open three days a week.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS —

- a. **Tax Levy** - Best looked at the numbers. He is considering reducing coverage in FICA and then moving some other things around. He is expecting a 1.5% reduction in the levy. Best recalled the auditor saying to be cautious. Best believes 1.5% would be proper for the tax payers. Further discussion is needed.
- b. **Compensation for Elected Officials** - Best presented a sheet showing elected officials' salaries plus insurance benefits for South Moline, Moline, and Hampton Townships. Best stated that he believes salary increases are fitting. Lundahl agreed. Lundahl then asked what dollar amount a 75% payment of insurance would be for his own understanding. Numbers were calculated for each of the respective positions. Schultz then added that a previous board reduced the salary increases and insurance by similar numbers. Lundahl clarified that he simply wants a better understanding of the entire situation. Forsberg mentioned that these positions must be competitive. Best concurred. Schultz believes this is correcting something that was done incorrectly in years past.

Discussion continued and led to Lundahl asking if the proposed insurance was a state-run program. Best said it is not and that the township tries to find the most beneficial program for the employees and the township.

Best then asked those attending electronically to give input. Anderson stated that she believes the raises are too much. She did not approve of the percentage raise for the assessor. She did agree on the increase in salary for the supervisor. Griffin stated that she believes the last cuts were drastic.

Discussion then turned to the position of clerk. Lundahl asked if the other raise proposal percentages were equal to that of the clerk. Lundahl then asked what else the job entails. Vyncke informed all that this year is a bit different, being he was newly appointed. Other obligations were discussed among the board. Lundahl then suggested a similar raise in percentage as other proposed raises on the table. The number of \$12,000 was discussed versus the proposed \$11,500 from \$11,255. Everyone agreed.

Best continued with the discussion of the road commissioner. Everyone agreed on his suggestion of going from \$27,162.41 to \$28,000.

The trustee position led to some debate. Anderson believed that the amount of \$3,000 annual salary/\$125 dollars a meeting was more appropriate than the proposed raise was to \$3,600 dollars/\$150 per meeting. She stated that she personally believes that trustees are not doing this for the income, but rather the experience and feeling of service. Griffin stated that there have not been salary changes for the trustees since she first joined the board. Mellinger asked about the comparison with the other townships. Mellinger continued by stating that it needs to correlate with the other positions. Lundahl stated that he believes the trustee position is not about the work, but the commitment. Anderson then added that changing the proposed amount for the position of trustee will not make the position more attractive, as discussed earlier for other positions.

The conversation continued back to the raises as a whole and if there should be a percentage increase annually. Anderson stated that she did not believe that having a set annual increase without seeing budgetary issues of the future may be a problem. After discussing at length, Lundahl stated that these raises are necessary. Forsberg stated he agreed with Anderson in that future issues may arise but he sees no issue in a flat increase. Schultz stated that an annual percentage raise is going to attract talent to the higher-paying positions. Anderson believed that as a responsible elected official, we should not put in permanent increases in salary without knowing future problems/issues. Best asked what the board thought about 2%. Anderson disagreed saying she does not believe that there should be a 2% raise on top of the inclusion of insurance as well. Best then mentioned the inflation rate. Suggestions arose.

Lundahl made a motion to increase the Supervisor position to \$56,000 with 75% insurance, Assessor \$65,000 with 75% insurance, Clerk \$12,000 and Road Commissioner \$28,000, and these four positions will receive a yearly increase of cost of living plus 1% not to exceed 3%. Trustees to increase to \$150 per meeting. Forsberg seconded the motion. Ayes: Best, Forsberg, Griffin, and Lundahl. Nays: Anderson. Motion carried 4-1.

- c. **School Assistance for Underprivileged** - Best did hear that non-perishable food is needed. Best then mentioned that the collection of coats and bookbags is not happening as in years past. He continued by suggesting that we offer schools the opportunity to take a certain amount of kids and provide them with what is needed. Anderson suggested a smaller amount. Best continued by stating that there would be a limit on the amount for each school based on how many kids would attend. Anderson mentioned asking schools what was needed more: food or clothes. Best and Lundahl agreed and Best stated he will speak with the schools and provide the feedback. Best made a motion to spend \$1,000 per school and let the schools decide on food or clothing. Anderson seconded the motion. All ayes, motion carried.

MEETINGS & EDUCATION —

Next Board Meeting: November 4, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.
South Moline Township Hall, 2521 53rd Street, Moline, IL

TRUSTEES APPROVAL OF BILLS BY FUNDS —

- a. TOWN FUND
 - 1. TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATION — Motion by Forsberg for approval; second by Lundahl. Ayes: Anderson, Griffin, Lundahl, Forsberg and Best. Unanimous.
 - 2. ASSESSOR — Motion by Lundahl for approval; second by Griffin. Ayes: Anderson, Griffin, Lundahl, Forsberg and Best. Unanimous.
 - 3. TOWNSHIP SENIOR CENTER — Motion by Griffin for approval; second by Anderson. Ayes: Anderson, Griffin, Lundahl, Forsberg and Best. Unanimous.
- b. TOWN FUND — FICA — Motion by Anderson for approval; second by Forsberg. Ayes: Anderson, Griffin, Lundahl, Forsberg and Best. Unanimous.
- c. TOWN FUND — IMRF — Motion by Forsberg for approval; second by Lundahl. Ayes: Anderson, Griffin, Lundahl, Forsberg and Best. Unanimous.
- d. GENERAL ASSISTANCE — Motion by Lundahl for approval; second by Griffin. Ayes: Anderson, Griffin, Lundahl, Forsberg and Best. Unanimous.
- e. ROAD & BRIDGE / GENERAL FUND — Motion by Griffin for approval; second by Anderson. Ayes: Anderson, Griffin, Lundahl, Forsberg and Best. Unanimous.
- f. ROAD & BRIDGE / IMRF FUND — Motion by Anderson for approval; second by Forsberg. Ayes: Anderson, Griffin, Lundahl, Forsberg and Best. Unanimous.
- g. ROAD & BRIDGE / FICA FUND — Motion by Forsberg for approval; second by Lundahl. Ayes: Anderson, Griffin, Lundahl, Forsberg and Best. Unanimous.
- h. ROAD & BRIDGE / EQUIPMENT & BLDG — Motion by Lundahl for approval; second by Griffin. Ayes: Anderson, Griffin, Lundahl, Forsberg and Best. Unanimous.
- i. ROAD & BRIDGE / INSURANCE FUND — Motion by Griffin for approval; second by Anderson. Ayes: Anderson, Griffin, Lundahl, Forsberg and Best. Unanimous.
- j. CEMETERY — Motion by Anderson for approval; second by Forsberg. Ayes: Anderson, Griffin, Lundahl, Forsberg and Best. Unanimous.

COMMENTS — None

ADJOURNMENT — Motion by Griffin, second by Lundahl, that we adjourn the meeting. Motion carried, with all voting in favor. Meeting adjourned @ 6:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicholas “Nick” Vyncke
South Moline Township Clerk