

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE RICH TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
December 7, 2020

*Remote meeting held via video/teleconference (as permitted by Governor Pritzker's
Public Act 101-0640)*

Call to Order: Supervisor Al Riley called the meeting to order at 5:37 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Present: Supervisor Al Riley; Trustees Nick Bobis, Therese Goodrich, Elliott Johnson and Jackie Small (a quorum)

Officials Present: Clerk Bobbie King, Assessor Sam Brown, Highway Commissioner Calvin Jordan

Others Present: Neal Smith, Attorney; Mark Mason, Interim Township Administrator/General Assistance Director; Alana Thompson, Finance Director; Debbie Pascarella, Deputy Clerk; Laura Simmons, Road District Administrative Assistant

Approval of Bills: Trustee Bobis noted two payments to the attorney, and questioned what they were specifically for. Attorney Neal Smith said he would need to check the billings. Upon a motion made by Trustee Goodrich, seconded by Trustee Small, and unanimously passed by roll call vote, the Board approved Town Fund checks #38336--38465 in the amount of \$284,248.23; General Assistance Fund checks #29683--29760, in the amount of \$52,467.05; Road District Fund checks #7961--8004, in the amount of \$86,078.03; Donations Fund checks--none; for the period of 10/30/20 thru 12/02/20.

Approval of Minutes: Upon a motion made by Trustee Bobis, seconded by Trustee Goodrich, unanimously passed by roll call vote the Board approved the minutes of the November 2, 2020 Board of Trustees meeting as presented.

PUBLIC PETITIONS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Trustee Therese Goodrich made a motion to cancel the Rich Township Report until employees have access to the vaccine, and the public can re-enter the building freely.

Supervisor Al Riley noted that currently people are only entering the building with an appointment, and reiterated all of the safety protocols in place, such as plexiglass barriers, masks, temperature taking and hand sanitizer available everywhere. He added that the Rich Township Report keeps communication and information open to the public. The next issue of the newspaper is scheduled for distribution in January 2021.

Trustee Jackie Small suggested that in the interest of finances, the newspaper be published twice a year, beginning with a spring issue. Supervisor Riley pointed out that the monies for the newspaper was in the budget. Trustee Small questioned how the trustees would have input into the newspaper.

Attorney Neal Smith noted that this motion was not on the agenda, and therefore out of order.

Trustee Small reported on the recent fire at Richton Square Apartments that displaced 26 residents. She suggested that the township donate monies in the form of gift cards to assist these families that have lost everything. She suggested using Emergency Assistance GA funds. Supervisor Riley explained that eligibility requirements would have to be met to use that fund. Trustee Small then suggested using the donations fund. Supervisor Riley asked the attorney how assisting these families could be accomplished. Attorney Smith said Town Fund could be used for this.

Trustee Nick Bobis encouraged Supervisor Riley to find a way to help if the township can, adding that these families' needs are urgent.

Trustees Goodrich and Small requested that assistance that can be provided to these families be on the January agenda.

Ordinance 20-10 Approval of Town, GA, Insurance, Social Security and IMRF Tax Levy: Supervisor Riley noted that as discussed at a previous meeting, the levy would not be increased. Upon a motion made by Trustee Goodrich, seconded by Trustee Johnson, and unanimously passed roll call vote, the Board of Trustees approved Ordinance 20-10.

Ordinance 20-11 Approval of Tax Levy Reduction Allocation: Upon a motion made by Trustee Goodrich, seconded by Trustee Bobis, and unanimously passed by roll call vote, the Board of Trustees approved Ordinance 20-11.

Ordinance 20-12 Approval of Road District Tax Levy: Highway Commissioner Jordan noted that as discussed at a previous meeting, the levy would not be increased. Upon a motion made by Trustee Small, seconded by Trustee Goodrich, and unanimously passed by roll call vote, the Board of Trustees approved Ordinance 20-12.

Ordinance 20-13 Approving the 2020 Para Transit Service Provider Agreement Between Rich Township and Pace, and Authorizing Execution of the Agreement: Upon a motion made by Trustee Bobis, seconded by Trustee Goodrich, and unanimously passed by roll call vote, the Board of Trustees approved Ordinance 20-13 executing the Township's agreement with Pace Para Transit.

OLD BUSINESS

None

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Supervisor: Supervisor Al Riley reported that he was interviewed on WVON radio, and that it included General Assistance (GA) information and criteria. He added that there would also be advertisement spots on the radio informing listeners about GA. Supervisor Riley noted the death of Brandon Senter, a Vice President at Governors State University and an Olympia Fields resident.

Clerk: No report

Assessor: Assessor Sam Brown reported that his staff was “catching their breath” after the busy Assessor appeals period that just ended. He added that the Board of Review appeals period should be starting in a week or two. Assessor Brown noted that his office had assisted 67 clients in-office. He noted his disappointment with the Fair Tax Amendment not passing in the November election.

Highway Commissioner: Highway Commissioner Calvin Jordan reported that the decent weather so far has allowed his staff to finish up extra culverts. He noted that he hosted a drive-by Christmas tree lighting at the road district offices for some holiday cheer, while still practicing safety protocols.

Trustee Goodrich: Attended Highway Commissioner Jordan’s drive-by tree lighting.

Trustee Johnson: No report

Trustee Bobis: Attended a virtual TOCC Board meeting, adding that all divisions of TOCC are trying to maintain some contact with members during the pandemic.

Trustee Small: Attended Highway Commissioner Jordan’s drive-by tree lighting, and a press conference regarding the displaced residents of the Richton Square Apartments fire.

Attorney: Attorney Neal Smith reported on a recent case filed with the Illinois Department of Human Rights, regarding an employee transgender issue.

ADJOURNMENT: Upon a motion made by Trustee Johnson, seconded by Trustee Goodrich, and unanimously approved by roll call vote, the Board Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Supervisor
Approval by the Board of Trustees
dp

Clerk
Date: _____

