

**WAUCONDA TOWNSHIP  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
FEBRUARY 15, 2017**

**Call to Order:** Supervisor Swanson called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

**Roll Call:** Clerk Rowe proceeded with roll call. Answering present was: Trustee McKernan, Trustee Ringel, Trustee Schorr, Trustee Thompson and Supervisor Swanson. Also answering present was Assessor Oaks, Administrator Maioriello, and Attorney Ridgway. Highway Commissioner Munson was absent.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** The Pledge was led by Trustee McKernan.

**Approve the Agenda:** Trustee Thompson motioned and Supervisor Swanson seconded to approve the agenda. A voice roll call was taken. All were in favor. This motion carried.

**Approve Minutes: January 18, 2017 Regular Board Meeting**

Trustee Thompson motioned and Trustee Ringel seconded to approve the minutes. A voice roll call was taken. All were in favor. This motion carried.

**Approve Payment of General Town Fund Bills: January 19, 2017 to February 15, 2017:**

Trustee McKernan motioned and Trustee Ringel seconded to approve the payment of the General Town Fund bills. Administrator Maioriello requested that an additional bill be included. Trustee McKernan amended his motion to include the additional bill. Trustee Ringel seconded. A voice roll call was taken. All were in favor.

**Approve Payment of Road District Fund Bills: January 19, 2017 thru February 15, 2017:**

Trustee Schorr motioned and Trustee Thompson seconded to approve the payment of the road district bills. Trustee Thompson stated a concern that truck #4, which is to be used for the purchased V-box. Monies to get it fitted properly to the truck far exceeded the original price the Highway Commissioner originally stated. The Commissioner had stated it would cost around \$1500.00. To date, the Township has spent \$10,763.41 on retrofitting. The Commissioner sent a letter to the Board to explain everything else that has to be done yet, in addition to all the money that has already been spent. Trustee Thompson stated that he is very frustrated that the taxpayers are paying for all of this and nothing can be done about it. Supervisor Swanson stated that with the alterations the Commissioner is making on the truck to accommodate this v-box, it will have to be approved by the Secretary of State for a new title and license plates. This is a 1995 truck. There is also a stress load factor. The controls for this truck are not available currently, but when they are, the cost will be around \$4,000.00, a lot higher than originally stated. Trustee Ringel expressed concern what would happen to all of the monies spent on this truck if it cannot get licensed. The consensus is the Township would be out of the monies. Trustee Schorr asked road district employee, Joe Whiteman, about the status of everything concerning this truck. Mr. Whiteman stated that a new air dryer was installed, tie rods were replaced, and the frame was extended. There needs to be one more day of welding on this truck. Supervisor Swanson stated that the truck cannot be insured until all the proper licensing is completed.

Trustee Thompson wanted to know why the Commissioner bought all new cell phones and phone cases for the Highway Department. He also wanted to know what type of data plans was purchased. He stated that personal use needs to be paid for by the employee, not the taxpayers. It was stated that a lot of townships are getting away from purchasing phones and paying a stipend to employees for phone use. Supervisor Swanson stated that full data purchases were made. He stated that the Highway department employees do use the

phones for personal use. While the Board agreed that even though all the trucks have radios in them, they do feel cell phones are necessary. Trustee Thompson would like to look into this issue and put it in for a policy change.

Supervisor Swanson motioned for the Board go out to the Highway garage and take a look at truck #4 and all the work being done to it so they can understand what is going on. Trustee Thompson seconded the motion. All were in favor. Meeting was adjourned to visit the garage. Upon returning, Supervisor motioned to reconvene the meeting. Trustee Thompson seconded. Meeting was reconvened.

Supervisor Swanson stated that the Highway Commissioner is also over budget in his personnel salaries due to excessive amounts of overtime and part time salaries. Trustee Schorr stated that budget is just a guideline and monies can be moved to make the adjustments in a budget. Trustee Ringel stated that the Commissioner should stay within the guidelines of his budget.

Having no more discussion, a roll call was taken on approving the bills of the Road District. Trustee McKernan, Trustee Ringel, and Trustee Schorr voted aye. Trustee Thompson and Supervisor Swanson voted nay. Motion carried.

#### **Treasurer's Report:**

Supervisor Swanson read the following Treasurer's Report:

General Town Fund	\$ 58,787.74
General Assistance	6,156.73
Social Security/IMRF Fund	8,752.23
Senior Services Fund	6,550.05
Road & Bridge Fund	13,614.80
Permanent Road Fund	<u>43,340.56</u>
Total:	\$ 137,202.11

#### **Public Participation: None**

**New Business: Vote Donation for Request:** Supervisor Swanson motioned and Trustee Thompson seconded to give a \$100.00 donation for the Leprechaun Plunge. The money from this event is used to stock Bangs Lake and to the Veterans. Discussion was concern that by giving monies to a donation request for an event would set a precedent for the future. Trustee Thompson suggested that these type of requests should be brought up at the June's grant request meeting. A voice roll call was taken. All voted aye. This motion carried.

#### **Public Participation: None**

**Historical Society Report:** Director Oaks distributed a Historical Society schedule of events planned for the year and an update on the bicentennial photo book. She also passed out the Historical Society review of the year 2015–2016.

**Elected Officials Report:** Trustee Ringel expressed disappointment that the Highway Commissioner will not attend Board meetings to answer questions regarding his department.

Trustee Schorr stated that she had asked the Commissioner why he was not attending. He told her that he gets physically ill when he does come to the meetings.

Trustee Thompson mentioned an article in the Daily Herald about the Dundee Township Highway Commissioner taking money from residents to do work and pocketing it. Once Trustee Thompsons term is up, he would like to pursue finding a way to bring accountability to Township government.

Supervisor Swanson stated the Wauconda Area Chamber expo is February 25<sup>th</sup>. The spring newsletter is in the works. He asked that if anyone has any news to go into the "E" newsletter, please let him know.