

**SOUTH MOLINE TOWNSHIP
Decennial Committee Meeting
May 22, 2023**

PRESENT — Greg Aguilar, Supervisor; Andrea Anderson, Trustee; Howard Gripp, Trustee; Brian Forsberg, Trustee; and Bob Schultz, Trustee; Mark Lundahl, Road Commissioner; Nick Vyncke, Resident; Joe Lambrect, Resident.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER — Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Supervisor Aguilar.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Committee Overview -

Supervisor Aguilar opened the meeting by reciting an overview of the requirements of the Decennial Committee on Local Government Efficiency Act, 50 ILCS 70/1 *et seq.*:

1. Form a committee to Study local efficiencies and meet for the first time no later than June 10, 2023.
2. Have the committee meet at least 3 times
3. Prepare a written report with recommendations (if any) on
 - a. Efficiencies
 - b. Increased accountability; and
4. File the report with the county board.

Supervisor Aguilar presented the option available to combine the Township and Road District's Reports. Trustee Schultz motioned to form a joint committee be formed to combine the Township and Road District Reports. Nick Vyncke seconded the motion. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Committee Membership –

Supervisor Aguilar, regarding a joint committee, specified the committee shall consist of the Township Supervisor, the Township Road Commissioner, and Township Trustees along with 2 township residents appointed by the Supervisor and 1 resident appointed by the Road Commissioner.

Aguilar introduced Joe Lambrecht, member of the Planning and Zoning Commission for the city of East Moline and Nick Vyncke, Township Clerk, as his appointees.

Aguilar put forth Mark Tomlinson citing his membership on the SMT Fire Protection District, for the Road Commissioner Mark Lundahl to approve. Lundahl agreed to appoint Tomlinson but stated he had someone else in mind. Aguilar clarified more appointees are permitted and would be welcome if Lundahl had another resident appointed.

Committee Timeline –

The first meeting is essentially organizational, therefor, Aguilar asked to set deadlines for the next steps. He suggested meeting once a month for the next 2 months in order to complete the 3-meeting requirement.

Andrea Anderson motioned after the June 20, 2023 Board of Trustees meeting as it will already be on everyone's schedule. Schultz seconded. Motion passed with all voting in favor.

Bob Schultz asked if the third meeting should be scheduled now. Aguilar replied that his thought is because it's asking us to compile information and identify efficiencies, if we want to employ specialists in public administration or other consultants we can. That's all we have to do for the first meeting. We'll know more by the next meeting.

Open Discussion –

Mark Lundahl asked what was the impetus of this? Do you know? Aguilar responded I don't know but my thought is there's always been conversation about do we really need township government? I also believe too they're saying well if the city of Moline has a plow can the city share the plow with the township. We both know we can't. Lundahl agreed.

Anderson stated she thinks there would be opportunities if you have strong partnerships with another township and they have facilities and mechanizations that you don't perhaps this is the time to join.

Aguilar - Here's another good example, the fire protection district, Blackhawk township has it and could we work together, should we work together and but you hit the nail on the head that this is our opportunity to say what do we need? What don't we need? Or do we just want to keep it the same. But it's our conversation, we decide.

Lundahl - the way the township and the city have the streets, that to me is one of the biggest inefficiencies. I'm in a situation on 29th street right now where they say we own 25% and they 75%. So, do you really go down that road and tell the residents, sorry the plow stops here? No, we plow the whole thing. There's a lot of inefficiencies between Moline and the township.

Aguilar - We could probably do it cheaper.

All members agreed.

The last part here is the survey of residents. And I would like to add that residents are afraid of higher taxes for less services so it's asking us to ask for a survey of residents so that all of us are also residents too. Is there anything else, we have room for up to three, Joe you're welcome to anything, any thoughts. But I like what Mr. Schultz said: people don't like taxes for less service, is there anything else, other concerns that residents might have? Do they want smaller government, bigger government, anything goes on here.

Bob Schultz - I would tell you that every road district resident is terrified of the idea of the city of Moline taking their road over. And that is no exaggeration. Their taxes would be a lot higher for a lot less service. I will say your two roads are plowed within hours of the snowfall. If not while the snow is falling.

Aguilar - Let's keep these ideas rolling. Please feel free to shoot me emails, if it's on your mind, let's add this to the conversation while it's fresh on our minds. I think it's going to be a great conversation. And also too, we want to make sure that we can continue serving the public at a very fair cost, but you're hitting the nail on the head.

Lundahl - I don't know if this fits you guys get a lot of calls up here, and so do I about "take this deer out of my yard"; pick up my trash; storm came through, a tree is on my fence. What I'd like to do is what I would say is a public service announcement that went to every resident down there that says this is what road & bridge does. Everything else is, if it falls in this category – this. If it's this – them.

Schultz - I just think that's the road commissioner's job to actually have a voice with the public. I'm sorry, I'm not to agree with you on that. I think it's good that they call you, I think it's good that you answer the phone, that they hear your voice. And they know that you care about the roads. I think that does a lot for personal interaction.

Aguilar - Would it be safe to say, county and city services are often slower or non-responsive? Or do we say just slower to township? I'm agreeing with you that we can do this cheaper than anyone else. Just want to remind us, don't get me wrong, everything we're saying is right on. But just reminding us of what we do and why it's important that we continue.

Anderson - And we're obviously fairly efficient with what our numbers have been.

Schultz - I would say it this way, residents don't understand the limitations of the township jurisdiction.

Lundahl - there needs to be some kind of campaign sent out so that these people know what we do.

Schultz - maybe better, our website should spell it out better. R&B district duties. maybe there should be the county health dept phone number, or building and zoning to cover these things

Aguilar - even with general or emergency assistance. It would be so much easier to click online to see if you even qualify before you even come in, fill out your application on line.

Anderson - what we provide to our community...

Aguilar - as you can see this is going to be a great discussion but I want to respect your time. Is there anything else I don't want to cut anyone off. The sample questionnaire / report provided by TOI was given to everyone in last month's packet. The last portion of the study meeting, any public comments?

Adjournment –

Nick Vyncke motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mark Lundahl seconded. Motioned carried with all voting in favor.
Meeting adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Beth Loos
Administrative Assistant
South Moline Township