

.State of Illinois

**DRAFT**

County of Will

Town of Crete

CRETE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

March 8, 2023

The regular scheduled meeting of the Crete Township Board of Trustees was called to order by Supervisor Liccar at 7:00 PM.

Board members present were Trustee Elton, Trustee Piacentini, Trustee Albrecht, Trustee Hawkins, and Supervisor Liccar. Clerk Buiter was also present.

A Pledge of Allegiance was given to the flag.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion to approve the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting on February 8, 2023, was made by Trustee Piacentini, seconded by Trustee Elton. All were in favor. The minutes are approved as written.

Motion to approve the minutes of the Special Board of Directors meeting on February 1, 2023, was made by Trustee Hawkins, seconded by Trustee Albrecht. All were in favor. The minutes are approved as written.

REPORTS:

Supervisor Liccar

Supervisor Liccar mentioned that the total cost for the Paratransit program was \$39,397 for the eleven month through November, 2022. The same cost ending the same period was \$25,438 which was a 54% increase. We will have to be sensitive of these rising costs in the future. We did receive approximately \$10,000 in credits from the PACE Bus Service to help us with these costs in June, July, August, and September 2022. Ridership has increased by about 11%, however our costs have gone up 39%. They are having a meeting named Access Will County shortly. Supervisor Liccar will keep us posted.

The supervisor mentioned that the Annual Town Hall meeting will be held at the New Star Building on April 11, 2023, at 7 PM. The agenda was mentioned and discussed. He mentioned that this is a good thing since townships cannot spend unnecessarily without the citizen's approval. A motion was to approve the Agenda for the Annual Town Hall Meeting by Supervisor Liccar, seconded by Trustee Elton. All were in favor. Roll Call was taken as follows: Trustee Elton – yes, Trustee Piacentini – yes, Trustee Albrecht - yes, Trustee Hawkins – yes, Supervisor Liccar – yes. Motion passes.

Supervisor Liccar has discussed with the Crete Center owner, and he mentioned that they have hired an attorney to discuss the property rights. As aboard we are looking for alternative sites, which is the New Star Building where the Annual Town Hall meeting is being held. Another alternative is to build a new building built which would cost \$200 per square foot which would be very expensive. Another approach is to wait and see what happens with the Crete Center in court. He mentioned that he did receive an

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email from the owner of Crete Center that he received an email from his attorney stating that they might have an offer by this Friday.

A motion was made to approve that an appraisal done on our current location not to exceed \$2000 by Trustee Elton, seconded by Trustee Albrecht. There was a general discussion about the agreement with the Crete Center. Trustee Elton was checking to make sure we can get out of this contract with the Crete Center before we spend the money to buy the Crete Center. Supervisor Liccar mentioned that we can get out of the old contract. All were in favor. Roll Call was taken as follows: Trustee Elton – yes, Trustee Piacentini – yes, Trustee Albrecht - yes, Trustee Hawkins – yes, Supervisor Liccar – yes. Motion passes.

There was a general discussion about the nomination of Howard Robinson to join the Planning Commission. He has worked as an auto mechanic and has worked at UPS. He is married with a couple of children and grandchildren. He owns 2 properties in Crete Township and is interested in assisting the planning commission. A motion was made to nominate him on the planning commission by Trustee Elton, seconded by Trustee Hawkins. All were in favor. Roll Call was taken as follows: Trustee Elton – yes, Trustee Piacentini – yes, Trustee Albrecht - yes, Trustee Hawkins – yes, Supervisor Liccar – yes. Motion passes.

Supervisor Liccar went to a meeting that updated him about the U of I study of the Crete area that we partially funded by us. The group will be getting input from several civic and political entities by mailing a postcard. They will be mailing those to 10,000 residents of the area. They will be looking for some input and suggestions about our local government and civic agencies and what the residents would expect to get from them. A thank you was given to Trustee Albrecht and Assessor Tamez for helping in getting this organized.

Supervisor Liccar brought up the sponsoring of group health insurance for the Crete Fire District. We have a shortage for our fire district. Chief Panega asked us to be a sponsor of them, so they get group health insurance for the fire district employees. us. A motion was made to sponsor them in our group policy by Trustee Elton, seconded by Trustee Piacentini. All were in favor. All were in favor. Roll Call was taken as follows: Trustee Elton – yes, Trustee Albrecht - yes, Trustee Hawkins – yes, Trustee Piacentini – yes, Supervisor Liccar – yes. Motion passes.

Supervisor Liccar mentioned that the cost of the audit by Sikich is going u. We currently pay \$13,000 to \$13,650 next year. Our lead auditor, Dan Berg, is retiring. A motion was made to renew our audit for \$13,650 by Supervisor Liccar, Seconded by Trustee Elton. All were in favor. Roll Call was taken as follows: Trustee Elton – yes, Trustee Albrecht - yes, Trustee Hawkins – yes, Trustee Piacentini – yes, Supervisor Liccar – yes. Motion passes.

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Supervisor Liccar mentioned that the Capital Improvement Fund was put in place in June 2018. This fund can be used for any capital improvement purposes including environmental, senior services, and other activities. The Board at the time passed in June 2020 a motion to build or purchase a new community facility up \$2,000,000. A motion was made to reaffirms of the establishment of this Capita Improvement Fund and the intention of this board to be setup this fund in May 2018 by Trustee Elton, seconded by Trustee Piacentini. All were in favor. Roll Call was taken as follows: Trustee Elton – yes, Trustee Albrecht - yes, Trustee Hawkins – yes, Trustee Piacentini – yes, Supervisor Liccar – yes. Motion passes.

Supervisor Liccar mentioned that the minutes from the June 2018 meeting will be included in this month's minutes records.

A motion was made to not publish the minutes of the executive session for protection of the township employees and citizens by Supervisor Liccar, seconded by Trustee Albrecht. . All were in favor. Roll Call was taken as follows: Trustee Elton – yes, Trustee Albrecht - yes, Trustee Hawkins – yes, Trustee Piacentini – yes, Supervisor Liccar – yes. Motion passes.

Supervisor Liccar is working with our attorney about certain tax objections. The public should be aware of this also. The total tax objections are \$81,036 according to the lawsuit against us. We can dispute these claims, but it is a tough battle. He will keep us posted.

A motion was made to support the Crete Park District Flashlight Egg Hunt for teens in the form in the candy donation of 3 to 4 bags of candy by Trustee Elton, seconded by Trustee Albrecht. All were in favor. Roll Call was taken as follows: Trustee Elton – yes, Trustee Albrecht - yes, Trustee Hawkins – yes, Trustee Piacentini – yes, Supervisor Liccar – yes. Motion passes.

A motion was made to sponsor the F-Men Egg Hunt for \$500 by Trustee Piacentini, seconded by Trustee Elton. All were in favor. Roll Call was taken as follows: Trustee Elton – yes, Trustee Albrecht - yes, Trustee Hawkins – yes, Trustee Piacentini – yes, Supervisor Liccar – yes. Motion passes.

A motion was made to be a team sponsor the Crete and University Park Baseball and Softball League for \$300 by Trustee Albrecht, seconded by Trustee Elton. All were in favor. Roll Call was taken as follows: Trustee Elton – yes, Trustee Albrecht - yes, Trustee Hawkins – yes, Trustee Piacentini – yes, Supervisor Liccar – yes. Motion passes.

A motion weas made to allow the Crete Neighbor Watch group to use the conference meeting room on May 18<sup>th</sup> 2023 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM by Trustee Albrecht, seconded by Trustee Hawkins. All were in favor. Motion passes.

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Clerk: Clerk Buitter mentioned that Early voting is going on the last week of March 27, 2023, through April 1, 2023. He also reminded elected officials that the statement of economic interest are due by May 1, 2023.

Trustee Albrecht - Financial Reports. See attached.

Highway Commissioner - Equipment maintenance is ongoing. Plowing and salting of roads are ongoing. Shoulder Stone are applied at various locations. Tree trimming and removal were completed on several locations including Norway Trail, Forestview Tr. Timberline Trail, Old Post Road, and Burrville Road. Cold patch roads material used 2.07 tons. Roadside mowing happened with boom mower. The Highway Commission and crew members attended the pipeline safety for excavator program in Joliet on February 28, 2023. Monthly branch pickup will start on April 3 and continue the first Monday of the month through October. All guidelines can be viewed at the Township. There is an open house meeting on April 13, 2023, between 4 through 7 PM at the Crete Township Fire House #2 on Stoney Island Avenue to discuss the new changes coming to the Volbrecht Road.

Assessor: See written report from the Assessor.

Plan Commission – John Rymanski reported no new developments. The solar farms that were approved last year. They have done nothing. The other solar farm property has gone up for sale. On Dutton and Goodenow property there is a suggestion for battery storage with the solar farm. The solar farm developers are becoming very sophisticated and figuring it out.

Liaison Property Code – Nothing to report.

Building and Grounds – Trustee Elton has a quote from JTP landscaping for the flower planters in front. A motion was to pay them \$2540 for the contract by Trustee Elton, seconded by Trustee Albrecht. All were in favor. Roll Call was taken as follows: Trustee Elton – yes, Trustee Albrecht - yes, Trustee Hawkins – yes, Trustee Piacentini – yes, Supervisor Liccar – yes. Motion passes.

Youth – Trustee Albrecht mentioned that she wants a garage sale for kids, so they clean out there room. She hopes have this in June sometime. Will keep us posted. Pam Vazquez suggested that we should have a kid's garage sale and have some festivities and fundraisers for them.

Mosquito Abatement – Bob Walters had nothing to report.

Senior & Special Events –Trustee Hawkins provided information about the corned beef lunch drive through. Need help from 11:00 through 2 PM. She also mentioned that on April 29, 2023, also mentioned that there will be an electronic recycling event in the Town Hall parking lot from 9 AM through 11 AM.

Community Center – Was mentioned under the Supervisors report.

Special Events – Trustee Elton had nothing to report.

OLD BUSINESS –

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NEW BUSINESS – Trustee Albrecht mentioned that there is a referendum on the April 4, 2023, about providing pensions to the Crete Township Firemen. There has been a challenge to hire and retain personnel for emergency calls. Tim Miller mentioned that fire district personnel have been cut in half and our personnel want stability and pensions. Supervisor Liccar mentioned asking Nick Borrell to come up with a video. Trustee Albrecht and Supervisor Liccar will be putting the info on the website.

CITIZENS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD – Trustee Elton mentioned there is two guests and rest of participants were elected officials.

CORRESPONDENCE –

ANNOUNCEMENTS

EXECUTIVE SESSION –

APPROVAL OF Town Fund Bills – Motion to approve the Town Fund bills for payment as presented was made by Trustee Elton, seconded by Trustee Piacentini. All were in favor. Roll Call was taken as follows: Trustee Elton – yes, Trustee Piacentini – yes, Trustee Albrecht - yes, Supervisor Liccar – yes. Town Fund Bills stand approved for payment as submitted.

Road and Bridge Fund Bills – Motion to approve the Road and Bridge Fund bills for payments as submitted was made by Trustee Piacentini, seconded by Trustee Albrecht. All were in favor. Roll Call was taken as follows: Trustee Elton – yes, Trustee Piacentini – yes, Trustee Albrecht - yes, Supervisor Liccar – yes. Road and Bridge Fund Bills stand approved for payment as submitted.

Motion to adjourn was made by Trustee Elton, seconded by Trustee Albrecht. All were in favor. Adjournment passes.

Meeting stands adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Jim Buiter, Clerk