



MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

January 3, 2024  
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, Township Clerk Matthew Gilreath, Trustees: Doug Scott, Frank Morski and Bob Kueker, Township Attorney Cory Easton, Deputy Town Clerk/Office Manager Debbie Allsup and Recorder Sheri Heil

Others Present: Gerard Helldoerfer, Andrea Fohne, John Coers and Dave Witter

Gary Ahle made a motion to excuse Trustee Gary Hursey and was seconded by Bob Kueker

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup> BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Trustee Doug Scott made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Board of Trustees Meeting as presented and seconded by Trustee Frank Morski. Motion Carried.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Transit Committee Report – Rider Report provided. Supervisor Gary Ahle reported they are waiting to hear from DeMond Signs to get signage/advertisement put on the 2023 Ford Van

Levies have been filed with St. Clair County

APPROVAL OF SUPERVISORS BILLS

Town Fund	\$ 38,289.18
General Assistance Fund	\$ 3,890.89

Trustee Bob Kueker made a motion to authorize the Supervisor's bills to be paid accordingly and seconded by Trustee Doug Scott. Motion Carried. Roll Call: Scott – aye, Morski – nay; Kueker – aye; Ahle – aye. Motion Carried.

## HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

RaDAR report provided.  
(See attachment A)

Highway Commissioner Mark Downs reported things are a bit slow now.

Trustee Frank Morski thanked Downs for putting road signs on Oak Hill School Rd.

Supervisor Gary Ahle said the fence line behind Township building looks much better since the road district crew cleared the weeds and smaller trees.

## APPROVAL OF HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER'S BILLS

Permanent Road Fund	\$	14,273.71
Road & Bridge Fund	\$	156,873.88

Trustee Frank Morski made a motion to authorize the Highway Commissioner's bills to be paid accordingly and seconded by Trustee Bob Kueker. Roll Call: Scott – aye, Morski – aye; Kueker – aye; Ahle – aye. Motion Carried.

## TOWN CLERK REPORT

No report.

## TRUSTEES REPORT

Trustee Bob Kueker inquired about a rumor that Town Clerk Matt Gilreath no longer resides within O'Fallon Township. For clarity, he wanted to ask Gilreath directly where he's residing. Gilreath said his address is 304 Amhurst in O'Fallon. He has been traveling with his job and is away a lot more. He and his wife have purchased some properties for investments or, fixed up for rentals and/or resale. He thinks this topic is absurd since city council members have multiple residences outside the state of Illinois. There are past Township members and current City council members had the same rumors, and nobody kept bringing it up. There are plenty of things if we want to play tit-for-tat, and the people who keep bringing it up, Gilreath stated he will gladly start playing hardball if that's what we want to do. Again, his residence is 304 Amhurst and he is not going to get into his personal life any more than he already has. He has had this conversation with Gary, Debbie, and Cory. He is tired of answering these questions and this will be the last time he answers it. Ahle stated Kueker was only asking during a public session. Gilreath said he is answering the public and he will gladly start attending other meetings locally and bringing those things up too. Trustee Frank Morski said they don't care about the others. Gilreath said he does and Morski has not been asked a question or been recognized to speak. Gilreath said we've had more comments and questions about where he lives now than about the hiring processes of the Road District and other issues.

Trustee Frank Morski, addressing Gilreath said there is a document on file that says he applied for a homestead exemption on a house that is in Madison County. When applying for a homestead exemption, that is you (Gilreath) documenting where you are going to live because, you cannot have a homestead exemption if you are not living there full-time. When applying for that, you had to sign stating you are living in that house in Trenton. Now, you are telling us you are living at Amhurst; are you going to void that homestead exemption on the house in Trenton because you cannot legally by statute in the state of Illinois live here (O'Fallon) and have a homestead exemption on a piece of property in another county that you are not living in. Gilreath responded: (A) he doesn't owe him (Morski) any explanation. (B) he has never applied for a homestead exemption, and he has no clue what Morski is talking about. Gilreath stated his wife has a property she has purchased, and because they are married, legally, because of the marriage aspect, if you (Morski) want to get into his (Gilreath) personal finances, he will do that off the record, but he can tell you under the advisement of his realtor, under the advisement of his tax people, he has done nothing illegal. Gilreath reiterated he lives at 304 Amhurst. Morski stated the document on file in the taxing office in Madison County indicates that he (Gilreath) and his wife have applied for a homestead tax exemption on the property in Trenton. Gilreath stated he would look into that. Morski said it is a matter of public record and that is what people are basing this on. People are seeing this and coming to him and asking what's going on. Gilreath asked Morski if he has questioned any other officials. He said there are people at County level and at City level that have multiple residences. Morski said he doesn't care about the County or City. Gilreath again stated he lives at 304 Amhurst. That is where he resides, bathes, sleeps and eats. Morski stated the water usage on that property at 304 Amhurst is zero (0). Gilreath said that's not true and Morski said it was true as of this afternoon. Gilreath asked how he found that record out. Morski stated the mayor had informed him of it. Gilreath asked Morski if he is going on record saying the mayor is giving out private information about him. Morski said it isn't private information. Gilreath said the water issue is not...(did not finish). Gilreath stated he has used tons of water there. He showers there, he sleeps there and he is done having this conversation. Morski stated he was not done with the issue. As trustees and board members, we are responsible to the citizens of this township to make sure the money we are spending and other things are done according to the law. Gilreath stated Morski didn't have that view with Mr. Downs when he hired his son. Morski interjected and Gilreath said he would like to speak. He is done with this conversation and moving on. He was going to make an announcement with Supervisor Ahle next week. He is expecting to get a promotion at work and will be traveling a lot with the new job. If he gets the promotion, he was planning on resigning anyway. It has nothing to do with housing or residency, he lives at 304 Amhurst and has lived there the entire time he has held this position (clerk). Ahle stated the topic was being brought up as a matter of public knowledge. Gilreath said he understands that and with the way he is being talked to tonight and the way he has answered the question; he is done with this. Gilreath said he is resigning, effective immediately and he is done dealing with this issue. He is going back to his house at 304 Amhurst because he doesn't want to be a part of people that come to him and talk to him like this, whether or not we have public information, we work for a tax body, where we literally, just hired somebody's son without even publishing the job, and there's more talk about his residency, which has been brought up again. He doesn't want to be a part of this, he doesn't want to be around it. He wants the ability to speak freely and openly, and talk about the fact that we have people here in this Township with the same people that are coming after him and asking these questions. And now, you're (Morski) going to the mayor's office and talk about his personal habits. Gilreath said he has a son and a wife, and if people start messing around with his property for stuff like that, his family will always come first. That being said, he doesn't want to deal with this so, he resigns, effective immediately. Supervisor Ahle called upon Deputy Clerk, Debbie Allsup to step in and take over.

Gilreath said he will reach out tomorrow on how to go through the process for resigning. He said for record, he will FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) request the audio recording so he has on record, the mayor giving out his private information.

Gilreath left the meeting room at 7:12 P.M.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### SENIOR COMMITTEE REPORT

Trustee Doug Scott reported the last dinner was on December 21<sup>st</sup>, 64 tickets were sold. The next dinner will be on Thursday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30 P.M.

The Senior Committee meeting will be on Tuesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 P.M.

The last Senior Bingo party was on Friday, December 29<sup>th</sup>. 54 people were in attendance. The next Bingo party will be on Friday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> from 10:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.

Scott encouraged the board members to attend some of these events and meet with some of the residents.

### YOUTH REPORT

None.

### PLANNING REPORT

No report.

### AFTER PROM REPORT

None.

### FOOD PANTRY REPORT

Trustee Bob Kueker reported the Food Pantry was very busy during the Holiday Season. Attendee Andrea Fohne asked if the Pantry needed grocery bags is an ongoing thing. Kueker said it is and especially, the brown paper bags. They will take plastic bags too.

### RUMMAGE SALE REPORT

The group received a "Thank You" card from the Lebanon Food Pantry for the donation made in the amount of \$5,000.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Supervisor Ahle reported the generator installation should be coming up soon. Deputy Clerk Allsup said the check to Ameren IP was paid over a week ago. She sent an e-mail to the electrician saying Ameren was

paid and to let us know if anything else was required. She hasn't heard back from them. Ahle did say he was told it wouldn't be until January so, we're waiting.

The next Decennial Committee meeting will take place on Wednesday, February 7, 2024 at 7:00 P.M. during the regularly scheduled meeting. – finalized report to be submitted to the County.

Highway Commissioner Downs informed the board a check approved for Tristate Carports in the amount of \$2,000 will be voided. The total amount will be split into 2 separate checks, Deputy Clerk Allsup said the amount was approved this evening. That check will be voided and the 2 separate checks will show up on the February payments. The trustees said the new double carport looks nice, and thanked Downs for handling the project.

#### NEW BUSINESS

None.

#### PUBLIC INPUT

None.

#### ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Trustee Bob Kueker to adjourn the meeting of the Board of Trustees and seconded by Trustee Doug Scott.

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by:

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Debbie Allsup, Deputy Town Clerk