

**SOUTH MOLINE TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**

July 17, 2023

PRESENT — Greg Aguilar, Supervisor; Andrea Anderson, Trustee; Brian Forsberg, Trustee; Howard Gripp, Trustee; Bob Schultz, Trustee; Nick Vyncke, Clerk; Kent Breecher, Cemetery; Derrick Burton, Veterans; and Joe Lambrecht.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES — Motion by Gripp, second by Schultz, that we approve the minutes of June 19, 2023. Motion carried, with all voting in favor.

OFFICIALS' REPORTS —

- a. **Cemetery** — Bills are coming in from the previous storms. Breecher clarified the process. There is still work to be done.
- b. **Youth** — Backpack process is starting. They should be sent out soon.
- c. **Veterans** — We are searching for cost savings when providing services. One idea was to replace damaged flags in the community. Sign and logo bids were received. The Vet Center helped in finding suitable housing for a veteran who wanted to stay in his current school district. We are continuing to search for ways to help veterans in South Moline Township. A pamphlet is in the process of being designed.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT —

G.A. Report - Pending 1, Active 7, Denied 1, Terminated 2; Total 11.
E.A Report - Pending 1, Approved 1, Denied 2; Total 4.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS —

- a. **Centennial Tax** - We are still finding miscalculations in billing. A bill was received with a lower number than calculated by SMT staff. The check was sent with the correct dollar amount owed. Other firms are being considered.
- b. **Conflict of Interest** - Aguilar stated that 6 of the 7 professionals who were contacted informed him that it was a conflict of interest in hiring an employee of the road district to mow for the cemetery. Breecher believes Aguilar did not provide full information to the individuals when speaking with them. Breecher presented text excerpts from the township handbook highlighting certain sections. He had hoped that the board would read the material and make their own decisions. Discussion ensued. Breecher continued stating that there are no guidelines for the cemetery board. Best's Lawn Care has had the contract since 2017. Breecher believes that to not honor the contract would lead to legal action by the individual holding the contract. Forsberg believes that after the June 19 meeting, the Cemetery Board would make the final decision on whether to honor the contract or move on to another company. Breecher stated that Aguilar is the treasurer and would not pay if they decided to go that route.

Anderson does not want the Township Board to be held liable for an illegal action and, according to what the township attorney and other individuals have said, it would be. She continued stating that oversight is necessary. The clarity of the statutes is up for interpretation and makes it difficult for the Township Board to fully act on this situation. This is why we rely on attorneys.

Aguilar reread an excerpt dealing with prohibited interest in contracts. Breecher told Aguilar that he was missing the last sentence, dealing with where to find permissible interests of contracts. Breecher believes that this sentence was not disclosed to the attorneys. Anderson reminded Breecher that this is why attorneys are used. They are supposed to look at all the information and laws.

Breecher compared Road & Bridge snow removal services to the current situation. Aguilar stated that this would be between two government entities -- not a government entity and a personal business of a government employee.

Schultz stated that if this continues to be a stalemate, that maybe the best course of action is to have Best's Lawn Care pursue legal action. Discussion ensued. Different individuals began reading statutes.

Gripp asked the current contract amount for mowing and if the current/temporary company that is handling the service is paid the same. Breecher confirmed that they are similar in price. Anderson asked why this just can't be ended based on the current situation. Both boards can then avoid any legal situation. Breecher stated that no matter how it is looked at, we will have a legal situation because there is a standing contract with Best's Lawn Care. Schultz asked what it will take to get out of the contract with Best's Lawn Care.

After some conversation, Breecher then reminded the board that he himself has not been paid. Forsberg questioned if in the past Cemetery Board members were paid for maintenance duties at the cemetery. Breecher stated that he received bids for cleaning tombstones amounting to over \$32,000. He and his wife took care of it for under \$1,500 -- saving the township money. Anderson asked Breecher if he turned in the requested time sheet created by the Township Board. Aguilar told the board that the only timesheet that was turned in was hours with times 2 after it. When asked what that meant, Breecher stated that it was his and his wife's hours. Aguilar believes that is also a conflict of interest. Pay for Cemetery Board for meetings and other work was discussed. Aguilar stated that if this path continues, it would be illegal.

NEW BUSINESS —

- a. **Trustee's Workshop** - A sheet was presented for a trustee's workshop in Rock Island and Bloomington. Aguilar encouraged board members to attend.
- b. **Anonymous Letter** - A letter received by board members was read aloud by Schultz. It claimed dereliction of duties by the supervisor. The letter listed various items believed to be causing the township harm. It questioned availability of the supervisor, dates of meetings and proper postings, and random dates the office was closed when it was supposed to be open.

Vyncke clarified that it was he who is in charge of posting meeting dates, more specifically special meeting information. It was listed on the door. The website program being provided by Augustana College cannot be expected to post changes immediately. Proper procedures were followed pertaining to the special meeting called in the spring. It was listed in the letter about the availability of the supervisor and whether he is in the office as he should be. Aguilar stated the number of hours that he is required to be there.

He continued by stating that an individual looking for him for conversation could easily leave a message, note, or any other information with the staff in the building. Discussion ensued on the individual claiming to stop by “numerous” times and how accurate that claim is. The board believes anyone coming in would have made contact with the staff and be remembered or provided information to contact the individual needed.

Anderson compared the closing of the offices on Good Friday in the past. Aguilar confirmed that it does take time to post things online. All regular meetings are posted online when the schedule is confirmed in the winter. There was a regular meeting date confirmed by the board that was not properly listed online. Aguilar will follow up with the expectations of the Augustana web-guild. The board believes that we should be sharper with web postings, sticking to the schedule, and responding in a timely manner.

MEETINGS & EDUCATION —

Next Board Meeting: Tuesday August 1, 2023 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 Schultz for approval; second by Anderson. Ayes: Anderson, Schultz, Gripp, Forsberg and Aguilar. Unanimous.
 2. ASSESSOR — Motion by Anderson for approval; second by Forsberg. Ayes: Anderson, Schultz, Gripp, Forsberg and Aguilar. Unanimous.
 3. TOWNSHIP SENIOR CENTER — Motion by Forsberg for approval; second by Gripp. Ayes: Anderson, Schultz, Gripp, Forsberg and Aguilar. Unanimous.
- b. TOWN FUND — FICA — Motion by Gripp for approval; second by Schultz. Ayes: Anderson, Schultz, Gripp, Forsberg and Aguilar. Unanimous.
- c. TOWN FUND — IMRF — Motion by Schultz for approval; second by Anderson. Ayes: Anderson, Schultz, Gripp, Forsberg and Aguilar. Unanimous.
- d. GENERAL ASSISTANCE — Motion by Anderson for approval; second by Forsberg. Ayes: Anderson, Schultz, Gripp, Forsberg and Aguilar. Unanimous.
- e. ROAD & BRIDGE / GENERAL FUND — Motion by Forsberg for approval; second by Gripp. Ayes: Anderson, Schultz, Gripp, Forsberg and Aguilar. Unanimous.
- f. ROAD & BRIDGE / IMRF FUND — Motion by Gripp for approval; second by Schultz. Ayes: Anderson, Schultz, Gripp, Forsberg and Aguilar. Unanimous.
- g. ROAD & BRIDGE / FICA FUND — Motion by Schultz for approval; second by Anderson. Ayes: Anderson, Schultz, Gripp, Forsberg and Aguilar. Unanimous.
- h. ROAD & BRIDGE / EQUIPMENT & BLDG — Motion by Anderson for approval; second by Forsberg. Ayes: Anderson, Schultz, Gripp, Forsberg and Aguilar. Unanimous.
- i. ROAD & BRIDGE / INSURANCE FUND — Motion by Forsberg for approval; second by Gripp. Ayes: Anderson, Schultz, Gripp, Forsberg and Aguilar. Unanimous.
- j. CEMETERY — Motion by Gripp for approval; second by Schultz. Ayes: Anderson, Schultz, Gripp, Forsberg and Aguilar. Unanimous.

COMMENTS — Lambrecht stated that he had serious concerns with Breecher. Lambrecht then stated that he will probably have more questions in the future. Aguilar wanted it documented that when turning in said post-it, it listed Breecher's wife's name times 2. Aguilar believes that Breecher was then paying himself.

ADJOURNMENT — Motion by Schultz, second by Anderson, that we adjourn the meeting. Motion carried, with all voting in favor. Meeting adjourned @ 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicholas "Nick" Vyncke
South Moline Township Clerk