

**BELVIDERE TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING  
8200 FAIRGROUNDS ROAD  
BELVIDERE, IL 61008  
JULY 11, 2023 5:00 PM**

**MINUTES**

**Call to Order/Roll Call** ~~ Supervisor Bill Robertson called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm. The pledges to the Flag were said and roll call taken with the following Board Members present Trustees Grover, O'Malley, Turner, Culvey and Supervisor Robertson, also present Clerk Dixon and Hwy Commissioner Dixon. We have a quorum to do business.

**Public Input** ~~ no public comment requests submitted by the public.

**Discussion and Potential Action on Approval of Prior Meeting's Minutes** ~~A motion was made by Trustee O'Malley to approve the minutes from the last regular township board meeting on June 27, 2023. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Turner and passed with Trustees Grover, O'Malley, Turner, Culvey and Supervisor Robertson indicating aye on a voice vote.

**Discussion and Potential Action on Transfers** ~~ there are no transfers.

## **Reports**

**Supervisors Report** ~~ Everything is moving along. Auditors are still working on the audit.

**Highway Commissioner's Report** ~~ Squaw Prairie and Town Hall are blacktopped. All the subdivisions and other blacktopping are done as well. Shouldering (with help from the County) is also done as of today. Waiting for striping to start.

**Assessor's Report** ~~ no report.

**Clerk's Report** ~~ Reminder that the TOI education event is July 26, 2023 at the IBEW hall in Rockford.

**Trustee's Report** ~~ **Trustee O'Malley**, (Growth Dimensions & Twp/County Liaison) The Growth Dimensions annual dinner is September 19, 2023 at the Community Building. They had a reception at Timber Point. Their geo-fencing on their website is allowing them to get a lot more information now and starting to pay off for them. They also held a breakfast with a speaker from the federal reserve who gave a nice talk. **Trustee Grover**, (Boone County Council on Aging & Twp/City Counsel Liaison) The Boone County Council on Aging Newsletter "July Featured Events": Walking Club: Club 1 "Restricted Health" Tuesday mornings 8:30am @ Keen Age Center. Club 2 meet Thursday mornings @ 8:30 am at The Boone Co. Conservation District, Appleton Rd. AARP Safe Drivers Course: Thurs. 7/27/23 & Friday, 7/28/23. Fee payable to instructor. Recipe Exchange – Cold Dessert: Last Wednesday of month (7/26/23) bring your favorite dessert including a printed recipe card to share. New Ceramic's Class 1st & 3rd Thursday @ 1pm. (7/6 & 7/19) Class size limited 8-10/cost \$3.00. Citizen's Police Academy, 9-wk course / Officer Blankenship (Belvidere Police Department) @ Keen Age Center.

The Boone County Council on Aging has some new events in the newsletter. There is a walking club, AARP safe drivers course, a recipe exchange, a ceramics class, and if there is enough interest they will be having a citizen's police academy again (this is a nine week course with Officer Blankenship from the Belvidere City Police Department. **Trustee Turner**, (Community Building Complex & Senior Trustee Duties) Community Building meeting in a week or two and will have a report following that meeting. **Trustee Culvey**, (Building Maintenance & Twp. Public Safety Coordinator) Nothing to report at this time.

### **Unfinished Business ~~ Discussion and Potential Action May Occur on the Following Items.** There is no unfinished business to discuss at tonight's meeting.

**Legal** ~~ there is no legal business to discuss at tonight's meeting.

**New Business** ~~ Discussion and potential action on the Growth Dimensions fund application. A motion was made by Trustee Turner to approve the Growth Dimensions fund application. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee O'Malley. Discussion followed the motion. Trustee Grover understands it was recommended that Growth Dimensions increase the amount requested by \$2,000 (\$6,000 in 2022), raising it to \$8,000 this year, an increase of 33.5%. Growth Dimensions reduced the Annual Dinner from 8 seats to 4 seats with Belvidere Township's paid membership. Trustee O'Malley stated the City of Belvidere has cut Growth Dimensions by more than half. Trustee Culvey asked why the City would do that and Trustee O'Malley stated it appears to be short-sightedness. Trustee O'Malley feels they have many good things going not just the new Walmart distribution Center. Some examples he named are a Hispanic movement, software increases, they are financially sound, and do a lot with what they do receive. Trustee Turner asked Pamela Lopez-Fettes if the township's funds go towards wages and she stated some does go to wages. She also explained that the tables at the annual dinner are assigned at an investment level and any time someone can't make it they give the seats to non-profits and other organizations. She also explained that the City of Belvidere went from giving them \$55,000 down to \$20,000. The reasons they gave for the decrease is having to pay for the ambulance this year, some upcoming donations with the police department and the concern of the impact on the water department due to the closure of the Stellantis plant. Growth Dimensions is also moving their offices. Trustee Grover asked why a contractor and architect are necessary when trying to keep costs down. Pamela Lopez-Fettes said they are very fortunate they are discounted services. The rent is the same but there are costs affiliated with the move. Supervisor Robertson asked for a roll call vote following the discussion. Trustee O'Malley stated that we should spend the monies budgeted for these organizations and not try to hold on to it. The motion passed 3-2 with Trustees O'Malley, Turner and Supervisor Robertson indicating aye and Trustees Grover and Culvey indicating nay on a roll call vote.

Trustee Grover stated she received an email from Director Hillan @ 3:07pm that she delivered the BCCOA fund application July 10, 2023. It stated "I included the \$23,000, \$2,000 energy assistance and in-kind donation of the blacktop sealing and striping." Trustee Grover stated she was not aware the parking lot had been requested in addition to past yearly awards. Per Supervisor Robertson the funding application request will be on the next agenda and discussion would be permitted at that time. Trustee Turner wants to know what parking lot they are discussing, the main lot or the annex lot. He stated Blackhawk Bank has been sold and the new bank takes over in December. Since the vans are currently parked in Blackhawk's back lot, the BCCOA may need to find a new place to park their vans and at least should be having a conversation with the new bank to discuss use. Trustee O'Malley said he is curious to see where all of the BCCOA's money comes from because it cannot be all from grants. Supervisor Robertson suggested Trustee O'Malley call and ask Director Hillan. Trustee O'Malley said he is curious to see where all of the BCCOA's money comes from because it cannot be all from grants.

### **Discussion and Potential Action on Treasurer's Report and Approval of Bills** ~~

Trustee Culvey made a motion to pay the town bills the motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee O'Malley and passed with Trustees Grover, O'Malley, Turner, Culvey and Supervisor Robertson indicating aye on a roll call vote.

**Adjournment** ~~ a motion was made by Trustee Turner to adjourn the meeting at 5:20 pm, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Culvey. The motion passed with Trustees Grover, O'Malley, Turner, Culvey and Supervisor Robertson indicating aye on a voice vote.

**Next Board Meeting:** July 25, 2023, @ 5:00 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted  
Michelle Dixon, Clerk