

State of Illinois

**DRAFT**

County of Will

Town of Crete

CRETE TOWNSHIP SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

November 15, 2023

The Special Board Meeting of the Crete Township 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 Buiter was also present.

Pledge of Allegiance was given to the flag.

Supervisor Licari [lined the purpose of this meeting is an informational meeting and to catch up on the community center. The community was interested in the community center. He went through the power point presentation, which is attached to these minutes word document. The presentation does not represent any of the opinions of the elected officials and board members. He built this on the data and facts that he had gathered. It showed the results of the U of I study done for Crete Township. It showed the income levels and ethnicity groups. Last several years we have banked money away in our capital improvement fund. We have about \$850,00 and it is earning about 5.3% a year. Supervisor Liccari mentioned that he reaches out to other government agencies since several residences mentioned that we would us to partner with other government agencies. He reached out to Crete Library, Crete Park District, and Crete U201 School District. Village od Crete was willing to donate land north of the Crete Library. Trustee Elton and Him met with the Honorable State Representative Anthony DeLuca to discuss this matter. Mayor Einhorn was at the meeting and mentioned that the Village of Crete was willing to donate the land. There is formal intergovernmental agreement. Will County Board member Judy Ogalla reached out to him and mentioned that they had some funds available from the CARES Act from 2020. He filled out the application and received about \$822,000. fund. He came up with the 10,000 square foot building which would run bare bones of \$200 a square foot so the new building would run around at least \$2,000,000. If we get the money there will be strings attached. There is a consulting firm would oversee the project. The voters must vote on the building. By January 2024 we must show the economic feasibility, our total cost, and will have to have a public elector meeting to approve the building. We will need to have a plan and specific building/location picked out by January 2024 and the project must be completed by end of 2026. He went into the detail about the phases and this depends on the finances we get. Supervisor Liccar mentioned that they would like to do this in Phases since we do not have a lot of money. W If we get the \$822,000 grant, we would have about \$1,7000,000. Supervisor Liccar reached out to the Honorable State Representative Nick Smith and he was interested in this community Center. Our 2 elected officials in Springfield are interested in helping but have no guarantees regarding the money they would be willing to give.

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He opened the floor for questions and comments. One residence asked about the plans for the current building. It will stay open and not be closed. Another citizen brought up the point at the last public electors voted down the New Star building purchase. The question was how we would justify to the public to spend that kind of money on a new building. Supervisor Liccar that would be sold as an once in a lifetime opportunity once in a lifetime to get this money. Rustee Elton is opposed to going into business with any government entity to operate a community center. He brought the point that the rejection of the New Star building was a mistake. He also mentioned that the numbers Supervisor Liccar numbers to operate the building were inflated. Trustee Albrecht would to see if the government entities money to justify the build out. Who would operate the building since we putting in the lion share of the money. Another concerned citizen does not want to spend at least \$2,000,000 without a plan. She wanted to know how they would be using the building. Many citizens. Clerk Buiter was concerned about the cost overruns since many projects get started and the developments come up and costs go up quite dramatically. Also, Supervisor Liccar was asked about the intergovernmental agreement stipulation and Supervisor Liccar mentioned that there is no governmental agreement and not necessary to get the grant, Trustee suggested we take the grant money pool it with capital improvement fund and buy the New Star Building. A representative from PBS of Crete was present and Trustee Albrecht ask him point blank how much it cost and he admitted the \$200 per square foot more like \$100 to \$150 higher. Supervisor Liccar mentioned that the huge grant money makes a big impact on a decision to purchase the building. There was a lot of vibrant and vigorous discussion continued. The feeling by the end of the meeting was that we should maybe look at purchasing of the New Star building. Next order is to have a public electors meeting in January, 2024.

Motion to adjourn was made by concerned seconded by Trustee Albrecht. All were in favor. Motion passes.

Meeting stands adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Jim Buiter, Clerk