

.State of Illinois

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County of Will

Town of Crete

CRETE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

September 13, 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 Albrecht, Trustee Hawkins, Trustee Piacentini, and Supervisor Liccar. Clerk Buitter 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 August 9, 2023, was made by Trustee Piacentini, seconded by Trustee Elton. All were in favor. The minutes are approved as written.

REPORTS:

Supervisor Liccar mentioned that Will County sent a letter stating that they have some extra ARPA funds from the COVID relief money. We were awarded \$822,676 to utilize this money for building out a critical infrastructure to mitigate the effects of COVID virus. He plans on calling a special board meeting in the next month to discuss this matter. Hopefully we can get build up some momentum to build out this infrastructure.

Supervisor Liccar mentioned the fact Trustee Albrecht and Trustee Elton and himself worked on the Crete Township logo for many months and no one had any objections to it. It was discussed for over a year. Once we placed the new logo on Facebook and our website, there was an objection about the symbol of the Crete United Methodist Church building which was built in 1852. It is a historical landmark. After two weeks being on our website, we received a complaint from Freedom from Religion Foundation that using the church logo is unconstitutional. We have reached out to several legal organizations that will defend our use of this logo. We select the American Center for Law and Justice, and they will be sending a letter to them, and we are going to keep using this logo.

A motion was made to donate \$2000 to the Christmas on the Boulevard Program in Steger, IL 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 was made to donate \$7000 to the Crete Country Christmas event held in early December 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.

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Clerk:

Supervisor Liccar - Financial Reports. See attached.

Highway Commissioner - Equipment maintenance is ongoing. Tree branch pickup is ongoing and will continue to Monday, October 2, 2023. Cold Patch roads material used – 1.15 ton. Asphalt patching in at all new culvert locations. Material used was 6.98 tons. Tree trimming/removal completed on Bemis Road, Woodlawn Ave, and Southpark Avenue. Sign repair/replacements – Elms court Lane, Oak Ct., and Klemme Road - two new neighborhood watch signs were installed. Ditch work was completed on Richton Road, Timberline Trail, and Goodenow Road. Culvert Replacements were done at 12 locations. Landscape restoration at all new culverts. The damaged guardrail on Bemis Road west of Klemme road on the N/W Corner of bridge was replaced on September 5th. The damage was caused by a hit and run driver and the cost of the replacement (\$7,143), minus the deductible was paid by TOIRMA. Supervisor Liccar mentioned that we have one Neighborhood sign left.

Assessor: None available.

Plan Commission – John Rzymiski mentioned that the solar farm on Dutton Road was approved by the county board. They are also getting more information on the new solar farm property being built around Richton Road. A motion was made to appoint Dennis Sullivan to the on the planning commission 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. Trustee Albrecht asked about the two solar farms that had applied for the permit, but they withdrew their petition. The zoning plan commission meets when they call it usually before the board meeting. It is posted on the outside sign and on our website.

Supervisor Liccar mentioned that the Able Entertainment Company established a agritourism events and wedding events. We sent a letter informing how we opposed these events to the Will County Land Use. He read the letter emphasizing how we oppose these events. The Land Use Committee voted it down. A motion was made to send and approve this letter to the Will County Zoning Board by Supervisor Liccar, 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 same owner bought a property on Dixie Highway and wants to put a mobile home park on this parcel. He sent a response to Will County zoning committee stating that the property is not adequate since the mobile park needs be on 9 acres. This park won't be able to handle water and electricity. No permits have been sent but we want to make sure the Zoning commissioners know that we are opposed to the purchase and plans. A motion was made by Supervisor Liccar to send this letter with the board's approval 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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Liaison Property Code – John Rzymiski mentioned that he did not receive any information about the several complaints outstanding. He is waiting to hear back from the zoning commission inspector. There was a complaint on the solar farm, and they were going to enforce the rules. Trustee Albrecht says the Mundz Road is continuing to violate the rules by building items without permits and having late night parties. She was informed to tell the neighbors to call the sheriff's and keep on land use committee informed what is going on.

Building and Grounds – Trustee Elton announced that the air is germ free since the three new Bryant furnaces have been installed with UV purifiers. We installed all wood floors which will be better than having carpets where a lot of germs can be found. The bathrooms will be worked on later in September and earlier October. We must install a larger water pipe and valve to accommodate the touchless system to keep the bathrooms cleaner and make sure we comply with Covid regulations. We are also expanding the bathrooms with one extra toilet. We will be installing new light sensitive readers for the parking lots and in front of the building, so we have brighter lights.

Senior Transportation – Supervisor Liccar mentioned that there was no report since there was no billing or ridership report from the Paratransit committee in Joliet since March 2023.

Youth – Trustee Albrecht stated this Saturday will be the Crete Park District annual Acorn Fest. This year we will have a blow-up corn maze for the event. We will be handing out extra school supplies and leftovers from our kid's garage sale event. On September 29 we will have be handing out candy and collecting gifts with Santa who will be there at the Trail and Treat event before Halloween. She is also looking for a popcorn machine.

Mosquito Abatement – Bob Walters stated the program is winding down to the temperature drops below 50 degrees or so.

Senior – Trustee Hawkins mentioned there were 170 people were there for the senior summer picnic. It was well run and went well. Everyone went home well fed and they enjoyed the music and the entertainment.

Special Events - Trustee Elton had nothing to report.

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – None

CITIZENS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD –

A concerned citizen mentioned that there was a barn with a wood pile on Torrence Avenue. Supervisor Liccar mentioned that just give us a call and we can look it up and see what size area they have and then we let land use know and see if they can shut them down if they is violations. The property they were talking about is in Cook County. Another citizen mentioned that Cook County does not cut the grass and weeds on their side. Ruth Reed mentioned that near Elms Court there is a blocked storm water drainage. Supervisor Liccar investigated this flooding. The only entity that can do anything is the State of Illinois Department of Natural Resources and they have the authority to correct. Township and County have no authority to correct this. Ruth Reed is concerned about the couple properties on Munz Road where there is a lot of noise and parties going into the wee hours oof the day. She is concerned

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about neighbors and the sheriffs since there is guns and alcohol. They sometimes show up when these parties are ongoing. When the automobiles that were stolen at old Balmoral Park. The sheriffs came quickly and even Beecher police showed. Supervisor Liccar mentioned that the alcohol permit was denied. We don't have police power there. He if you have specific complaints, we will send notices about land use. There are several complaints and Trustee Albrecht says there is some evidence building it to have some interference for future. Land use can change zoning when property changes hands. Ruth Reed also mentioned the annexation of township property by Village of Crete for another solar farm by the Dixie Dells subdivision. There is a meeting on this matter at Crete Public Library on September 19, 2023. Ruth Reed mentioned that she has heard about a community center. Supervisor Liccar mentioned that we have a grant of \$822,000 from Will County Board. As of now. We are interested in creating a community center, but elected officials have different opinions about how to build this out. Ultimately is up to the electors in the township who will make the decision to build the community center. Another concerned citizen was concerned about the fences and grass around Balmoral. The owner agreed to fix it but the code enforcement agents don't enforce the rules. They are not enforcing rules about parking the construction equipment over there. Supervisor Liccar said to contact your elected officials Sherry Newquist and Dan Butler. If we see code violations, we send it to the land use or the road commissioner. Supervisor Liccar encouraged them to reach out to Sherry Newquist. He also stated that we are opposed to the temporary use permit since the owner has been in violation of the code regulation on many occasions. He offered to give a copy of the letter we sent to the Will County Land Use to the concerned citizen. Ruth Reed chimed that she sends emails to the county board members and to land use and Supervisor Liccar. Another concerned citizen mentioned that two guys pulled into their driveway and started surveying their land. They would not tell her and her neighbor who they are representing. They finally admitted they were from a energy company. The citizens are very concerned about the health effects on children and water well damage. They are doing this very secretively and the full truth is not being disclosed. These panels are destroying birds and wildlife, and they don't properly maintain these farms. Another citizen encouraged people to call the county board members. Also, by law they have to notify all citizens by certified mail so that should happen in the future. John Ryzmanski zoning commission stated these solar farms have to have a bond issuance so if they fail, they have to clean up any structure and property that might have been damaged. Supervisor Liccar mentioned also to reach out to the state legislators and federal elected officials.

CORRESPONDENCE –

ANNOUNCEMENTS

EXECUTIVE SESSION –

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APPROVAL OF Town Fund Bills – Motion to approve the Town Fund bills for payment as presented was made by Trustee Elton, seconded by Trustee Albrecht. All were in favor. Roll Call was taken as follows: Trustee Elton – yes, Trustee Piacentini – 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 Hawkins. All were in favor. Roll Call was taken as follows: Trustee Elton – yes, Trustee Piacentini – yes, Trustee Hawkins – 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. Roll Call was taken as follows: Trustee Elton – yes, Trustee Piacentini – yes, Trustee Hawkins – yes, Supervisor Liccar – yes. Adjournment passes. The meeting stands adjourned at 8:31 PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Jim Buiters, Clerk