

CUNNINGHAM TOWNSHIP BOARD

Monday, July 9, 2018

The Cunningham Township Board met in Regular session Monday, July 9, 2018 at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers at the Urbana City Building, 400 S. Vine Street, Urbana, Illinois.

ELECTED OFFICIALS PHYSICALLY PRESENT:

Chair:	Dennis Roberts (Trustee)
Trustees:	Bill Brown; Dean Hazen; Eric Jakobsson; Jared Miller; Aaron Ammons; Maryalice Wu
Township Clerk:	Charles A. Smyth
Supervisor:	Danielle Chynoweth
Assessor:	Wayne T. Williams

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT VIA TELECONFERENCE: None

ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT: Chair, Diane Wolfe Marlin

OTHERS PRESENT: Frederic Grosser; Members of the Media

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Roberts called the meeting of the Cunningham Township Board to order at 7:03 p.m. following a Town Board Public Hearing on the annual budget.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Trustee Miller made a motion to approve minutes from regular meeting of June 4, 2018. Trustee Hazen seconded. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

3. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Trustee Hazen made a motion to remove item (a) Resolution T-2018-07-008R from New Business as it was not ready. Motion was seconded by Trustee Miller and carried by unanimous voice vote.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was none.

5. COMMITTEE TO VERIFY BILLS

The following items presented in omnibus fashion:

- 1. Town Fund
- 2. General Assistance Fund

Supervisor Chynoweth reported the expenditures for Town Fund and General Assistance. She said that she was very close to wrapping up social service funding for the past year, but was still dealing with the Rosecrance takeover of the Prairie Center. When asked whether the emergency assistance funds were covered by the current or past fiscal year, she responded that it was a mix of both, with hotels stays being billed July of the new fiscal year. Trustee Miller made a motion to approve the Town Fund for \$ 121,037.77 and the General Assistance Fund for \$ 73,991.56. Trustee Ammons seconded and the motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Assessor Williams reported that the township assessment books have been turned over to the county and work was beginning on the new year. He said the current assessment software needs to be updated or replaced, per his memo to trustees. He added that Cunningham Township does not

have any online information about assessments and the county only provides assessment values and ownership. Tradeoffs of going to a new system versus upgrades, and the number of one-time expenses due to new staff and training were discussed. Assessor Williams described his education plans, which would be a 3 to 4 year effort. There was a suggestion that since one staff position in the Assessor's office has yet to be filled, the money could be redirected to offset these one-time training costs. It was agreed that the budget should reflect actual expenditures as closely as possible.

Township Supervisor Danielle Chynoweth provided the board with a monthly written report, in which she summarized the assistance statistics by category as of July 1, 2018. She reported that she was budgeting for 125 GA participants, with the number currently at 110. She is planning on auditing GA, noting that she is working with and helping train Champaign Township on SSA reimbursements, as well as dealing with the chronically homeless. Homeless assistance is at 211 helped so far, including 78 households and 114 children. She said that trustees should have received a summary of the revised budget via email that incorporated the Assessor's proposed software and training expenditures. She also noted that the recent hires in the Assessor's office were done by a committee which included herself, Mayor Marlin, Assessor William, along with several other area assessors. Laura Sandefur, one of the newly hired employees, has extensive experience. The other new hire has financial engineering training that will help with the digital migration. She has paused the use of hotel rooms to house those temporarily homeless due to costs and hotel issues and is pursuing cost effective sheltering.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. **Ordinance No. T-2018-06-002:** An Ordinance Approving the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance (Fiscal Year 2018-2019)

Discussion of the Annual Budget resumed. Trustee Jakobsson stated that with the Assessor's proposed changes to the budget and uncertainty about software systems we should let that be finalized and hold over the budget for next month. Trustee Wu requested a clean copy budget with proposed changes and possible adjustments based on the supervisor's audit. Supervisor Chynoweth expressed her concerns about deficit spending and her desire to maintain funding. Additional discussion of which software route to take resulted in a decision to upgrade the current package.

Trustee Hazen made a motion to continue discussion of this item at next month's board meeting. The motion was seconded by Trustee Miller and passed by unanimous voice vote.

7. NEW BUSINESS

There was none as the item was removed from the agenda.

8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Cunningham Town Board, Chair Roberts declared the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Charles A. Smyth
Township Clerk

This meeting was taped.

This meeting was broadcast on cable television.

Website link for this meeting: <https://www.urbanaininois.us/node/7282>

Minutes Approved: August 6, 2018