



APPROVED Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Joliet Township
Joliet Township Regular Board Meeting
175 W. Jefferson St., Joliet, IL 60432
Tuesday, February 11th, 2025 / 5:00 P.M.

The Regular Town Board Meeting, being held at 175 West Jefferson Street, Joliet Township government offices, Tuesday, February 11, 2025, at 5:02 P.M. was called to order by Trustee Slattery. The following official business was transacted:

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

TRUSTEES:	Tanya Arias	Present
	Antione J. Edwards	Present
	Cesar Escutia	Present
	Raymond F. Slattery	Present - Appointed as Chairman at 5:00PM
SUPERVISOR:	Alicia Morales	Not Present
CLERK:	Estefany Bonilla	Present
OTHER OFFICIALS:	Commissioner Vince Alessio	Not Present
	Assessor James Brenczewski	Not Present

ALSO PRESENT:

Finance Director Ivan Diaz	Animal Control Assistant Director Rebecca Gomez
Lead Transportation Coordinator Jaqueline Smith	Community Violence Intervention Director Keshia Ellis
General Assistance Director Patricia Venziano	Attorney Bryan Wellner
Senior Liaison Jeff Wallace	

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT: Trustee Edwards asks for a motion to appoint Trustee Slattery as the Chairman to conduct the Regular Town Board Meeting opened this Tuesday, February 11th, 2025, in the absence of the Supervisor. Trustee Escutia seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.¹

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Town Board Minutes: Trustee Slattery asks for a motion. Trustee Escutia motions to approve the minutes of the January 14, 2025, Town Board Meeting, Seconded by Trustee Arias. A roll call was taken. Motion Carried.²

PUBLIC COMMENT: Ms. Kathy Hulina, and Ms. Patti Nugent, from the Will County Environmental Network presented a five-minute PowerPoint addressing the drawdown of shallow aquifer in Will County with a feasibility study for artificially recharging the shallow aquifer as the former Supervisor of Joliet Township Government recognized the need for government to address the issue back in 2022 and took the lead in starting the process to fund the study in 2023. This was a concern also made known by current Supervisor Morales who attended the 2024 Water Summit and inspired the Will County Board Members to support funding in the feasibility study for this year. Mr. Angel Contreras, the Policy and Program Coordinator from Joliet Township Government, further explained the importance of the feasibility study to occur as this would allow other regions beyond Will County to adjust their plans on safe water supply for generations to come. Mr. Karl Ferrell, a Joliet resident, shared how the CVI program had helped the community and had questions about what happened to the program as it was much needed in the Joliet community. Mr. Karl Ferrell also mentioned an investigation being carried out by the Attorney General regarding the Joliet Police Department. Ms. Nicole Lurry, a Joliet resident, added that a meeting, by the Attorney General, will take place on Wednesday, February 19, 2025, from 4PM to 5PM to discuss the findings and what the next steps will be at the Joliet Historical Museum. Ms. Rosa Calvillo, a Joliet resident, discussed her issue with the street drainage affecting her property and had videos of that occurring. Ms. Calvillo has contacted the Joliet Township Road District, Joliet Township Government and the City of Joliet for assistance on this matter. Ms. Amy Sanchez, a Joliet Resident, shared her views on the CVI program and how it heavily impacted the Joliet community in a positive way. Ms. Sanchez also had questions on what had happened to the CVI program as it is missed in the Joliet community.

¹ All in favor: Ayes (4). Trustees Arias, Edwards, Escutia, and Slattery. Nays (0).

² Roll call vote: Ayes (4). Trustees Arias, Edwards, Escutia, and Slattery. Nays (0).

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

- **Amended Budget & Appropriation Township Ordinance No. 405-2025**
- **Amended Budget & Appropriation Road District Ordinance No. 2025-03 (RD)**

Trustee Slattery called for a motion to recess the Regular Board Meeting to enter the Public Hearings for the Amended Budget & Appropriation Township Ordinance No. 405-2025 and the Amended Budget & Appropriation Road District Ordinance No. 2025-03 (RD). Trustee Arias motions and is seconded by Trustee Escutia. A roll call was taken. Motion carried.³ The Regular Town Board Meeting recessed at 5:15PM. The Public Hearings were held and completed at 5:20PM, at which time the Regular Town Board Meeting was called back to order.

NEW BUSINESS:

ADOPT/Amended Budget & Appropriation Township Ordinance No. 405-2025

Trustee Slattery asks for a motion to adopt the Amended Budget & Appropriation Township Ordinance No. 405-2025. Trustee Edwards motions. Seconded by Trustee Escutia. A roll call was taken. Motion carried.⁴

ADOPT/Amended Budget & Appropriation Road District Ordinance No. 2025-03 (RD)

Trustee Slattery asks for a motion to adopt the Amended Budget & Appropriation Road District Ordinance No. 2025-03 (RD). Trustee Edwards motions. Seconded by Trustee Arias. A roll call was taken. Motion carried.⁵

APPROVE/Proclamation for March as Women's History Month

Trustee Arias does the honor to read the Proclamation for March as Women's History Month to the audience. Trustee Slattery asks for a motion to approve. Trustee Arias motions. Seconded by Trustee Escutia. A roll call was taken. Motion carried.⁶

APPROVE/Proclamation for March as Social Work Month

Trustee Edwards does the honor to read the Proclamation for March as Social Work Month to the audience. Trustee Slattery asks for a motion to approve. Trustee Edwards motions. Seconded by Trustee Arias. A roll call was taken. Motion carried.⁷

REPORTS:

Lead Transportation Coordinator, Jacqueline Smith

The Transportation Department successfully completed 765 trips for the month of January 2025. Out of the 765 trips, 149 of them were dedicated to transporting seniors to their medical appointments. The Transportation Department has observed an increase in the number of seniors requiring transportation for dialysis and therapy appointments.

General Assistance Director, Patricia Venziano

Ms. Sue Bustin and Ms. Alejandra Zamudio represented the Joliet Township Government at the Joliet Central High School for the Annual State of the Address. The General Assistance Director met with Supervisor Morales to make annual adjustments on income qualifications for General Assistance due to the increase in housing cost. Rental housing went up 15% in the last year due to inflation. The tax season has started and has made the General Assistance department busy with sixty-six returns with an increase in migrant filings as they have access to work permits and TPS (Temporary Protected Status), which allows them a social security card, to properly file their taxes. General Assistance is taking application for LIHEAP on Wednesday, February 19, 2025, from 9AM to 3PM with representatives from Catholic Charities to speak about great services available for the seniors.

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

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

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

⁶ Roll call vote: Ayes (4). Trustees Arias, Edwards, Escutia, and Slattery. Nays (0).

⁷ Roll call vote: Ayes (4). Trustees Arias, Edwards, Escutia, and Slattery. Nays (0).

Community Violence Intervention Director, Keshia Ellis

The Community Violence Intervention Director Ms. Ellis provided a closing and final report. The Joliet Township Government CVI program discusses its closure on February 3, 2025. According to the report, the CVI program had a significant positive impact on the Joliet area by reducing violence and providing essential services such as housing, burial assistance, food, and clothing to victims and their families. The program assisted hundreds in regaining stability and rebuilding their lives. The Joliet Township Government will continue to provide transportation to past clients, the General Assistance department will offer services for tax preparation, and the start of the Mitchell Center food pantry. Executive leadership will inform the community and partners about the program's closure and the transition's effect on services. CVI Director Ms. Keshia Ellis expressed gratitude for the CVI program staff's hard work and dedication.

Senior Liaison, Jeff Wallace

The Senior Liaison Mr. Wallace reported on his efforts to connect seniors with available resources and information. Since the last meeting, the Senior Liaison has been distributing senior service calendars and the Joliet Township Government newsletters to various senior groups, ensuring seniors have access to important phone numbers and information on services like tax preparation and the medical closet. The Senior Liaison facilitates access to resources by connecting seniors with services, providing guidance, helping seniors access the medical closet for supplies and refining information about various groups, clarifying which services are available to the Joliet senior residents.

Animal Control Assistant Director, Rebecca Gomez

Back in October, the Animal Control Director Ms. McGill partnered with Spay Illinois to apply for a grant from Best Friends Animal Society. These funds will enable Animal Control to offer affordable veterinary care to the community, including surgeries such as spays and neuters, pyometra treatments, foreign body removals, dental cleanings, and more. Once Spay Illinois and the Animal Control Director finalize the details, then more information will be available to share with the Township Board and the public. The Animal Control Director is excited to launch this program and provide vital assistance to local pets and their families. The Spanish Community Center has also collected a generous amount of donations for Animal Control, including laundry detergent, canned dog and cat food, dry food, toys, blankets, and more. In celebration of Valentine's Day, Animal Control is hosting a special adoption event called "Meet Your Match". From February 10th through February 14th, all cat and dog adoptions will be available for just \$20. Animal Control hopes this reduced adoption fee will encourage more families to adopt animals. The Animal Control Assistant Director Ms. Gomez informed the public that standard medical fees will still apply for each adoption.

Clerk, Estefany Bonilla

Clerk Bonilla's report included updates on the upcoming Annual Town Meeting on April 8th, 2025, and informed the public that more information is available on the Joliet Township Government's website under the Clerk's webpage. A public view page is set for anyone to request an agenda item for consideration by the electors for the Annual Town Meeting and that the last day to accept the request items for that agenda would be on March 1, 2025.

Supervisor, Alicia Morales

The Supervisor's report was read by Clerk Bonilla and shares how the Joliet Township Government is proud to be supporting the feasibility study and to invest in having accessible clean water for the residents in the unincorporated areas of Joliet. Supervisor Morales firmly believes that this project requires collaboration between all units of government and looks forward to supporting the city and county leadership as they navigate this much needed project. The Township's Violence Prevention Council Coordinator will continue to grow local partnerships to sustain residents in need with services. The Forest Park building is now safe to work in. The test results show the building is mold free and asbestos free. Supervisor Morales is meeting with a general contractor next week to begin the blueprint for the scope of work. Joliet Township Government is starting the food pantry project as well in the next few weeks. This will be a simultaneous project with the construction project.

CASH RECEIPTS: Trustee Slattery motions to place the cash receipts into their proper accounts for the period ending January 31, 2025. Trustee Escutia seconds. A roll call was taken. Motion carried.⁸

FUND EXPENDITURES:

General Town Fund for January 2025: \$647,379.66

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

Capital Fund for January 2025: \$00.00

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

General Assistance Fund for January 2025: \$27,478.51

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

Road and Bridge Fund for January 2025: \$148,126.20

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

Animal Control Fund for January 2025: \$86,936.66

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

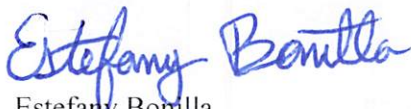
Senior Fund for January 2025: \$610.00

Trustee Slattery motioned to certify the expenditures and approve them for payment. Trustee Escutia seconds. A roll call was taken. Motion carried.¹³

ADJOURNMENT: Trustee Slattery asks for a voice vote to adjourn the Joliet Township Regular Town Board Meeting. All in Favor. Motion carried.¹⁴

The meeting adjourned at 6:23 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Estefany Bomilla
Town Clerk

⁸ Roll call vote: Ayes (4). Trustees Arias, Edwards, Escutia, and Slattery. Nays (0).

⁹ Roll call vote: Ayes (4). Trustees Arias, Edwards, Escutia, and Slattery. Nays (0).

¹⁰ Roll call vote: Ayes (4). Trustees Arias, Edwards, Escutia, and Slattery. Nays (0).

¹¹ Roll call vote: Ayes (4). Trustees Arias, Edwards, Escutia, and Slattery. Nays (0).

¹² Roll call vote: Ayes (4). Trustees Arias, Edwards, Escutia, and Slattery. Nays (0).

¹³ Roll call vote: Ayes (4). Trustees Arias, Edwards, Escutia, and Slattery. Nays (0).

¹⁴ All in favor: Ayes (4). Trustees Arias, Edwards, Escutia, and Slattery. Nays (0).