



## MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

November 5, 2014  
O'Fallon Township  
801 E. State St.  
O'Fallon, IL 62269

CALL TO ORDER at 7:00 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Supervisor Gary Ahle, Highway Commissioner Mark Downs, Town Clerk David Witter,  
Trustees: Gary Hursey, Jeff Bevirt, Kenneth Joseph, and Doug Scott; Deputy Town Clerk/Recorder Debbie Allsup  
and Recorder Sheri Heil

Others present: Gary Fohne, George Fero and Robert Wilhelm

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

A motion was made by Trustee Kenny Joseph to approve the minutes of the October 1, 2014 meeting as written and seconded by Trustee Jeff Bevirt. Motion Carried.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Supervisor Ahle opened with a continuation from September 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of discussion regarding the Trolley Trail by the Ridge Prairie Trailhead Initiative (RPTI) represented by George Fero and Robert Wilhelm.

Mr. Fero said he does not have anymore information since his last discussion at the September 3<sup>rd</sup> Township meeting. A meeting was held last Friday morning (10/31/14) with one of the property owners and Lebanon Mayor Rich Wilken has not informed RPTI of the content of the meeting, but Fero said he knows the property owner has already agreed to a "principle agreement" on the trail.

Fero said the problem the group is currently facing is a 'catch 22'. Right now, they cannot go out and talk to the property owners without some standing to do so. Fero said he is not asking for a grant or money at this time. He is asking permission to go forward with getting all the materials together in order to bring back a proposal for the trustees to decide upon.

In terms of the maintenance, Fero said he has several possibilities as well as talking to a couple of other agencies on maintenance for the trail. The grant must include, as a requirement, trail maintenance and the matching funds up front. Supervisor Ahle said the maintenance is something the township is not able to take responsibility for. Fero said they are looking into another entity to take over the maintenance of the trails. It would probably be an intergovernmental agreement between the township and the other entity because of the trail being in the township. Fero added that Horner Park in Lebanon is a distant possibility. Again, the group is just asking for the opportunity to pursue it. It took 3 years to get the grant that is now in place with the City of Lebanon for one half of the trail.

Trustee Kenny Joseph asked what is the township's obligation if they decide to sponsor the grant. Mr. Wilhelm responded the township is the sponsor: on the grant, the construction and the signature on documents and contracts. The money will all be handled by IDOT.

Trustee Jeff Bevirt asked what happens if the township decides to sponsor the project and more money is needed down the road and the township then decides against it. Fero and Wilhelm both said the township has the option



to abort anytime. Again, RPTI just wants the township's blessing to move forward in order to come back with a full-blown application for the township to consider. They are not asking for the commitment at this time to the grant itself. More discussion followed.

Fero explained that negotiations for land purchases, right-of-ways will all be part of the grant funding and the match. If land has to be purchased, they will get an idea what the purchase price will be because the grant will only fund 50% of land purchases and 20% on the construction. They may come with a request or, as part of the package, a request to go to Metro-East Parks because they will normally cover 50% of the match on these grants. The other funding agency, wherever that is, RPTI will already have that identified and will have commitments from them that they will fund the remaining 50%. The City of Lebanon has already signed on for half of the project and have \$1.1 million dollars committed in grant funds for the bicycle trail. They still need to come up with approximately \$150,000 for the City. Originally, the Lebanon grant money would have funded the whole College Road project, but since moving to the Trolley Trail, RPTI knew it was going to be more expensive. First of all, they have to purchase right-of-ways and 1 (one) parcel of land. There will be 3 (three) bridges with 1 (one) being significantly long. More tree removal plus tree replacement. The estimate shows that the price of \$1,142,000 from College Road is now \$2,307,000 for the Trolley Trail. Lebanon is not able to apply for another grant on this project and that is why RPTI is asking the township to consider sponsoring a grant. A discussion followed.

Trustee Kenny Joseph asked what the cost would be to taxpayers. Fero said it would come from Parks and Highway Funds with no expense to local taxpayers based on property they may own. Trustee Doug Scott commented on the cost and that he cannot imagine spending that amount of money on a bicycle trail. He added that he doesn't think the township has any business being involved or signing anything with this project whatsoever. No matter what the township is lead to believe, Scott said there is no way the township will not assume some sort of liability or maintenance because of a part of the trail being in the township boundaries. He added maybe the road district may be involved but not the township.

Trustee Gary Hursey asked if all efforts have been exhausted for the trail to come down along Highway 50 where they could possibly get IDOT funding. Fero said Highway 50 would require widening the road as well as widening the bridge over Silver Creek and IDOT has no plans to do any of that. He said the Mayor of Lebanon has tried many times to have that particular stretch of road fixed with no results. Hursey said since the recent election and new governor and congressman, maybe it would be reconsidered to fix the road and add the bicycle trail which would then make it a state issue. A discussion followed.

Fero explained the grants RPTI is trying to get funding from are dedicated to alternative transportation. These are federal dollars that cannot be used for anything else. Trustee Hursey asked about the preapproval on land purchases. Fero said they are going to get some estimates from property owners. Hursey disagreed because, without a contract for a set price and for a specific amount of time, who's to say when it comes time to purchase the property, the owner decides to raise the amount. Then you don't have enough money to proceed. A discussion followed.

Hursey asked if the City of O'Fallon is involved. Fero said the City is interested. Hursey said they could be a candidate to maintain the trail too. Fero said he has met with Mayor Graham and John West during the proposed College Road Trail and now with the Trolley Trail, Fero said Mayor Graham indicated the City would perhaps provide maintenance for this. Hursey said they do the same for Shiloh Park. Supervisor Ahle said they just have to make sure the township doesn't incur the expense for the maintenance. Hursey added the township money is earmarked for specific things, and trail maintenance is not in that. It would have to be state or IDOT funded. Supervisor Ahle said he thought there is only 1 (one) township in the state of IL that built a bike trail and it one of the wealthy ones up north.

Trustee Jeff Bevirt began by saying if the Highway Commissioner is not willing to maintain it, he would have to say the township cannot maintain it either. Bevirt also agreed with Trustee Scott about the cost but he is in favor of it if they are able to get the allocated funds discussed earlier because the funds are going to be awarded to someone. A brief discussion followed.

Trustee Hursey asked about the RPTI and how they are set up. Fero responded they are a 501c3 nonprofit organization. (501c3 is a portion of the US Internal Revenue Code that allows for federal tax exemption of nonprofit organizations, specifically those that are considered public charities, private foundations or private operating foundations. It is regulated and administered by the US Department of Treasury through the Internal Revenue Service). Fero said the group can take tax deductible donations and can qualify for grants. Unfortunately, the type of grant for the Trolley Trail has to come from a governmental body. Hursey asked if Metro East Parks sponsors any maintenance on any trails that Fero knows of. Fero said he is not aware of any. A brief discussion followed.

Trustee Kenny Joseph said if it helps RPTI to get the grant without costing the township now or, in the future, he thinks there should be something between these 2 (two) communities. Joseph said he is in favor of supporting paperwork only, if it will help them get the grant. Again, this will all be at no cost to O'Fallon Township. Supervisor Ahle said there will have to be a resolution stating this and speak with the Township attorney.

Ahle said the board has tried to get a grant through IGD (Intergovernmental Grants Dept.) in Belleville this past year for a sewer system that remains in O'Fallon Township. The grant was denied and the board plans on trying again. Ahle wants to make sure that sponsoring a grant for the bicycle trail will not hinder the Township's chance for a grant for the sewer system. Fero said he believes the grants have 2 (two) different purposes and shouldn't conflict with each other. The grant for the bicycle trail will come out of Transportation and cannot be used for sewers and visa versa for the sewer grant. Ahle said he wants to look into it and make sure.

Trustee Hursey asked why 3 (three) bridges. Can't the trail wind around in order to keep the costs down? Fero said it comes down to the property owners. Some of the property is used for hunting and the trail cannot go through those areas. Fero said 1 (one) bridge may very well be just a culvert, but is not definite. Hursey asked who owns the Trolley Trail. Fero said the City of Lebanon owns the eastern segment. Richard Mark owns a segment. A small segment was purchased by an individual who anticipated a need for the parcel to build a trail and would be willing to sell it. Another section is owned by a person who said they would be willing to sell for the right price. There are 2 (two) different ways to go. Stay with the true Trolley Trail which means more land purchase or, go up and run along the firing range which requires a tall fence to be put up. Both would cost about the same.

Deputy Clerk Debbie Allsup asked who will do the negotiating with the property owners if RPTI cannot do it. Fero said it would be someone the City of Lebanon and Township Trustees give permission to. Fero said usually there is a person or entity designated to negotiate and do the whole thing. It does not necessarily have to fall onto the Township to do this. A brief discussion followed.

Town Clerk Dave Witter asked about the handout showing a project cost estimate-budget for the Trolley Trail. There is no figure in the estimate for land acquisitions or right-of-ways. Fero answered that estimate was old and just a workup to show the group where they stood financially. More funds will be needed for land acquisition. When the formal grant proposal is written and completed, and when an RFP (Request for Proposal) from IDOT (Illinois Dept. of Transportation) is received which could be next spring or summer, and know what they require in the grant application, that budget will be part of the grant application. Fero again stated, he is here now asking for permission to pursue the grant.

Supervisor Ahle asked Fero if he can provide in writing, request to just pursue the grant, with no financial obligation of any sort to the Township, then the Township will have to draw up a resolution with all the pertinent information and have the board vote on it. Fero said at his next board meeting, he will get into their resolution and send a letter stating their resolution. Ahle agreed. Fero this will enable the Township to do its resolution. Again, all they are asking for is; permission to pursue the grant, issues with the property owners, maintenance agreement, matching funds is all part of the application. Any fees involved as an application fee will be taken care of. Deputy Clerk Allsup asked if the RPTI will take care of any fees associated with writing the grant. Fero said the engineer from Rhutasel and Associates, Inc. anticipating and hoping they will get the contract, take care of the grant.

Trustee Scott asked Fero what their next step will be if the Township said 'no' and backed out. Fero said the next step would probably go the Legislative route. Legislation designates funds as far as the transportation bill. They

would have to talk to the state legislators and state representatives and get the Mayor involved. A brief discussion followed.

A motion was made by Trustee Jeff Bevirt to table the proposed Trolley Trail Bicycle Trail Project until RPTI can draw up a Resolution addressing the concerns of the Township, as well as the Township drawing up their own Resolution and having the Township attorney look over both resolutions and was seconded by Trustee Kenny Joseph. Roll Call: Hursey – aye; Bevirt – aye; Ahle – aye; Joseph – aye; Scott – aye. Motion Carried.

George Fero and Robert Wilhelm excused themselves from the meeting at 7:40 P.M.

Annual Open House set for Friday, December 5<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. and the Holiday Employee Luncheon on Tuesday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> beginning at noon.

Trustee Kenny Joseph made a motion to approve the dates set for the Annual Open House and the Holiday Employee Luncheon as presented and seconded by Trustee Gary Hursey. Roll Call: Hursey – aye; Bevirt – aye; Ahle – aye; Joseph – aye; Scott – aye. Motion Carried.

Ahle informed the board the new map of the Township the Highway Commissioner had made is now on the Township website under Road District.

Early voting at the Township was a success with approximately 1,300 ballots cast at this location. Ahle hopes they will keep it out here in April 2015.

APPROVAL OF SUPERVISORS BILLS

Town Fund	\$	24,391.24
General Assistance Fund	\$	3,236.57

Trustee Jeff Bevirt made a motion to authorize the Supervisor’s bills to be paid accordingly and seconded by Trustee Doug Scott. Roll Call: Hursey – aye; Bevirt – aye; Ahle – aye; Joseph – aye; Scott – aye. Motion Carried.

HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER’S REPORT

Highway Commissioner Mark Downs reported on the Road District “RaDAR” for the following weeks of September 29, 2014 through October 31, 2014:

(See attachment A)

Downs thanked Gary Fohne for sitting in for him at the last meeting.

November has been a busy month according to Downs. The new backhoe Downs was negotiating with Luby Equipment, they were in the process of purchasing H. Edwards Equipment which are both leading CASE equipment dealers in this area. It was agreed upon to lease the backhoe for a period of 3 (three) months to see if it fits their needs. After that period, they have the option to purchase the backhoe with the leasing fees going towards the purchase price. This saves the bid process as well as checking with St. Clair County Highway Dept. to see if the leasing fees can be taken out of MFT (Motor Fuel Tax) funds.

The crew cab has been replaced for the road district. It is getting some modifications done: new fueling tank for the equipment; toolboxes put on and tailgate with lift and should be done by week’s end.



100 (one hundred) tons of salt was ordered last week. St. Clair County did not have any bids so Downs is using the State of Illinois as his source. Cost per ton is \$87.37 and should be delivered within a week.

Downs has a liquid anti-ice system being installed. The 5,000 gallon reservoir system will have a pump installed to pump the liquid into the trucks before they apply it. Downs will have an electrician to wire up the pump system.

Downs has a contract signed with Christ Brothers Asphalt to pave the first section of Bowler Road which was to start on November 3<sup>rd</sup> but has been delayed because of weather. The plan is to do Bowler Road from its intersection with N. Lincoln Avenue/O'Fallon Troy Road (south) to the intersection with Haury Road (north). The City of O'Fallon has a portion of the road that will be done along with the Township portion. The contract is for \$299,943 and the City will reimburse the Township \$37,374 for their portion of the work. All tree removals have been completed by Denny's Tree Service. A cross culvert has been installed to help with drainage issues. It will be ditched when the road is completed and all driveway aprons will be done also. Letters were sent to all property owners to make them aware of what was being done.

Christ Brothers will be paving the parking lot from where it stops over to the Annex #1 road district building. This is scheduled to be done after Bowler Road. In addition, Downs is having a pad paved for the anti-ice liquid reservoir on the west side of the salt dome. Power from the dome can be used to power the liquid pump and it will operate better with a stable base.

Trustee Hursey asked about the condition of the asphalt on the rest of the parking lot. Downs said besides 1 (one) major crack which he can repair this winter, the lot just needs to be resealed and striped. Hursey suggested maybe having that all done while Christ is doing the paving to the Annex. Downs said he can talk with Christ Bros. and find out. He added that will be a "change order" to his original contract.

Town Clerk Witter asked if Christ was that busy since it took them so long to get the road districts work since the bid was let back in August. Downs stated they have been doing city work and he is worried about getting it done before bad weather sets in.

Trustee Scott asked about the intersection of N. Rieder Rd. and Hagemann Rd. It's a "T" intersection with 2 (two) "stop" signs. Scott said he has witnessed several near-miss accidents there. People heading north have no "stop" sign and the people going west and south have a "stop" sign and assume it is a 3-way stop. Scott suggested adding a third "stop" sign for preventative reasons. Downs said he would have to get a "stop ahead" and a "stop" sign plus get the County Engineer's approval to do it. Downs said he not aware of any instances out there. Scott mentioned a "cross traffic does not stop" sign. Downs said that would make more sense. Put a "cross traffic does not stop" sign at Rieder Rd. and take the "stop" sign down from Hagemann Rd. Downs said he will look into that.

Downs added that he ordered all new Road Title Signs. This gives the crew something to do when things are a little bit slower. The signs are coming from BC Signs in O'Fallon. They will be compliant for what is required for reflectivity and they will be larger with larger type. The existing posts will be replaced also. Trustee Hursey pointed out that he noticed the City is now putting Road Title Signs on top of Stop Signs. Downs said it makes sense by not having too many sign poles on the corners.

Trustee Hursey asked about the garage being closed on October 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. Downs said of the 3 (three) full-time employees he has, 1 (one) needed time off for farming, 1 (one) had some personal time he wanted to use and instead of having 1 (one) employee working solo, Downs decided to have all 3 (three) use up some of their time while there isn't too much happening as opposed to during the winter when they may be needed at anytime day or night. Downs informed the office that he was available if any calls came in and needed his immediate attention.

APPROVAL OF HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER'S BILLS

Permanent Road Fund	\$	28,315.03
Road & Bridge Fund	\$	15,424.75

Trustee Doug Scott made a motion to authorize the Highway Commissioner's bills to be paid accordingly as presented and seconded by Trustee Jeff Bevirt. Roll Call: Hursey – aye; Bevirt – aye; Ahle – aye; Joseph – aye; Scott – aye. Motion Carried.

TOWN CLERK REPORT

Clerk David Witter reported on the township website with 761 visits. 80.4% were new visitors and 19.6% were returning visitors. 677 from United States; 39 from Brazil; 7 each from Canada and Italy; 3 each from Colombia, India, Mexico; 2 from Argentina and 1 each from Australia and Bulgaria. Witter said the average pages per session is 2.07 and average session time 1:03.

Trustee Hursey said he sent several people to the website calendar for early voting times.

Trustee Bevirt asked if the Agenda for the Trustees Meeting is posted on the website. Deputy Clerk Allsup it has not been done now or in the past. Bevirt said he looked but wasn't sure if he was looking in the right place for it. Supervisor Ahle asked Clerk Witter if he wanted the agenda posted to the website. Witter said it would be fine with him, but he thinks the agenda also needs to be available outside of the fenced area for people who may want to see it after the Township has closed for the day. His idea is to purchase an Information Dispenser or Brochure Holder like realtors put out for sale properties.

TRUSTEES REPORT

Trustee Scott asked if the meeting time of 7:00 P.M. for the Trustees could be changed to possibly 6:00 P.M. Supervisor Ahle said it was discussed several years ago and because of peoples work schedules, it seemed conflictive, so it was decided to keep it at 7:00 P.M.

Trustee Joseph wanted to report on November 5<sup>th</sup>, 1950 it started to snow in the evening and by 6:00 A.M. and by the next morning, there was 11" of snow on the ground.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SENIOR REPORT

Trustee Doug Scott said the next dinner will be on Thursday November 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 P.M. and will be catered by Petri Catering out Granite City. The next dinner after that will be on Thursday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 P.M.

Lorraine Smith submitted her resignation and the Committee would like to approve of the appointment of Barb Deckard to the O'Fallon Township Senior Committee.

Trustee Doug Scott made a motion to approve of the appointment of Barb Deckard to the O'Fallon Township Senior Committee and seconded by Trustee Jeff Bevirt. Roll Call: Hursey – aye; Bevirt – aye; Ahle – aye; Joseph – aye; Scott – aye. Motion Carried.



## YOUTH REPORT

Trustee Kenny Joseph reported Halloween Party held on October 27<sup>th</sup> at the American Legion was very poorly attended. Trustee Jeff Bevirt added that normally they can expect 80 – 100 children to attend. There were only 16 children in attendance. No flyers were allowed to be passed out in School District 90 because of their “virtual backpack” program where all information is now available to parents and students via internet. At one point, Bevirt had more Youth Committee members than children. A discussion followed.

The next Youth Committee meeting will be on Monday, November 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 P.M.

Approval of the Appointment of Anna Langevin to the O’Fallon Township Youth Committee.

Trustee Kenny Joseph made a motion to approve the appointment of Anna Langevin to the O’Fallon Township Youth Committee and seconded by Trustee Gary Hursey. Roll Call: Hursey – aye; Bevirt – aye; Ahle – aye; Joseph – aye; Scott – aye. Motion Carried.

Approval of the Appointment of Faith McCaskey to the O’Fallon Township Youth Committee.

Trustee Kenny Joseph made a motion to approve the appointment of Faith McCaskey to the O’Fallon Township Youth Committee and seconded by Trustee Jeff Bevirt. Roll Call: Hursey – aye; Bevirt – aye; Ahle – aye; Joseph – aye; Scott – aye. Motion Carried.

Approval of the Appointment of Phillip Casey to the O’Fallon Township Youth Committee.

Trustee Kenny Joseph made a motion to approve the appointment of Phillip Casey to the O’Fallon Township Youth Committee and seconded by Trustee Gary Hursey. Roll Call: Hursey – aye; Bevirt – aye; Ahle – aye; Joseph – aye; Scott – aye. Motion Carried.

## PLANNING REPORT

Trustee Gary Hursey asked if the board knew of anybody who might be interested in serving on the Planning Committee since Marty Ercoline moved out of state. Trustee Doug Scott had mentioned Ron Hasemann previously and said he will see him and ask him if he’s interested. Trustee Gary Hursey said he would be happy to speak with him and answer any questions he might have.

## AFTER PROM REPORT

Trustee Jeff Bevirt said while he was picking up games from Elite Event Services in Granite City for the Y.C. Halloween Party, they have some props used for parties and after proms. Bevirt said they have a “Green Screen” with different backgrounds that the teenagers can pose in front of and have their picture taken. The cost is \$800. Another item is airbrush tattoos for \$400. In addition, there will be the photo booth and the caricature artist. These all provide the teenagers with something to take home and keep.

Supervisor Ahle suggested they get some photos together and post a clip in the Township Perspective magazine. This might give some other townships the idea to sponsor something similar in their area.

Bevirt said he is starting to get dates set and reservations made within the month. Hursey asked if there is money in reserve to put deposits down. Deputy Clerk Allsup said there is approximately \$2,000 in the account to get started.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Supervisor Ahle said he received a Thank You card from the O'Fallon-Shiloh Chamber of Commerce for our support of their Annual Golf Tournament.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of the 2015 Holiday Schedule. Ahle said it is the same dates as the County and as in past years.

Trustee Kenny Joseph made a motion to approve the 2015 Holiday Schedule as presented and seconded by Trustee Doug Scott. Roll Call: Hursey – aye; Bevirt – aye; Ahle – aye; Joseph – aye; Scott – aye. Motion Carried.

Approval of a Hall Rental request submitted by Kenny Joseph (president of the Enterprise Grange) for the purpose of a Christmas Meeting on Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2014 from 5:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M.

Trustee Jeff Bevirt made a motion to approve the hall rental request submitted by Kenny Joseph for the purpose of a Christmas Meeting as presented and waive the hall rental fees and seconded by Trustee Doug Scott. Roll Call: Hursey – aye; Bevirt – aye; Ahle – aye; Joseph – abstain; Scott – aye. Motion Carried.

PUBLIC INPUT (COMMENTS)

Supervisor Ahle thanked the office staff and the road district staff for all their assistance with the election.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Trustee Doug Scott to adjourn the meeting of the Board of Trustees and seconded by Trustee Gary Hursey. Motion Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:28 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by:

---

David M. Witter  
Town Clerk