

Wauconda Township Board Meeting
February 17, 2021, by Zoom.

Call to Order/ Roll Call: The meeting was called to order at 6:10p.m. For roll call, answering present were: Trustee Lochmayer, Trustee McKernan, Trustee Santi, Trustee Whitehead, Supervisor Swanson, Assessor Oaks, Highway Commissioner Weisbruch, and Attorney Hartman. Administrator Maioriello was absent.

Pledge of Allegiance: The pledge was led by Supervisor Swanson.

Approve Agenda: Trustee Lochmayer motioned, and Trustee Santi seconded to approve the agenda. Discussion was open. Trustee Lochmayer asked that the executive session be removed as he does not have enough information. He would like to meet with Clerk Rowe to review past minutes to catch up to speed. Motion was amended and seconded to include the correction. A voice roll was taken. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Approve Minutes of January 20, 2021; Trustee McKernan motioned, and Supervisor Swanson seconded to approve the minutes. A voice roll call was taken. All were in favor. This motion carried.

Vote: Payment of Town Fund bills from January 21, 2021, to February 17, 2021: Supervisor Swanson motioned, and Trustee Lochmayer seconded to approve the bills. Discussion was opened. Assessor Oaks stated that she did not see or approve a bill for the attorney and does not want it paid.

Trustee Santi was concerned that the attorney bill from Attorney Ridgway from February through December for \$15,000.00 did not have any breakdown, yet the bill from Attorney Hartman was itemized per department. Supervisor Swanson stated that the bill from Attorney Ridgway was broken down on his copy. After some discussion on the bills, Supervisor Swanson stated that the Town fund will pay the Assessor's the attorney bill, the review of the maintenance agreement from Mr. Hartman, and Attorney Ridgway's bill. Highway Commissioner Weisbruch stated that he has not seen the bill from Attorney Hartman either and will not agree to pay it. Trustee Lochmayer would like to see a more defined procedure for the use of attorney services. After much discussion on other bills, Trustee Whitehead, along with the other Trustees, felt there needed to be a more formal procedure in place for the department heads to see and approve the bills related to their departments. The Supervisor agreed to email the Assessor and Highway Commissioner the bills in question on Thursday morning to sign off on them for payment.

Trustee Santi asked if the Acres bill has been received yet. Supervisor Swanson stated no. Trustee Santi asked why the Supervisor would sign a contract with Acres and not with the

Highway Department for snow plowing. The Highway department would plow for free if a maintenance agreement were signed. Supervisor Swanson stated it was an emergency when he signed the contract. Supervisor Swanson stated that there has never been a plowing contract before. When asked why he wanted a signed agreement now, the Highway Commissioner stated the agreement was now needed to set the expectations of what should be done as the Supervisor was unhappy with the job his department had done on the first snow fall. Details from emails back and forth regarding this issue were discussed. The Highway Commissioner was asked to give a chronological order of the emails and their content. The Trustees were concerned that this contract with Acres was signed without their approval, costing the taxpayer's money.

Trustee McKernan asked the attorney if the Supervisor can enter an open-ended contract without board approval. Attorney Hartman stated that is typically based on past practices of how a township is operated. There is not a particular statute that addresses this question. Some townships have specific policies giving dollar thresholds, but he does not know if Wauconda Township has these policies. Trustee McKernan said that he and Trustee Whitehead began the conversation regarding the plowing started in October with the Supervisor. Supervisor stated it began on December 4th. Trustee Whitehead asked about the contract from Acres and feels this situation speaks of disfunction going on in the Township and would like to see this resolved to save money and protect liability. He feels there needs to be more communication between everyone.

Trustee Santi asked the attorney if the Trustees can deny paying bills since they did not see or sign any contract. Attorney Hartman said he does not think it is their rights not to pay a bill. It all depends on policies and past practice that have been put into place.

Supervisor Swanson stated that as long as he is locked out of the building and cannot justify any of the purchases made by the Commissioner, he will vote not to pay his bills.

A voice roll call was taken. All were in favor. This motion carried.

Vote: Payment of Road District bills from January 21, 2021, to February 17, 2021: Trustee McKernan motioned, and Trustee Lochmayer seconded to approve the bills. Floor was opened for discussion. Highway Commissioner Weisbruch wanted checks 11594, 11618, 11600, 11556, and check 11561 removed for payment as he has not seen or approved these bills. He would also like to add three bills for payment. Trustee Santi asked that the Supervisor provide the Commissioner with the bills in question so he can review them before payment.

The additional bills are for truck inspection of \$36.00, a hydraulic bill for \$134.82, and the Wauconda Chamber of Commerce renewal bill for \$199.00. Trustee Santi stated that the Chamber bill has always come out of the town fund. Trustee McKernan would like the town fund to reimburse the road district for this bill. Trustee Lockmayer feels it is important for the township to identify themselves as being part of the community and being a member of the

chamber expresses that. Supervisor Swanson stated he would check into it and get back to Trustee Santi about the town fund paying for this. Commissioner Weisbruch stated he feels it is important that the Township support the local businesses with this membership. Supervisor Swanson stated that as long as he is locked out of the building and cannot justify any of the highway departments purchases, he will vote no to paying the highway departments bills. He has also not seen any log report from the Highway Department. Highway Commissioner stated that the log comes out once a year. Anything with a value of over \$200.00 has been recorded with TOIRMA, per their instructions. A voice roll call was taken. All four Trustees voted aye; Supervisor Swanson voted nay. This motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:	General Town Fund	\$ 32,643.09
	General Assistance	1,579.09
	Senior Services Fund	2,255.06
	Road and Bridge Fund	4,624.51
	<u>Permanent Road Fund</u>	<u>58,334.38</u>
		\$ 99,436.13

Due to new software problems, employee earnings are not included in this report.

Public Participation: Bob Wargoski stated after listening to this meeting, he is appalled at what is going on with the township. He feels they need to work together. Trustee McKernan thanked him for his comments.

Social Media Policy Discussion: Supervisor Swanson is reviewing different policies. Assessor Oaks asked questions about the postings by the Supervisor on the face book page. Trustee Lockmayer feels that there should be a revision to add the staff and other departments and not just the Supervisor, this would be giving them some recognition in the community. Trustees Whitehead feels that the constituents would benefit from seeing the good works from all the other departments. Trustee McKernan suggested an employee of the month article. Trustee Santi thinks the face book page is one-sided and not representative of the Trustees or other departments, especially during election year. She referenced a possible Township manual policy violation. She feels the Township needs a policy soon. Supervisor Swanson said the Assessor has her own page, and most of the information he posts involves the supervisor's department. Assessor Oaks stated she had asked the Supervisor to put an article on the page regarding some important senior freeze information and he had not done it. Supervisor Swanson stated he will get a policy over to the attorney for review.

Wauconda Historical Society Report: Supervisor Swanson stated that there are some programs going on and they have a new web site.

Public Participation: None

Township Reports: Trustee McKernan stated to please shop locally.

Trustee Santi wanted to follow up with the Costco rebate issue. She wants to know how much the Township has in the general fund for the rebates and is requesting a print-out of several years so we can use that money for the community. Supervisor Swanson stated there is an actual line item in the general fund called Costco rebates. It has how much money has been put into that account and how much has been spent. Trustee Santi requested those entries so she can review the amounts, as she cannot find them anywhere on the journal reports.

Clerk Rowe stated the annual town meeting is going to be April 13th this year. The last day for the electors to put anything on the agenda for the meeting is March 1st. There are 38 items that can be used for consideration for the electors at the town meeting. The agenda for the annual meeting gets voted on at March meeting. Clerk Rowe also stated that she has had questions regarding FOIA laws and information. Any item passed out, discussed, or voted on at a public meeting can be Foia'd the next day. Recordings of the meetings can be Foia'd as well.

Highway Commissioner Weisbruch stated the department is all set with salt and there will not be a shortage. He would like the board reports to be updated with actuals. Supervisor Swanson stated they will be updated March 1st as the year ends February 28th.

Supervisor Swanson stated that the Township has been busy and helping with heating bills. He asked for help when the office is short-handed. The Trustees all offered to help if he would let them know.

Adjourn: At 8:28 pm. Supervisor Swanson motioned to adjourn. Trustee Santi seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted this 17th day of March 2021.

Supervisor Swanson

Clerk Rowe

Trustee McKernan

Trustee Lochmayer

Trustee Santi

Trustee Whitehead