

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 154TH

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING OF RIVERSIDE TOWNSHIP

HELD ON TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 2025

AT THE RIVERSIDE TOWNSHIP HALL, 27 RIVERSIDE ROAD, RIVERSIDE

RIVERSIDE TOWNSHIP ELECTORS PRESENT:

Pat Pavlich, 3040 S. Harlem Avenue, Riverside, IL 60546
Barbara Legan, 236 Southcote Road, Riverside, IL 60546
John Carroll, 370 Downing Road, Riverside, IL 60546
Mary Rob Clarke, 145 Barrypoint Road, Riverside, IL 60546
Timothy Heilenbach, 8615 Riverside Avenue, Brookfield, IL 60513
Matt Decosola, 2205 Hainsworth Avenue, North Riverside, IL 60546
Mary Jo Miller, 165 Bartram Road, Riverside, IL 60546
Fran Sitkiewicz, 252 Herrick Road, Riverside, IL 60546
Vera Wilt, 377 Des Plaines Avenue, Riverside, IL 60546
Andrew Lutha, 1133 South Boulevard, Apt. 906, Oak Park, IL 60302
Adam Wilt, 511 Longcommon Road, Riverside, IL 60546
Michael Hayes, 332 Herrick Road, Riverside, IL 60546
Joseph Troiani, 222 Herrick Road, Riverside, IL 60546
Melinda Lehman, 266 Lionel Road, Riverside, IL 60546
Nina Tagliola, 2225 Keystone Avenue, North Riverside, IL 60546

CALL TO ORDER

Minutes of the 154TH Annual Town Meeting of Riverside Township, held on Tuesday, April 8, 2025, at the Riverside Township Hall located at 27 Riverside Road; Riverside, Illinois. The meeting was called to order by Township Clerk Jay Reyes at 6:01 pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ELECTION OF MODERATOR

Clerk Reyes noted that the first order of business for the Annual Meeting would be the election of a moderator and establishing an honorarium for the service. Clerk Reyes entertained a motion to award the selected moderator with a \$100 honorarium.

A Motion was made by Trustee Heilenbach to award a \$100 honorarium to the moderator.

MOTION: Trustee Heilenbach

SECOND: Trustee Clarke

VOICE VOTE: Yes – Unanimous No - 0 Abstention - 0 MOTION CARRIED

Clerk Reyes entertained a motion to appoint a moderator for the Annual Town Meeting.

A Motion was made by Assessor Sitkiewicz to appoint Barbara Legan to serve as moderator of the Annual Town Meeting.

MOTION: Assessor Fran Sitkiewicz

SECOND: Trustee Clarke

VOICE VOTE: Yes – Unanimous No - 0 Abstention - 0 MOTION CARRIED

OATH OF MODERATOR

Clerk Reyes swore in Barbara Legan as Moderator of the 154TH Annual Town Meeting of Riverside Township and turned the meeting over to her.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Approval of the April 9, 2024, Annual Town Meeting minutes.

A Motion was made by Trustee Heilenbach to approve the Annual Town Meeting minutes of April 9, 2024.

MOTION: Trustee Heilenbach

SECOND: Trustee Clarke

VOICE VOTE: Yes – Unanimous No - 0 Abstention - 0 MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

TOWNSHIP REPORTS

SUPERVISOR'S FINANCIAL REPORT

Supervisor Wilt introduced herself and indicated that there are copies of the 2024-2025 budget report, ending on March 31, 2025, available for viewing at the Township office. At the end of the 2025 Fiscal Year, there was available \$783,224.91, with revenue in the amount of \$997,711.94 and expenses in the amount of \$745,732.37. The figures represented an increase in funds in the amount of \$251,979.57. The taxes levied were in the amount of \$842,066.20. The General Assistance Fund at close of the fiscal year was \$379,703.36, with revenue in the amount of \$74,379.28, and expenses \$117,210.46, a decrease of \$42,831.18. The amount levied was \$57,577.18. Supervisor Wilt provided a breakdown of the source of the generated funds and their disbursement.

A Motion was made by Trustee Carroll to accept the Supervisor's Financial Report.

MOTION: Trustee Carroll

SECOND: Trustee Heilenbach

VOICE VOTE: Yes – Unanimous No - 0 Abstention - 0 MOTION CARRIED

SUPERVISOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

Supervisor Wilt presented an Annual Activity Report. She highlighted that Riverside Township is in good financial condition, as confirmed by the annual audit, and that it continues to serve the social service needs of our community. She indicated that the Township was fortunate not to have too many emergencies, and that allowed it to build reserves in anticipation of many Town Hall projects in the next couple of years. She mentioned the first audit by IMRF, who is the Township's pension provider. A few procedures were corrected in the process, and also made some prior years corrections, but all is good now.

She also reported that the Governor's recent budget proposal included a plan to eliminate Townships, and a legislator quickly proposed the legislation to start the process. There was immediate response and a flurry of opposition through the Township Officials of Illinois (TOI), so the legislation was tabled, but she expected that the proposal surely would come up again. The Township Board passed a resolution to fight the elimination and to continue to provide the services that the Township provides. That Resolution is attached to this report. TOI recommended such a resolution also be adopted at the Annual Town Meetings, but the Board had already approved the agenda when that request came out, and had no more meetings before this one. She desired that the resolution be endorsed by the electors at this meeting without it being on the agenda.

She also noted that General Assistance is a statutory requirement of Townships in Illinois, and Emergency Assistance is optional but that Riverside Township has offered it for many years. Riverside Township provided General Assistance for part or all of the year to a total of 24 people in need; and gave Emergency Assistance (EA) to 10 different households. EA usually covers utility bills facing shut-off service or rental assistance to avoid eviction. She mentioned that Riverside Township has helped with other health and welfare emergencies as well, such as plumbing and heating issues or auto brakes, when there is no other source of funds to help.

Sometimes the Township also works with the St. Vincent de Paul Society when our funds alone will not alleviate the emergency, but together we can. Supervisor Wilt noted that she frequently refers assistance applicants to the Community Resource Center for additional programs Township residents might turn to.

Supervisor Wilt reminded the Board that the Food Pantry supported 105 households in the fiscal year that just ended, with 2 tote bags of food each visit. Besides the shelf-stable foods, the Food Pantry distributed 613 vouchers worth \$5 each for the Riverside Farmers' Market and redeemed 400 of them for a total payout to vendors of \$2,000. In November and December the Township distributed 70 gift cards worth \$50 each to help with the holidays.

Supervisor Wilt also reported that during the course of the year, several file cabinets of sheet music still stored here since the days of when the former Riverside Township Band disbanded were moved out as they found an organization that would welcome the music. That freed up space in our overflow food pantry storage. The Township purchased 2 shelving units and now have space for the large donations periodically received. That is where the Riverside Foods holiday "fill the trailer", the postal carrier drive in May, and the fortified pasta that the Township receives from Hauser go. The food eventually moves to the regular pantry where tote bags are packed. She noted that they were very grateful to these community partners who hold food drives, including Central School Best Buddies, and area churches. Residents bring food items when they participate in our twice per year shred events, and many individuals and organizations bring us monetary donations, including the Lions Club and the Riverside Junior Woman's Charity. The Township supported the Little Food Pantry at Riverside Presbyterian Church as they supplement our program with their open pantry concept, where they also have refrigeration for produce.

The Nurse's Closet had a lot of traffic this year, and they frequently hear that residents had no idea we had such a service, even though we regularly promote it in the newsletter and other places. Some informed residents direct Facebook inquiries to the Township. Everyone who uses it is very grateful.

Supervisor Wilt noted that free Senior Programs (not necessarily just for seniors) include our M-W-F exercise class at noon, Thursday Afternoon movies, and The Riverside Township Radio Players. Trustee Clarke provided a program on Senior Fraud where the Riverside Police Department and the Attorney General's office offered very helpful information and warnings about how to avoid being scammed, including a testimonial by someone who never thought he could be fooled. Trustee Clark also planned senior treats and holiday luncheons.

Supervisor Wilt also reported that Youth Programs are provided through partnerships with other organizations, including the Riverside Township Junior Theater Camp, the Riverside Chamber of Commerce, North Riverside and Riverside Parks & Recreation, Prairie Trail Federation, etc.

She noted that activities by the board included 2 shred events, the Senior Fair in North Riverside, the Autumn Fest and Chili Cook-off in North Riverside, Independence Day Parades in Brookfield, Riverside and North Riverside, the North Riverside Scholarship Golf Outing.

She reminded the Board that they had also supported cultural programs such as Riverside Arts Weekend (R.A.W.) and the Riverside Arts Center.

Supervisor Wilt expressed her appreciation for Township Staff, which she mentioned makes all of this possible and running smoothly. She personally thanked Andrew Lutha, Nina Tagliola, Keith Liesse and Joe Price for their commitment to the residents of Riverside Township. She also thanked Mary Jo Miller, and Barbara Legan in the Assessor's Office. She also expressed appreciation and gratitude to the concern and selflessness of the Mental Health Board members. She once again thanked the Township elected officials for their support, cooperation, and dedication. She expressed her gratitude to the residents of Riverside Township, for their recent civic participation in the election, giving the Board another term. Finally, she thanked Fran Sitkiewicz, who will retire from the Assessor's position when her term ends at the end of 2025, for her years of service to the community. She congratulated Mary Jo, on her election as Assessor, and welcomed her to the position when it is official on January 1, 2026.

A Motion was made by Trustee Clarke to accept the Supervisor's Annual Activity Report.

MOTION: Trustee Clarke

SECOND: Trustee Carroll

VOICE VOTE: Yes – Unanimous No - 0 Abstention - 0 MOTION CARRIED

A Motion was made by Trustee Clarke to adopt Resolution #2025-1 from the Board of Trustees supporting Township Services.

MOTION: Trustee Clarke

SECOND: Trustee Carroll

VOICE VOTE: Yes – Unanimous No - 0 Abstention - 0 MOTION CARRIED

TOWNSHIP CLERK REPORT

Clerk Reyes presented a Township Clerk Report, explaining the role of the Township Clerk and highlighting the Board's activities in the prior year.

A Motion was made by Trustee Heilenbach to accept the Supervisor's Board Activity Report.

MOTION: Trustee Heilenbach

SECOND: Pat Pavlich

VOICE VOTE: Yes – Unanimous No - 0 Abstention - 0 MOTION CARRIED

TOWNSHIP ASSESSOR'S REPORT

Assessor Sitkiewicz presented her report. She expressed her appreciation to the Supervisor and Township Board. She highlighted the Assessor's office's work, and thanked Mary Jo Miller and Barbara Legan for their support.

She explained the role of Township Assessor and gave a presentation of their annual activities. She noted that her office processed 1,031 permits through December 2024, for a total dollar amount of over \$22,576,668. Her office also assisted with obtaining 234 exemptions. A change in process for the County caused a great deal of delay in the Township's processes.

In addition, her office helped obtain \$373,882 returned to Township taxpayers as a result of various Certificates of Error and Corrected Tax Bills. Additionally, there were approximately 439 taxpayer appeals, assisting 405 at the Board of Review, and 280 taxpayers during the appeal sessions.

Finally, she explained that the office received reports of property transfers and tracked 192 home sales amounting to \$97,545,936, for a home value average over \$500,000. Her office engaged in various efforts involving outreach to township residents, holding taxpayer meetings in the fall and spring with substantial success. She worked with the County Commissioner Frank Aguilar to address issues of flooding and other matters.

A Motion was made by Supervisor Wilt to accept the Assessor's Report.

MOTION: Supervisor Wilt

SECOND: Adam Wilt

VOICE VOTE: Yes – Unanimous No - 0 Abstention - 0 MOTION CARRIED

MENTAL HEALTH BOARD REPORT

Adam Wilt, President of the Mental Health Board presented the report. He explained the role of the Mental Health Board and its goals, including its origin and membership. He explained that the Board works in partnership with other entities to provide various outpatient / inpatient services, with 6 community-based organizations. He explained that in 2024-2025 they gave \$713,941.64 total in the form of community grants-in-aid, particularly focused on avoiding wait listing services.

A few highlights included Township Community Resource Center, working with Seguin, Way Back Inn, and Aging Care Connections. Another highlight of programs included the National Alliance of Mental Illness, which provided services to Riverside Brookfield High School and Hauser Junior High School but unfortunately had ceased some services.

He noted that the Mental Health Board has been meeting on site with its partners, to learn the nuance of the services provided by them. He explained that the Board is quite satisfied with those services. He also mentioned a few new initiatives: grant application committee to focus on the grant approval process to ensure impactfulness to the community, and the community engagement committee, to better support the agencies and the work by helping find resources to those in need. Finally, Mr. Wilt thanked members and supporters of the Board. He also provided the meeting dates and times and invited the community to join him at the Township Hall for those meetings.

A Motion was made by Trustee Heilenbach to accept the Mental Health Board Report.

MOTION: Trustee Heilenbach

SECOND: Trustee Carroll

VOICE VOTE: Yes – Unanimous No - 0 Abstention - 0 MOTION CARRIED

SET DATE FOR NEXT TOWNSHIP ANNUAL MEETING

A Motion was made by Clerk Reyes to set the date for the next Annual Town Meeting to be Tuesday, April 14, 2026 at 6:01 p.m.

MOTION: Clerk Reyes

SECOND: Trustee Clarke

VOICE VOTE: Yes – Unanimous No - 0 Abstention - 0 MOTION CARRIED

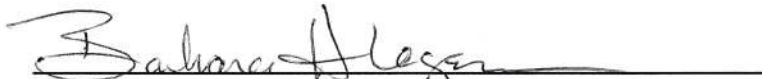
ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to transact, Clerk Reyes moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:48 p.m.

MOTION: Clerk Reyes

SECOND: Trustee Clarke

VOICE VOTE: Yes – Unanimous No - 0 Abstention - 0 MOTION CARRIED


Barbara Legan, Township Moderator


Jay Reyes, Township Clerk

4-8-2025