

Minutes - Board of Town Trustees

STATE OF ILLINOIS,
Kane County,
Town of Geneva,

ss.

THE BOARD OF TOWN TRUSTEES met at the

office of the Town Clerk at 400 Wheeler Drive on January 17, 2008,

PRESENT: Patrick Jaeger Supervisor
Barbara E. Olson Town Clerk
Richard Sharp Town Trustee
Sharon R. Brazill Town Trustee
Denise D. LaCure Town Trustee
Mark Wissing Town Trustee

Mr. Patrick Jaeger acting as chairperson and Barbara Olson as clerk. The following official business was transacted:

Also Present: Aubrey V. Pratte Assessor

Supervisor Patrick Jaeger called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

Sam Hill led the Pledge to the Flag.

Clerk Barbara Olson called the roll.

Trustees audited the bills presented for payment.

Minutes of the following meetings were presented for approval:

Thursday, December 20, 2007	Board of Trustees Meeting
Monday, December 24, 2007	Continued Board of Trustees Meeting
Monday, December 24, 2007	Public Hearing for 2007 Road District Levy

Motion by Trustee Sharp/second by Trustee Wissing to approve the Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Supervisor Jaeger asked those in attendance to identify themselves and limit their comments to three minutes.

Lee Peterson of 605 Carriage Drive, Batavia commented on the large increase of his assessment as compared to those of his neighbors.

Denny Diehl of 38W201 Glenwood Drive, Batavia indicated his displeasure at not receiving return calls from the assessor's office.

Gene Hughes of 38W025 Spring Green Way, Batavia asked the assessor to speak and explain the exorbitant assessment increases.

Kent Bucholz of 2522 Highland Road, Geneva, stated his concern about the increased assessment and the impending increase in his real estate tax.

Assessor Aubrey Pratte spoke about the State of Illinois Property Assessment Code. He stated that Geneva Township has 1.3 billion dollars in assessed value. He was required to raise 91 million in assessments for 2007. He reassessed two neighborhoods and applied equalization factors to the rest of the township.

Janet Craft of 727 N. First Street, Geneva noted that her increase was 47 % and her older house was in an area of newer houses replacing teardowns.

Bob McQuillan of 2677 Berkshire Drive, Geneva said he supported the assessor in his reassessments. He suggested that when reassessments result in

large increases, red flags should indicate a second look is needed for that property.

Jody Dzieken of 38W372 Glenwood Drive, Batavia said that no house in her neighborhood was valued at 300,000.00. She didn't know how she could pay the taxes or sell the house with the value set so high.

Michael Sullivan of 38W371 Glenwood Drive, Batavia was concerned about the lack of comparables and the size of neighboring houses.

Kris Scharringhausen of 38W211 Glenwood Drive, Batavia suggested that the reassessments were not equitable; newer, larger houses were assessed lower than older, smaller houses.

Diane Mitchell of 38W371 Glenwood Drive, Batavia wanted to know how the assessor came to his decisions, to raise some, lower some, and keep some the same.

Fred Cregier of 837 N. First Street, Geneva stated that his land value had increased 102%. He thought the system was broken, especially when others are willing to pay ridiculous prices for teardowns.

Bob Knox of 601 N. First Street, Geneva spoke of his 75% increase.

The assessor recognized the imbalances in that neighborhood and the imbalances triggered the reassessments.

Byron Ambrose of 38W280 Glenwood Drive, Batavia noted that there is a definite problem with the system and that taxes and assessments are unfair. He wanted to know where people could go to correct the issue.

Bob McQuillan suggested that residents could go to the Board of Review. He suggested that all go and appeal their assessments.

Supervisor Jaeger encouraged people to file an appeal.

Janet Craft asked about the composition of the Board of Review. The Board of Review members are appointed by the Kane County Board and they are usually appraisers.

Supervisor Jaeger suggested that residents could use the Geneva Township computers and work with the assessor's staff to prepare their appeals.

Ed Wiegand of 915 Kendall Street, Geneva was concerned about finding comparables in his neighborhood.

Supervisor Jaeger stated that he would call the Kane County Supervisor of Assessments to make sure the office would accept the appeals on January 22, 2007 as the 21st was the deadline. January 21, 2007 was Martin Luther King's Birthday and the county offices were to be closed for the day.

Gary Maywald of 708 Illinois Street, Geneva stated that the Kane County Supervisor of Assessments determines the multiplier and the township assessor needs to reassess based on the multiplier.

Trustee Denise LaCure offered general suggestions to the public for preparing appeals to the board of review.

SHERIFF'S REPORT:

Lieutenant Don Kramer of the Kane County Sheriff's Department distributed copies of the 2007 Geneva Township Report. It included all responses to calls in the township during the year. He highlighted 10 automobile burglaries, 10 hit and run crashes, 11 thefts and four domestic batteries.

OFFICIALS' REPORTS:

Senior Services Committee: Chairman Bob Wilson explained the need for room darkening blinds for showing movies. He had a quote from Lowes for \$795.00 installed. He asked that the blinds be installed by February 1st.

He asked about the status of business cards since the logo had been approved last year. Mr. Wilson said that he had been working with the City of Geneva to provide street directional signs for the senior center. He stated that the committee has been pleased with the growing prospects of the senior center. He hoped the board would help them with needed purchases more quickly. He spoke about the need for a television with good sound qualities.

Senior Center Director: Sherri Weitzl distributed copies of her January report detailing new programming, membership/ mailing list and an application for the use of the building.

It was noted that the cost of the free lunches for three days was \$450.00.

Trustee LaCure thought a free lunch once a month would be a good idea.

Application for Senior Center use: Motion by Trustee Sharp/second by Trustee LaCure to consider the application by the Kane County Housing Action Coalition. The group was requesting to use a room once a month from 1:45 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. during the 2008 year.

It was noted that the group is not necessarily interested in senior issues.

Trustee Wissing thought about establishing a precedent for allowing all not for profits when the major focus is not seniors.

After further discussion a vote was taken. Ayes – 1, Nays- 3. Motion failed to allow the use of the building.

BILLS FOR PAYMENT:

Town Fund	37,486.24
General Assistance Fund	1,532.21
Road & Bridge Funds	14,889.44
Total	\$53,907.89

Supervisor Jaeger questioned a \$300.00 fee to be paid for the senior center 503C application. He said that the trustees had not seen a copy of the application.

Motion by Trustee Brazill/second by Trustee Wissing to pay the bills as audited. Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: PERSONNEL

Motion by Trustee Wissing/second by Trustee Sharp to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Sharp/Brazill/LaCure/Wissing. Motion carried unanimously.

10:00 p.m. Executive Session

10:15 p.m. Motion by Trustee Sharp/second by Trustee Brazill to return to regular session. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Trustee LaCure/second by Trustee Brazill to modify the Senior Center Director's salary back to date of hire. A review of the file indicated the salary should have been 42,500.00 and not 42,000.00. Motion carried unanimously.

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Motion by Trustee Brazill/second by Trustee LaCure to increase the salary of the bookkeeper, Jim Raue by 5%. Supervisor Jaeger stated that Mr. Raue had not had an increase in the last few years. Motion carried unanimously.

No other business was brought before the Board of Trustees.

Motion by Trustee Brazill/second by Trustee LaCure to adjourn.

Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara E. Olson

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Township Clerk