

Historic

Riverside Township

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Vera A. Wilt, Supervisor
Jay Reyes, Clerk
Frances Sitkiewicz, Assessor

Trustees

Mary Rob Clarke
Timothy Heilenbach
John P. Carroll, Jr.
Matthew J. Decosola

MINUTES OF THE SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE

RIVERSIDE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

HELD ON TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2025

AT THE RIVERSIDE TOWNSHIP HALL, 27 RIVERSIDE ROAD, RIVERSIDE

CALL TO ORDER

Minutes of the Scheduled Meeting of the Riverside Township Board of Trustees, held on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, at the Riverside Township Hall located at 27 Riverside Road, Riverside, Illinois. The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Wilt at 7:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Supervisor Vera Wilt, Clerk Jay Reyes, Trustee John Carroll, Trustee Matt Decosola, and Trustee Tim Heilenbach.

ABSENT: Trustee Mary Rob Clarke

ALSO PRESENT: Michael J. Hayes, Legal Counsel

Fran Sitkiewicz, Township Assessor, 252 Herrick Road, Riverside, IL

Bob Finn, 237 Blackhawk Road, Riverside, IL

Therefore, Supervisor Wilt declared a quorum and opened the Scheduled Meeting for the transaction of business.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A Motion was made by Trustee Decosola to approve the February 11, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes.

MOTION: Trustee Decosola

SECOND: Trustee Carroll

ROLL CALL: Carroll – Yes; Decosola – Yes; Heilenbach – Abstain; Supervisor Wilt - Yes

VOICE VOTE: Yes – 3 No - 0 Abstention – 1 MOTION CARRIED

COMMUNICATIONS

Clerk Reyes reported that there was a correspondence from Township Officials of Illinois related to a legislative alert for proposed bills that would impact township operations.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Supervisor Wilt presented her report to the Board.

1) General Assistance

Supervisor Wilt reported that there was a flurry of new requests for assistance since the last Township Board meeting. There were 2 new GA clients and several EA applications out. One of those applicants brought the paperwork today, and another is scheduled to come in on Friday.

2) Food Pantry

Supervisor Wilt reported that the Food Pantry would soon benefit from Hauser's annual Food Drive, which is going on right now. She attended their kick-off on the last Friday in February, and the drive runs the first 3 weeks of March. The Township is one of 4 pantries they supply from their collection. One of the representatives of another pantry said he might be able to get us some new sources for food donations, so she is looking forward to connecting with him. Meanwhile, Riverside Foods and Riverside Bank will be collaborating on a program that should also bring the Township more contributions.

3) Statements of Economic Interest

Supervisor Wilt informed the Board that they should have recently received a notice from the county clerk to file their Statement of Economic Interest. She urged the Board to complete the filing immediately.

4) Township Officials of Illinois

Supervisor Wilt explained to the Board that she received another request from Township Officials of Illinois, regarding the latest movement to eliminate Townships. First the Governor put forth the proposal in his Budget presentation, and that was followed up by legislation proposing

elimination of townships with under 5,000 residents. Riverside Township has a population of 15,500, so it could be next. She proposed a resolution for approval tonight and asked to contact legislators to object to the consolidation, when there is no evidence to show that these services could be delivered any more economically or efficiently by other branches of government.

5) Township Hall Building Improvements

Supervisor Wilt informed the Board that she met with architect Marty Serena and his son, recommended by Trustee Clarke, to discuss future improvements to Town Hall. The firm is very environmentally friendly, and they understand older buildings, with challenges like the building is facing. They have worked with many older churches and similar buildings to preserve the integrity of the structures responsibly. This was just an opening conversation, but they seemed to understand our situation, and they toured the building with the Supervisor.

6) Annual Town Hall Meeting

Supervisor Wilt reminded the Board that the Annual Town Meeting will be at 6:01 on April 8th, the same night as a regular Board meeting. No proposals or requests were submitted to be placed on the agenda by the deadline of March 1, so the agenda for this year's meeting will be very basic and mostly just presentation of reports.

7) Shred Event

Supervisor Wilt reported numerous inquiries about the next shred event. She noted that Township residents must be "in a spring-cleaning frame of mind". She noted that the next Shred event was scheduled for May 17th.

8) Township Budget

Supervisor Wilt noted that she has given the Board another updated but imperfect version of the proposed budget. She was pleasantly surprised by the receipt of substantial tax revenue. She believed it to be the largest single-day deposit I am aware of, over \$245,000. It came in March, so it did not make the financial reports in the Board binders. She noted that we have exceeded the taxes we budgeted for the 2025 FY by \$131,000, so the Township will finish the year with more cash on hand than anticipated, which in turn will change the next budget. She proposed setting aside more funds toward building needs.

Trustee Decosola inquired about the current level of food supplies in the pantry. Supervisor Wilt informed him that there were adequate levels of supply, which again, would be supplemented shortly.

Trustee Decosola also inquired about whether the architectural firm worked with grant applications and related. Supervisor Wilt explained that they did not do grant writing but could refer the Township to someone who did.

Trustee Carroll asked about the specific and targeted needs of the pantry. Supervisor Wilt explained that they prefer food stable donations with a particular focus on peanut butter, jelly, cereal, and other staples.

ASSESSOR'S REPORT

Assessor Sitkiewicz reported that the County notified her office that Riverside Township was open for reassessment and would be open for appeals through April 18, 2025. Renewal forms would be going out in the next few weeks for the Senior Freeze.

Trustee Heilenbach asked how many appeals her office does per year. Assessor Sitkiewicz indicated that her office would handle approximately 600 per year.

Trustee Carroll asked how many of those were successful. Assessor Sitkiewicz explained that it being the third year in a reassessment, there likely would not be many reductions, so perhaps 30%. She reminded the Board that taxpayer appeals were a taxpayer right and that the success rate should not dissuade a person from applying.

TRUSTEE REPORTS

No reports.

MENTAL HEALTH BOARD'S REPORT

Trustee Heilenbach reported that the Mental Health Board report contained important information. He referenced Dr. Joseph Troiani and various reports prepared by him, addressing a program intending to reduce the number of first responders responding to mental health emergency calls and instead replacing them with social workers. Trustee Heilenbach explained that the program was doomed from the start because of its failure to coordinate with first responders and others to make it successful. He expected the program would be defunded.

Trustee Decosola inquired as to whether there was a replacement program. Trustee Heilenbach explained that for want of funds, there was no such replacement. He reminded the Board that there was still a mental health crisis in the country. He also explained that he would like to see a grant proposal to have crisis counselors available to coordinate with the Township police and fire to connect with as needed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A) Discussion of 2025-2026 Township Budget

Supervisor Wilt explained that she would continue to review the budget data and guide the process according to previously discussed goals, namely the repairs of the Township building.

Supervisor Wilt explained that a scrivener's error caused a change to the proposed budget.

NEW BUSINESS

A) Lions Club Chicken Dinner

Supervisor Wilt introduced Mr. Bob Finn, of the Lions Club. Mr. Finn explained that this year the Lions Club would be piloting a compostable plate, which after the chicken dinner, would be taken to Riverside Foods, where they maintain a compost pile.

Supervisor Wilt asked whether the plates are available in other shapes and sizes. Mr. Finn explained that there are, and some are available at grocery stores such as Jewel and also available online.

Trustee Decosola asked how many dinners would be provided. Mr. Finn explained that the Lions Club is still planning, though expected approximately 200 dinners.

B) Approve Annual Town Meeting Agenda

Supervisor Wilt explained that this year's annual meeting would be pretty standard, with no special requests.

A Motion was made by Trustee Carroll to approve the Annual Town Meeting Agenda.

MOTION: Trustee Carroll
SECOND: Trustee Decosola
ROLL CALL: Carroll – Yes; Decosola – Yes; Heilenbach – Yes; Supervisor Wilt - Yes
VOICE VOTE: Yes – 4 No - 0 Abstention – 0 MOTION CARRIED

C) Adopt Resolution Committed to Maintaining Township Services

Supervisor Wilt reminded the Board that there was a request to prepare a Resolution in opposition to eliminating townships. She read one into the record.

A Motion was made by Trustee Heilenbach to approve the Resolution.

MOTION: Trustee Heilenbach
SECOND: Trustee Carroll
ROLL CALL: Carroll – Yes; Decosola – Yes; Heilenbach – Yes; Supervisor Wilt - Yes
VOICE VOTE: Yes – 4 No - 0 Abstention – 0 MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF WARRANTS:

Trustee Carroll moved to authorize and ratify payment of the bills identified on the General Warrant for March 2025 in the amount of \$13,630.57.

MOTION: Trustee Carroll
SECOND: Trustee Decosola
ROLL CALL: Carroll – Yes; Decosola – Yes; Heilenbach – Yes; Supervisor Wilt - Yes

VOICE VOTE: Yes – 4

No - 0

Abstention - 0 MOTION CARRIED

Trustee Carroll moved to authorize and ratify payment of the Utility Warrant in the amount of \$1,856.32; Payroll Warrant in the amount of \$19,808.39; Health Warrant in the amount of \$6,421.52; Community Partnerships Warrant in the amount of \$26,500.00; General Assistance Warrant in the amount of \$9,629.89; Township Radio Players Warrant in the amount of \$180.00; and the Food Pantry Warrant in the amount of \$1,180.37.

Supervisor Wilt noted that the Health Warrant was higher than normal because the checks for health and life insurance premiums were inadvertently mailed to the wrong place and still cashed. This month's premium reflected the correction.

MOTION: Trustee Carroll

SECOND: Trustee Heilenbach

ROLL CALL: Carroll – Yes; Decosola – Yes; Heilenbach – Yes; Supervisor Wilt - Yes

VOICE VOTE: Yes – 4

No - 0

Abstention - 0 MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to transact, Trustee Heilenbach moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 p.m.

MOTION: Trustee Heilenbach

SECOND: Trustee Decosola

ROLL CALL: Carroll – Yes; Decosola – Yes; Heilenbach – Yes; Supervisor Wilt - Yes

VOICE VOTE: Yes – 4

No - 0

Abstention - 0 MOTION CARRIED

Vera A. Wilt, Township Supervisor

Jay Reyes, Township Clerk

3-11-2025