

## **Minutes of the Bloomington Township Board**

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. on July 20, 2023.

Board members present were Dorothy Granger, Barbara E. McKinney, and E. Sensenstein. Also present were Trustee Efrat Rosser and Deputy Trustee Lisa Myers.

### **AGENDA**

Barbara moved to accept the agenda as presented. E. seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

### **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Barbara moved to accept the minutes of the May 11, 2023, board meeting as presented. E. seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

### **OLD BUSINESS - None**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**2024 Budget Preparation:** The budget worksheets were distributed. Lisa highlighted the differences between the 2023 budget and the proposed budget for 2024. Overall, the budget is flat aside from increases for salaries and employee benefits, and a donation of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) toward Beacon's capital project. The proposed budget has been calculated assuming a 6% salary increase. Efrat pointed out the inflation factor is currently 5.9% which led us to propose the 6% salary increase. Lisa reported the estimates for miscellaneous revenue have not yet been distributed, so our revenue projections will change. Discussion ensued.

### **REPORTS**

**Trustee:** Efrat reported that staff members are in the process of creating a survey to distribute to clients to obtain feedback. The plan is to have the surveys distributed by the end of August.

Efrat discussed the two interns who will be working with us this semester. Sydney is in her final year with us, while Karen will be with us for the next four (4) years.

Efrat directed attention to the emergency preparedness guidelines that we had personalized for distribution. We plan to distribute them at the front desk and any community or tabling events that we attend.

A short discussion ensued regarding township assistance requests related to recent weather events.

Efrat disclosed that she was recently contacted by the City of Bloomington regarding the possibility of receiving an additional portion of the Local Income Tax (LIT) funds to use for assistance to vulnerable populations who were disproportionately affected by the county income tax increase last year. The City has proposed an amount of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) which we could use to assist clients with expenses that are outside of our guidelines such as deposits, late fees, property taxes, safety and habitability issues, etc. We are currently in the process of reviewing the proposed contract. Additionally, the County has made

some remaining American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds available which they have offered to local township trustees for rural home rehab. Bloomington Township only has a small number of properties in the unincorporated area so access to those funds will be limited.

Efrat reported that a new security system was recently installed. The new system includes magnetic locks and the office doors are now locked during business hours. Visitors must ring the doorbell to gain access to the lobby.

We are proceeding with the planned cemetery maintenance we previously discussed. We recently requested bids to replace the fence at Griffith Cemetery, and the bid was awarded to Value Fence Company. The materials are on order and work should begin soon. Also, headstone cleaning at all cemetery locations should begin in August.

Vicki Pierce from Community Kitchen recently met with us to provide an update on the plans for the property on West Eleventh Street that was acquired from the Township. Community Kitchen plans to tear down the existing building and build a new building that will better serve their needs. The new building is projected to be completed before the end of 2023. During the conversation, Vicki asked if Bloomington Township would be able to invest in this project. Vicki will be sending a written request with more information for our consideration.

The Monroe County Trustee's Association (MCTA) picnic was a success. Several townships were well represented and a good time was had by all. The hope is to make this an annual event.

Efrat mentioned she recently attended an Indiana Township Association (ITA) meeting in Columbus. ITA representatives are traveling around the state hosting informal meetings to encourage networking among the various townships. It was a good opportunity to hear what other townships are doing and how they're doing it.

Lisa reported that the Township office was closed on June 30, due to a power outage. Through a team effort, no pantry commodities were lost while the office was without electricity for approximately twenty-eight (28) hours. Dorothy suggested the Township look into acquiring a generator for the pantry.

**Board:** None

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 10, 2023.

  
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E. Sensenstein, Secretary