

**WAUCONDA TOWNSHIP  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
JANUARY 18, 2017**

**Call to Order:** Supervisor Swanson called the meeting to order at 6:03 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 Schorr.

**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: December 21, 2016 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. Trustee Schorr abstained due to absence.

**Approve Minutes of Executive Session and Vote to Release: Litigation; Mack Road: December 21, 2016:**

Trustee McKernan motioned and Trustee Thompson seconded to approve and release the minutes. A voice roll call was taken. All were in favor. This motion carried. Trustee Schorr abstained due to absence.

**Approve Payment of General Town Fund Bills: December 22, 2016 to January 18, 2017:**

Trustee Thompson motioned and Trustee McKernan seconded to approve the payment of the General Town Fund bills. Administrator Maioriello requested that two additional bills be included. Trustee Thompson amended his motion to include the additional bills. Trustee McKernan seconded. A voice roll call was taken. All were in favor. This motion carried. Supervisor Swanson suggested that the Administrator research paying some of the bills on line. Attorney Ridgway suggested that she also check with the auditor.

**Approve Payment of Road District Fund Bills: December 22, 2016 thru January 18, 2017:**

Trustee Thompson motioned and Trustee Schorr seconded to approve the payment of the Road District bills. A voice roll call was taken. Trustee Ringel, Trustee McKernan, Trustee Thompson and Trustee Schorr voted aye. Supervisor Swanson voted nay. This motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Supervisor Swanson read the following Treasurer's Report:

General Town Fund	\$ 58,171.40
General Assistance	5,857.50
Social Security/IMRF Fund	10,215.62
Senior Services Fund	6,863.92
Road & Bridge Fund	4,800.30
Permanent Road Fund	<u>60,809.43</u>
Total:	\$ 146,718.17

**Public Participation:** Hilda Lichter, Tamarack resident, stated that she would like the Township to re-visit the garbage pick up to limit it to one company. Supervisor Swanson stated that the last time it was brought up for a referendum vote, it lost 3 to1. While all the garbage trucks are very hard on the roads, it has to be approved by the residents. He suggested that she go to different homeowners association meetings to get support.

**New Business: Vote Wauconda Twp. /Lake County Intergovernmental Agreement for Ride Lake County West Project:**

Trustee Thompson motioned to approve the agreement. Supervisor Swanson seconded. A voice roll call was taken. All were in favor. This motion passed.

**Old Business: Land Purchase:** Supervisor Swanson stated that the Board has been considering purchasing property to be able to expand the Township services. The 6 acre piece of land behind the Township Hall is for sale.

Trustee Thompson stated that it would be nice to purchase property for ball fields and other sports for the kids. Currently, out of district residents have to pay an additional fee when using the Park District fields. Also, with all the senior activities in the hall and the big trucks from the highway department going in and out, it causes a dangerous situation. Most of the vacant property in Wauconda Township is tied up with the Crown family.

Supervisor Swanson stated that the highway department currently rents a building for storing equipment. The Supervisor had a map on display showing the piece of property behind the Township hall. The Township ordered an appraisal and it came in at \$495,000. The property owners have the property listed at \$1,200,000. It is his recommendation to make an offer to the owners to start a conversation. Attorney Ridgway stated that discussions on land purchase should be done in executive session. Supervisor Swanson stated that any land purchase would have to be approved at the Annual meeting held in April.

Trustee Schorr stated that the property has a \$1.1million mortgage on the property. She also stated that research should be done on a deceleration lane cost off of Rt. 12 and if that property would need one. Trustee Schorr suggested reaching out to the Engineer and finding out about the lane and property easements.

Trustee Thompson said that the new Board coming in should research grants to develop the property.

**Vote: Bereavement Policy:** Administrator Maioriello stated that Assessor Oaks recommended that the wording regarding immediate family be consistent throughout the manual. After reviewing the different places for consistency, Supervisor Swanson motioned and Trustee Thompson seconded to approve the changes as presented by the Administrator. A voice roll call was taken. All were in favor. This motion carried.

**Discussion: Mack Drive Lawsuit:** Supervisor Swanson stated that the Township entered into a lawsuit with Vern Meyer, owner of some property on Mack Drive. The case has been settled with the largest amount the Township has ever paid out. The suit was settled for \$300,000. The Township's share was \$150,000 and the pipe company had to pay the other \$150,000. This does not include the costs to the Township to fix the property correctly. As Supervisor, he was named in the lawsuit even though he had no control over what the Highway Commissioner did. As a result, he stated he will never sign off for payment of the highway department bills where there is not an explanation given. As Supervisor, he had no idea that the Commissioner never secured permits for the work to be done; he had no idea the Commissioner was using a smaller pipe which caused the flooding, and he had no idea that an engineer wasn't contacted about the repairs to this property. The property owner, Mr. Meyers had contacted the Supervisor in regards to the water issues prior to the lawsuit. Supervisor Swanson referred him over to the Highway Commissioner Munson as this was his department. The Highway Commissioner would not return the calls or messages which prompted Mr. Meyers to talk to an attorney. Supervisor Swanson stated that had Commissioner Munson reached out to Mr. Meyer, the lawsuit could probably have been avoided.

Trustee Schorr asked why the pipe company was sued as well. Supervisor Swanson stated that they sold the pipe to the Township that was not big enough to handle the water flow. Attorney Ridgway stated that had the Highway Commissioner secured the proper permits from Lake County and Army Corps of Engineers, that pipe would not have passed the code and would not have been installed. The Township's liability was the improper pipe being installed, not obtaining permits, and not consulting with an engineer before beginning this project.

Trustee Thompson asked if there was going to be any other repercussions from this lawsuit. Supervisor Swanson stated that the Townships insurance rates could increase because of this lawsuit.

**Public Participation:** Steve Stiller, Island Lake, suggested that the Township research what can and cannot be built with the easements on the property behind the Township that is being considered for purchase.

**Historical Society Report:** Director Oaks stated the Historical Society are holding their meeting at the Township Hall the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month. She passed out a recap of their last two months of activities. Trustee Thompson stated what a great job Director Oaks has done with the Historical House and reviving the whole project. Director Oaks stated that she had a lot of help from the members of the Historical Society.

**Elected Officials Report:** None

**Other Reports:** Administrator Maioriello stated that the Coast to Coast RX card program through the Township has saved residents \$1,245,434.00 on prescriptions since November, 2011. She received notice that the CPI will be increased from .07% to 2.1% this year. This is a large increase. She attended an MTA meeting this month. The Wauconda Expo will be February 28<sup>th</sup>.

Submitted this 15th Day of February, 2017

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Supervisor

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Clerk

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Trustee

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Trustee

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Trustee