

**BELVIDERE TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
8200 FAIRGROUNDS ROAD
BELVIDERE, IL 61008
AUGUST 8, 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, Assessor St. Angel and Hwy Commissioner Dixon. We have a quorum to do business.

Public Input ~~ Discussion and potential action on the Annual Audit Report presented by SIKICH - Trustee Turner made a motion to move the Annual Audit Report to the public comment portion of the meeting. The motion was 2nd by Trustee Culvey and passed with Trustees Grover, O'Malley, Turner, Culvey and Supervisor Robertson indicating aye on a voice vote.

Lindsey Fish from SIKICH presented the annual independent audit report. We have earned an unmodified opinion which is the highest level. They have come to the opinion that we have a clean audit report and reviewed the financial statements and independent auditors report. The total net position is \$15.3 million approx. most of which is restricted due to liabilities and based up our tax levies and \$2.7 million is unrestricted. We had a change in net position of approx. \$500,000. Our general fund had an ending fund balance of \$2.3 million which gives the Township about two-three years of reserves which is a healthy fund balance as of March 31, 2023. Various funds showed an increase to come to that total. We have a net pension asset of a little over \$81,000 as of December 31, 2022. No new recommendations were found but did review three past recommendations that were made previously. Over-all the township received a very good report.

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 July 25, 2023. The motion was 2nd by Trustee Culvey 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 ~~ nothing to report at this time

Highway Commissioner's Report ~~ Received a call that the new truck that was due to come in December will be here next week. Will be checking to see how soon Monroe can get it in and then they will have it for about a month. Trustee Grover asked if there's a buyer for the old truck and the answer is no because it will need to go out for bids after appraisal due to all the interest received on it.

Assessor's Report ~~ Focusing on residential work and data entry since turning in valuations to the County.

Clerk's Report ~~ nothing to report at this time

Trustee's Report ~~ **Trustee O'Malley**, (Growth Dimensions & Twp/County Liaison) Growth Dimensions meets later this month but there is some possible good news on the Stellantis plant possible re-opening. The County board is still working on rodeo policies, etc. **Trustee Grover**, (Boone County Council on Aging & Twp/City Counsel Liaison) The finance committee met on July 31, 2023. Discussion regarding cost of transportation, repairs, aging equipment, mileage of the busses. One bus transmission repair cost was \$8,657.00. The county will not fund repairs as their budget has no funding available. Concern with ridership versus fares do not meet the maintenance costs. Concern was voiced among Belvidere Township Trustees including discussion ways to assist multiple riders with less single trips. The Director, Kelly said. "It would be helpful if Belvidere Township would replace the Med Van." Darryl asked status of the current Med Van? Per Kelly, 70,000 miles, 12 years old purchased 2012. Discussed Endowment Funds subsidize Building window replacement/repair estimated \$5,000.00, 50th Anniversary Celebration, Vietnam Memorial repair. Individuals committing to financial assistance with the 50th Celebration & Vietnam Memorial projects have not materialized. Three individuals have been hired for CCP (Community Care Program) to enable to extend the hours. Programs awarded grant funding must meet IL. State requirements. Ice Cream Social, (Pre-Registration Required) Friday, August 25th. Annual Quilt Raffle will be held August 29th. Trustee Grover has raffle tickets available: 6/\$5.00. Additional Funding Requests were discussed. Trustee O'Malley mentioned he sees the busses all over, and sometimes driving fast/erratically with no one in them and there needs to be more care given to make them last. It was noted that the busses were purchased with motor fuel tax funds. There is a contract with RMTD, BCCOA is responsible for the cost of bus repairs. **Trustee Turner**, (Community Building Complex & Senior Trustee Duties) Back to School food truck event is August 22nd and it may cause him to miss the next meeting on the same date. They are working on the insurance and new valuation. As of now, it is estimated that it will cost \$45 million to replace the Community Building with a poured structure like it is currently and \$35 million for other building methods. The problem was caused by the insurance adjusters not making changes with the improvements done over the years. **Trustee Culvey**, (Building Maintenance & Twp. Public Safety Coordinator) Had the air conditioner filters changed and cleaned.

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 ~~

- a. Discussion and potential action on Sister Cities Association of Belvidere fund application - Trustee O'Malley made a motion to discuss the Sister Cities Association fund application. The motion was 2nd by Trustee Turner and passed with Trustees Grover, O'Malley, Turner, Culvey and Supervisor Robertson indicating aye on a voice vote. Mike Chamberlain from Sister Cities was present to answer any questions. Trustee O'Malley stated that there is an Illinois Statute that does not allow the township to give funds to this organization as the statute does not include education or recreation. Trustee Turner thought, when this was brought up in the past, we were going to check with legal counsel. Trustees O'Malley & Grover had a copy of State Statute (60 ILCS 1/85-13) at the meeting which was provided earlier in the year by Attorney Krafthefer. Mike Chamberlain gave a very informative talk about the Sister Cities Association and how it was created, what they do and they overall scope of the group. He stated that the problem is that to be a "Sister City" you must be sponsored by a city and the City of Belvidere has cut off their funds this year and they are having an issue being added to the Council's agenda so questions can be asked. It is the group's turn to host their other two Sister Cities and they are in need of the funds they lost. Trustee O'Malley suggested an article in the Journal or other paper to share information about their group and seek outside support. Or possibly an old fashioned fund raiser in Big Thunder Park with German music. Mike Chamberlain said they are looking at the possibility of bringing back corporate sponsors to help the group continue.

Trustee Grover asked how they chose the cities to be “sisters” with and why not Mexico due to the large Hispanic population in our area. Chamberlain shared that his goal is to add two cities, one in Mexico and one in Canada if the group can weather this set back and gain more support. He feels, with world events, this is the time to build the Sister Cities Association and not go backwards. He understands the township’s need to follow the guidelines from the State of Illinois and appreciates the consideration given.

- b. Discussion and potential action on the Annual Audit Report presented by SIKICH – see public comment

Discussion and Potential Action on Treasurer’s Report and Approval of Bills ~~

Trustee Turner made a motion to pay the town bills the motion was 2nd 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 5:57 pm, 2nd 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: August 22, 2023, @ 5:00 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted
Michelle Dixon, Clerk