



The regular town board meeting, being held at 175 West Jefferson Street, Joliet Township government offices, Tuesday, August 13, 2024, at 5:00 P.M. was called to order by Supervisor Alicia Morales. The following official business was transacted:

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

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

ALSO PRESENT:

General Assistance Director Patricia Venziano	Transportation Coordinator Skyler Reed
Animal Control Assistant Director Rebecca Gomez	Director of Human Resources Erica Holmes
Community Violence Intervention Director Keshia Ellis	Executive Assistant Ana Campa Castillo
Finance Director Ivan Diaz	Behavioral Health Team
Senior Liaison Jeff Wallace	Attorney Bryan Wellner

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Town Board Minutes: Supervisor Morales asks for a motion. Trustee Escutia motions to approve the minutes of the July 9, 2024, Town Board Meeting, seconded by Trustee Slattery. A roll call was taken. Motion carried.¹

Special Board Meeting Minutes: Supervisor Morales asks for a motion. Trustee Arias motions to approve the minutes of the July 16, 2024, Special Board Meeting, seconded by Trustee Edwards. A roll call was taken. Motion carried.²

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

APPROVE/Contract with Joliet Fire Department & City of Joliet: Active & Mental Health Conference
Supervisor Morales states that the Joliet Fire Department is hosting an Active Threat & Mental Health Conference for 2024. The Supervisor would like the Joliet Township Government to sponsor the conference at Presenting Level in the amount of twenty thousand. Supervisor Morales asks for a motion to approve. Trustee Slattery motions. Seconded by Trustee Arias. Motion carried.³

¹ Roll call vote: Ayes (5). Trustees Arias, Edwards, Escutia, Slattery and Supervisor Morales. Nays (0).

² Roll call vote: Ayes (5). Trustees Arias, Edwards, Escutia, Slattery and Supervisor Morales. Nays (0).

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

APPROVE/Thriveworks Contract

Supervisor Morales asks for a motion to approve the Thriveworks contract. Trustee Edwards motions. Seconded by Trustee Slattery. Motion carried.⁴

APPROVE/Positions for Policy & Program Coordinator, Media Specialist, Administrative Assistant

Supervisor Morales asks for a motion to approve the positions for Policy & Program Coordinator, Media Specialist and Administrative Assistant. Trustee Escutia motions. Seconded by Trustee Edwards. Motion carried.⁵

APPROVE/Ordinance No. 401-2024 for Will Grundy Medical Clinic

Supervisor Morales asks for a motion to approve Ordinance No. 401-2024 for Will Grundy Medical Clinic. Trustee Escutia motions. Seconded by Trustee Arias. Motion carried.⁶

GRANT UPDATE/In Review by Supervisor & Trustees

Supervisor Morales informs the board members and the public that more time is needed to carefully review all the proper grants that were submitted to the Township. The Supervisor asked the Trustees to share their opinions while reviewing the grants with the help of the new grant protocol that was recently approved. No motion needed.

OLD BUSINESS:

New Reports

Highway Commissioner, Vincent Alessio

The Road District's offices are completely renovated. There had been high levels of storms that hit Joliet and caused major damage in the community. The Road District has worked overtime while working together with the County to get the monies reimbursed through the emergency funding. The Road District had another Township donate their machine and some of their labor to assist in the damage done by the storms. There were many requests from the residents to help clear out the debris that was caused by high winds. There will be a ribbon cutting event on Monday, August 26th of 2024 at 9AM at the Sugar Creek Bridge as this project has officially been completed. There was feedback from residents before being elected regarding the issue with waterways around the area and the residents are now glad it has been resolved.

General Assistance Director, Patricia Venziano

Sue has been busy maintaining the medical loan closet as many residents have been donating their medical items. Sue would arrange pick-up times at their location if they're unable to drop it off at the Township. Alejandra represented the Township at the Kids Fest held in downtown Joliet. There were nineteen residents in attendance for LIHEAP on Wednesday, July 17, 2024, from 9AM to 2PM with the outreach done by Alejandra as she would make sure flyers are posted around town. Alejandra also assisted many residents by informing them about the Spanish Center and what they offer, as well as the Salvation Army and information on the food pantries. LIHEAP season will be starting again in October and the first outreach will occur in December. General Assistance Director Patricia Venziano is still waiting for more information on the exact date as it has always been on the third Wednesday of the month. Now that the LIHEAP funds have been exhausted, there has been an uptick in applications for utility disconnect service assistance since their utilities are being shut off. Aside from that it has been business as usual in the General Assistance Department.

⁴ Roll call vote: Ayes (5). Trustees Arias, Edwards, Escutia, Slattery and Supervisor Morales. Nays (0).

⁵ Roll call vote: Ayes (5). Trustees Arias, Edwards, Escutia, Slattery and Supervisor Morales. Nays (0).

⁶ Roll call vote: Ayes (5). Trustees Arias, Edwards, Escutia, Slattery and Supervisor Morales. Nays (0).

Animal Control Assistant Director, Rebecca Gomez

Animal Control has been busy in July of 2024. They have recently just hired a new Animal Control officer that was recommended by Director HR Erica Holmes. There has also been more hiring for weekend and holiday Kennel Techs. Animal Control was also affected by the storms that hit Joliet and caused major damage to one of the newest vans and was considered a total loss by the insurance company. Mavron, the company that does the outfitting for Animal Control's van fleet, was able to salvage the holding cages and keep them stored at their location for potential outfitting for the new Animal Control vans. The 2023 van and the 2024 van will have the lights installed by Wicked Warnings and will be outfitted by Mavron once the lights are installed. The timeframe for everything to be completed will be by the end of October. Cat adoptions at Four Paws, a facility that is used in Minooka, have been doing well with the cats Animal Control has been sending there as Animal Control gets overcrowded with cats and kittens. Unfortunately, there have been more calls than usual about owners surrendering their animals, some of the animals have been dumped and abandoned. The animals are left in terrible conditions, some having skin conditions and other physical issues. Four coon hounds were dumped in the Joliet area, an animal that is generally not located in the Joliet area, as Vet Techs Kalisa and Erin ensured all the animals received much needed care. Three of the coon hounds are available for adoption, the fourth one is still in critical conditions and will be sent to a rescue.

Community Violence Intervention Director, Keshia Ellis

Peace Over Violence has now officially changed its name to Community Violence Intervention Program as that is the model that is serviced under, and it is a nationwide intervention. CVI Director Ellis shares with the board about being closer to onboarding the Outreach Supervisor with HR as well as the leadership team to fill a role. A recent collaboration with Nonviolent Cities Projects and the CVI Program under Joliet Township Government is set. This collaboration will bring awareness to the International Day of Peace event and will be celebrated by doing a walk, having guest speakers and coming together as a community to promote reduction on gun violence in the Joliet Township area. Considering recent events of violence and aggression in the surrounding areas, the CVI Program has canvassed neighborhoods to be present and provide support to local businesses and residents of the community by advising local business owners of the victim compensation and available financial support. The CVI Program has assisted five of the seven families that had instances within the last two weeks. All clients have been offered wraparound services to ensure that all needs are met. The CVI Program has also completed two additional training programs for their required program training-list. The training in Stopped the Bleed was set with the team as they finished the training through New Lenox at the Village Hall. CVI Director Ellis encourages everyone to come out to their Community Chat which is scheduled at the Mitchell Center on August 22nd of 2024 at 5PM.

Transportation Coordinator, Skyler Reed

In July, the Transportation Department completed the highest number of trips since their department went live on March 15th, of 2024, totaling 485 trips. During this period, they transported 194 clients, including those from the partnered organizations such as Family Guidance, WGMC, and the Township's Senior and Disabled Residents. Transportation services were also provided for the YMCA and Park District, managing trips for youth attending swim and field trips. Notably, the Transportation Department shuttled forty to sixty campers for the YMCA three times a week between the Salvation Army, JJC, and the YMCA location, resulting in a total of 1,656 camper-seatings. Despite the recent driver shortage and the increased volume of trips, the department remained highly active. To address the shortage, Transportation Director Smith personally drove vehicles to further assist with transportation. The HR Director and Transportation Director are conducting interviews to adequately staff the department, which will enable the Transportation Department to continue accepting new business. July also marked the commencement of the Transportation Department's service to the Senior Suite building on Ottawa Street. Although initial feedback was

limited, a recent email from the Property Manager on July 17th of 2024 indicated that residents were inquiring about the continuation of the trips and the August 2024 schedule. This positive feedback confirmed that the trips were well received. When Transportation Director Smith delivered the August 2024 schedule, the Property Manager reiterated that residents appreciated the variety in the schedule, which was a pleasant surprise given their previous lack of engagement with similar opportunities. The Transportation Department has expanded its partnerships from eight to twelve Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs). While the Transportation Department does not currently transport all twelve organizations, those they do serve receive weekly transportation, with many clients benefiting from multiple trips each week.

Behavioral Health Team

The CVI Behavioral Health team reported in July of 2024 on how they acquired five new clients while continuing to work with thirty-two existing clients. Haydee Martinez Rosales, who is the Bilingual Trauma Licensed Therapist, completed her EMDR training, and another therapist confirmed that Sand Tray training is scheduled for next month in August. The Rockdale MOU has been reinstated and will commence at the beginning of the school year. Other MOUs are pending signature for reinstatement. The CVI Behavioral Health team also discussed their involvement with the Fire Department's Community Cares Program during an interdepartmental briefing.

Finance Director, Ivan Diaz

Finance Director Diaz states that this past month in July he has been dealing with miscellaneous vendors and contractors. The Finance Director thanked the Banker at Midland as Denise helped with the transition of information from the former Supervisor to the current Supervisor. Midland also worked with the Finance Director regarding the purchase of the Forest Park Building as the Finance Director needed Midland to assist on a wire transfer for that. There was no update on the two audits, starting with the Townships' normal audit which John called to reschedule. The Finance Director is confident about finishing the work with John on the audits in time by the end of September. The other draft from the grants that were received had few reviews that needed to be addressed. Four findings are about written down fiscal procedures and policies that typically the Township follows with GAP, which is the generally the accepted accounting principles, and that's where the audit for financial standards flows through. The Township does not have actual written ones and that's what is being asked for. The Finance Director will be working on that within the next month and developing procedures that will be in the works to adopt.

Director of Human Resources, Erica Holmes

The Community Violence Intervention has four positions open. The Outreach Supervisor has been set as the selected person is in their final interview. The three Outreach workers positions are still open. The last one which was posted on Friday in August on the 9th of 2024 was the Administrative Assistant. Animal Control had three openings for part-time Kennel Techs. The Transportation Department has four openings for part-time Transportation Drivers as the process for hiring is bit more extensive due to PACE's additional testing.

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. The Veterans' luncheon will be on Friday, November 1st, 2024, from 12PM to 3PM at the Moose. Sign-ups for the Veterans' luncheon started this month in August and expect at least sixty people to attend who are Veterans of the groups the Township supports. Senior Liaison Wallace reminded the board members of the St. Joe's Steak Fry this next following Wednesday, August the 21st of 2024 at 12PM.

Supervisor, Alicia Morales

The Supervisor shared how on July 24th one of the priorities upon taking office was making sure that the Financial Director, along with Supervisor Morales, went to change all the fiscal information to the current Supervisor's at the Midland Bank as the contact person for the Township's treasurer. Supervisor Morales also made sure in securing the closing for the Forest Park Community Center on July 24th of 2024. From August 1st to August 7th those days were very intense as the Supervisor worked with the Township's executive team. The Finance Director, the Executive Assistant and the Supervisor all worked on gathering data for completing a grant for the Illinois Department of Human Services which is geared towards civic engagement and leadership development as well as recreation sports and cultural artistic activities. If the grant does come to fruition that will create other departments and there will be a need to structure these departments with staffing. The Supervisor attended her first CVI team meeting with CVI Director Keshia Ellis and discussed with the team as they wanted to meet the Supervisor. The Supervisor has been conducting check-ins with the executive team and all the directors, assisting Human Resources with different progressive discipline protocols and reviewing the employee handbook versions since different departments have different needs. The Joliet Township is a very dated building, and the Supervisor is making sure some much needed maintenance is being worked on to the building. The meeting room has had the ceiling tiles replaced, in the Assessor's office there were two sizable leaks that were repaired, and their men's bathroom has been out of service, until now, where a new toilet has been installed. In fact, a total of eight new toilets throughout the building with three new faucets were installed and there's some maintenance work that's currently going on. The maintenance men are working on the windows on the west side of the building by the river and are caulking the windows. General Assistance Director Patricia Venziano's office had a leak in the window's foundation which was seeping down into the Assessor's office on the first floor which caused water damage but has been repaired. The Forest Park Community Center is also having an assessment of the work done. The Township is working with union contractors to do the blueprint of the second floor. The first floor just needs some minor work to get the Behavioral Health Team and the Transportation team in there right away since they need space. The Clerk's position was extended to August 16 of 2024. The Supervisor has been receiving applications and plans interviews soon. The Supervisor will notify the board members to set up a proper interview process. There will be a bid in the making for the Forest Park Community Center to create a well-lit parking lot for the Transportation Department.

CASH RECEIPTS: Trustee Slattery motions to place the cash receipts into their proper accounts. Trustee Escutia seconds. A roll call was taken. Motion carried.⁷

FUND EXPENDITURES:

General Town Fund for July 2024: \$563,047.90

Trustee Slattery motioned to certify the expenditures and approve them for payment.

Trustee Escutia seconds. A roll call was taken. Motion carried.⁸

Capital Fund for July 2024: \$453,866.21

Trustee Slattery motioned to certify the expenditures and approve them for payment.

Trustee Edwards seconds. A roll call was taken. Motion carried.⁹

Road and Bridge Fund for July 2024: \$460,529.58

Trustee Slattery motioned to certify the expenditures and approve them for payment.

Trustee Escutia seconds. A roll call was taken. Motion carried.¹⁰

⁷ Roll call vote: Ayes (5). Trustees Arias, Edwards, Escutia, Slattery and Supervisor Morales. Nays (0).

⁸ Roll call vote: Ayes (5). Trustees Arias, Edwards, Escutia, Slattery and Supervisor Morales. Nays (0).

⁹ Roll call vote: Ayes (5). Trustees Arias, Edwards, Escutia, Slattery and Supervisor Morales. Nays (0).

¹⁰ Roll call vote: Ayes (5). Trustees Arias, Edwards, Escutia, Slattery and Supervisor Morales. Nays (0).

General Assistance Fund for July 2024: \$19,732.42

Trustee Slattery motioned to certify the expenditures and approve them for payment. Trustee Edwards seconds. A roll call was taken. Motion carried.¹¹

Animal Control Fund for July 2024: \$78,692.98

Trustee Slattery motioned to certify the expenditures and approve them for payment. Trustee Edwards seconds. A roll call was taken. Motion carried.¹²

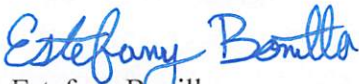
Senior Fund for July 2024: \$0.00

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

ADJOURNMENT: Supervisor Morales asks for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Arias motions. Trustee Edwards seconds. A roll call was taken. Motion Carried.¹³

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Estefany Bonilla
Deputy Clerk

¹¹ Roll call vote: Ayes (5). Trustees Arias, Edwards, Escutia, Slattery and Supervisor Morales. Nays (0).

¹² Roll call vote: Ayes (5). Trustees Arias, Edwards, Escutia, Slattery and Supervisor Morales. Nays (0).

¹³ Roll call vote: Ayes (5). Trustees Arias, Edwards, Escutia, Slattery and Supervisor Morales. Nays (0).