



APPROVED Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Joliet Township
Joliet Township Regular Board Meeting
175 W. Jefferson St., Joliet, IL 60432
Tuesday, July 9th, 2024 / 5:00 P.M.

The regular town board meeting, being held at 175 West Jefferson Street, Joliet Township government offices, Tuesday, July 9, 2024, at 5:02 P.M. was called to order by Supervisor Angel Contreras. The following official business was transacted:

The Supervisor led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. The Clerk called the roll as follows:

TRUSTEES:	Tanya Arias	Not Present
	Antione J. Edwards	Present
	Cesar Escutia	Not Present
	Raymond F. Slattery	Present
SUPERVISOR:	Angel Contreras	Present
CLERK:	Alicia Morales	Present
OTHER OFFICIALS:	Commissioner Vince Alessio	Not Present
	Assessor James Brenzewski	Not Present

ALSO PRESENT:

General Assistance Director Patricia Venziano	Transportation Director Jacqueline Smith
Animal Control Assistant Director Rebecca Gomez	Violence Prevention Director Keshia Ellis
Senior Liaison Jeff Wallace	Executive Assistant Ana Campa Castillo
Finance Director Ivan Diaz	Behavioral Health Team
Deputy Clerk Estefany Bonilla	Attorney Bryan Wellner

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Town Board Minutes: Supervisor Contreras asks for a motion. Trustee Edwards motions to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2024, Town Board Meeting, seconded by Trustee Slattery. A roll call was taken. Motion carried.¹

Special Board Meeting Minutes: Supervisor Contreras asks for a motion. Trustee Slattery motions to approve the minutes of the June 18, 2024, Special Board Meeting, seconded by Trustee Edwards. A roll call was taken. Motion carried.²

Public Hearing – Township Budget Minutes: Supervisor Contreras asks for a motion. Trustee Edwards motions to approve the minutes of the June 18, 2024, Public Hearing – Township Budget, seconded by Trustee Slattery. A roll call was taken. Motion Carried.³

Public Hearing – Road District Minutes: Supervisor Contreras asks for a motion. Trustee Slattery motions to approve the minutes of the June 18, 2024, Public Hearing – Road District Budget, seconded by Trustee Edwards. A roll call was taken. Motion Carried.⁴

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

¹ Roll call vote: Ayes (3). Trustees Edwards, Slattery and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

² Roll call vote: Ayes (3). Trustees Edwards, Slattery and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

³ Roll call vote: Ayes (3). Trustees Edwards, Slattery and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

⁴ Roll call vote: Ayes (3). Trustees Edwards, Slattery and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

OLD BUSINESS:

New Reports

General Assistance Director, Patricia Venziano

Sue and Leo have been doing a good job keeping the micro-pantry stocked, which has helped the residents as they frequently use it. On average the micro-pantry gets stocked about two times a day. There were fifteen residents in attendance for LIHEAP on Wednesday, June 12, 2024, and another scheduled for Wednesday, July 17, 2024, from 9AM to 2PM. Alejandra represented the Township at an Outreach event at Sacred Heart Church and a job fair at Peace Over Violence. Alejandra continues to share flyers to the community to promote events and services that General Assistance offers. General Assistance Director Patricia Venziano passed the SHIP exam which makes the Township listed as a certified SHIP site. Aside from that it has been business as usual.

Animal Control Assistant Director, Rebecca Gomez

Animal Control's Director Whitney McGill is on maternity leave as the Assistant Director Rebecca Gomez will be managing the department for the meantime. For the month of June 2024, Animal Control's staff, alongside Director McGill and Assistant Director Gomez, attended a Prairie State Conference in Bloomington, Illinois. There were several classes and booths from other organizations as everyone networked. Animal Control had their microchip special and had around twenty pet owners attend while building rapport with the community. There was another event held at Fitness Premier in Plainfield where Animal Control brought two dogs, one of them being adopted that same night and bringing back several bags of dog food for Animal Control's Pet Pantry. Supervisor Contreras inquired on the ETA for the outfitting on the Animal Control vans. Assistant Director Gomez explained that it would take a while starting from August 2024 to the end of October 2024 for the vans to be outfitted.

Director of Human Resources, Erica Holmes

Currently there are a few open positions for the Transportation department and for the Outreach team. Twelve interns are working with partying agencies and are contributing to various projects. The employee handbook is being updated with the Township legal team for review and may be up for approval by August. Training development is being set and provided for each department. An audit is being completed for the employees' files. There was an update on employee benefits and all who opted in will be receiving the new updated cards within two to three weeks.

Violence Prevention Director, Keshia Ellis

As Peace Over Violence is entering July, they have acknowledged this month as Minority Mental Awareness Month and bring light to their mental health team who function under the IDHS reimagine grant. The mental health team has helped bridge over hundred clients who have utilized services through Peace Over Violence. POV has worked with the community partnership agreements with Daybreak to temporarily house three clients and for YMCA to employ one youth client under volunteer services. As Peace over Violence exist their fourth quarter, their data shows how POV has positively impacted the Joliet community as 150 families have been helped with housing assistance, clothing, food, personal supplies, medical treatment, property damage, burial assistance and victim compensation which is VAWA and available resource awarded to financial support and recovery to the State of Illinois. The Outreach team along with community engagement sponsored a successful popup event in the wake of the July 1st shooting in the Riverwalk community as POV served thirty-five community members. POV also sponsored a fourth of July community popup barbecue for community members and received positive feedback. Peace Over Violence will attend a training event on juvenile expungement. During this training POV will gain knowledge and train other community partners on the skills regarding juvenile expungement. Violence Prevention Director Ellis will attend a panel for cities and partners in prevention sponsored by the Department of Homeland Security projected to air on Thursday, July 11, 2024, at 1PM. This is a virtual webinar that will allow for discussion with community leaders regarding the preventative measures being made to combat violence in small cities.

Finance Director, Ivan Diaz

Finance Director Diaz addressed the discrepancy that Trustee Slattery had inquired about from last month's regular board meeting's financials. The five thousand was in the Capital fund and that was used for the earnest deposit for the Forest building. The reason it did not show up in the report was due to it showing up as a fixed asset line item instead of an ordinary expense. Going forward, as it's the second quarter, there is plenty of administrative work to be completed by the end of the week as well as updating many grants. This would include the three major grants, Behavioral Health, Violence Prevention and the Council Coordinator. At the moment Finance Director Diaz is working with Auditor John to complete any necessary documentation as this month of July is the busiest.

Senior Liaison, Jeff Wallace

The senior service calendars are being passed out to the senior communities, as well as the flyers for the senior Ride Share and if all goes well down the road then the Transportation department will be able to implement the grocery store scheduling. Senior Liaison Wallace received a few phone calls regarding questions of interested residents who would like to donate styrofoam bedding and a manual lift assist seat for seniors as he is working together with Sue to make sure all donated items are in acceptable conditions. The veterans' luncheon will be on Friday, November 1st, 2024, from 12PM to 3PM. Sign-ups for the veterans' luncheon will start in August and expect at least sixty people to attend who are veterans of the groups the Township supports. Senior Liaison Wallace also added the Township for the St. Joe's Steak Fry and will be set for the third Wednesday in August at 12PM. More information will be available once Senior Liaison Wallace receives further details.

Clerk, Alicia Morales

In the Clerk's office the complete Joliet Township Decennial Committee Report was compiled, with the support of Executive Assistant Ana Campa Castillo, and filed it to the Will County Office Building under the County Board Office per compliance with the State of Illinois statute. The Road District's Decennial Committee Report, with the help of Executive Assistant Anna Donovan, was filed with the County Board Office as well. Clerk Morales confirmed with Attorney Bryan Wellner that a Decennial Committee Meeting must be held again after ten years for the Joliet Township Government and Road District after the last report has been filed. The interns have started to work with the Township and are organizing files and maintaining the cleanliness of the offices while assisting with physical office operations.

Supervisor, Angel Contreras

The Supervisor shared the steady progress of the Transportation department as five new MOUs were created with a few agencies. Supervisor Contreras informed the Trustees that Animal control will be decommissioning two of their older vehicles once the new ones are outfitted. The Supervisor mentions how the Behavioral Health Team continue assisting clients as they use the space available in the Township while the Forest Park Community Center is being prepared. All the teams in the programs are being stabilized at a steady pace and are offered training to keep assisting in their growth. Supervisor Contreras is working with Ms. Hudson in arranging meetings through other municipalities. There currently is a municipality visit to Rockford as some IGAs have already been set between the Joliet Township. This will help strengthen all initiatives as the Township is set on working to obtain bigger grants. This is reaching regional areas outside of Chicago as the Township is advising and assisting directly. The agreements are not official yet as the board would have to approve them. This is an acknowledgement that there are official advisory conversations taking place. Aside from all the administrative work, it has been business as usual.

CASH RECEIPTS: Trustee Slattery motions to place the cash receipts into their proper accounts. Trustee Edwards seconds. A roll call was taken. Motion carried.⁵

FUND EXPENDITURES:

General Town Fund for June 2024: \$386,856.65

Trustee Slattery motioned to certify the expenditures and approve them for payment. Trustee Edwards seconds. A roll call was taken. Motion carried.⁶

Capital Fund for June 2024: \$27,562.00

Trustee Slattery motioned to certify the expenditures and approve them for payment. Trustee Edwards seconds. A roll call was taken. Motion carried.⁷

Road and Bridge Fund for June 2024: \$174,806.31

Trustee Slattery motioned to certify the expenditures and approve them for payment. Trustee Edwards seconds. A roll call was taken. Motion carried.⁸

General Assistance Fund for June 2024: \$28,581.65

Trustee Slattery motioned to certify the expenditures and approve them for payment. Trustee Edwards seconds. A roll call was taken. Motion carried.⁹

Animal Control Fund for June 2024: \$159,597.64

Trustee Slattery motioned to certify the expenditures and approve them for payment. Trustee Edwards seconds. A roll call was taken. Motion carried.¹⁰

Senior Fund for June 2024: \$0.00

No expenditures in this fund. A motion is not needed.

ADJOURNMENT: Supervisor Contreras asks for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Slattery motions. Trustee Edwards seconds. A roll call was taken. Motion Carried.¹¹

The meeting adjourned at 5:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Alicia Morales
Town Clerk

⁵ Roll call vote: Ayes (3). Trustees Edwards, Slattery and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

⁶ Roll call vote: Ayes (3). Trustees Edwards, Slattery and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

⁷ Roll call vote: Ayes (3). Trustees Edwards, Slattery and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

⁸ Roll call vote: Ayes (3). Trustees Edwards, Slattery and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

⁹ Roll call vote: Ayes (3). Trustees Edwards, Slattery and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

¹⁰ Roll call vote: Ayes (3). Trustees Edwards, Slattery and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

¹¹ Roll call vote: Ayes (3). Trustees Edwards, Slattery and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).