

**PLATO TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
PLATO TOWN HALL  
APRIL 20, 2009**

**Board Members Present:**

**Trustees: Jack Jablonski, Leroy Nelson, Philip Nomellini, Heather Wallace**

**Supervisor: Kathleen Swanson**

**Highway Commissioner: Joe Hulke**

**Assessor: Janet Roush**

**Reported by: Rich Parsons**

Topic	Discussion	Action
Call to order		Supervisor Swanson called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.
Pledge of Allegiance		Pledge of Allegiance was said.
March 16, 2009 meeting minutes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• March 16, 2009 meeting minutes were read and motioned to approve with two corrections.</li> </ul>	Trustee Nelson motioned to approve the minutes with two corrections with a second by Trustee Nomellini. Minutes approved – 5 ayes 0 nays

Topic	Discussion	Action
Supervisors Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supervisor Swanson announced that the board members will be sworn in at the May meeting by Judge Sheldon.</li> <li>• Supervisor Swanson reviewed the grant requirements regarding the wood fiber vs. other material and stated that grant details must be followed unless approved by the county.</li> <li>• Kane County – general assistance – money received from the State re; medications and medical. Do we need some? Supervisor Swanson will keep the board posted on these developments.</li> <li>• Portable potties – negotiated a lower price yielding \$30/month</li> <li>• Newsletter cost – reduced due to a decrease in data.</li> <li>• TOIRMA dividend - \$4,291.00 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$1,760.40 for township</li> <li>• \$2,574.60 for Road &amp; Bridge</li> </ul> </li> <li>• IMRF – Assessor and Supervisor added to plan.</li> <li>• ComEd Park – shut off heaters in Winter – they were not yielding an increased cost for the township</li> <li>• Supervisor Swanson &amp; Trustee Nomellini to look at Depot when weather permits.</li> <li>• Trustee Jablonski queried Supervisor Swanson: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Q: Why were the supervisor and assessor placed on IMRF now? A: It was approved in 2001. Q: Does this need a vote from the Board? A: No. Q: Was this in the budget? A: No, but it will be for the coming year. The law is written to allow a buy back. Assessor Roush chose not to have IMRF in 2001, but now has changed her mind. Supervisor Swanson recommended Trustee Jablonski speak with John Renner for further questions and clarifications.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
Treasurer's Report	<p>Supervisor Swanson read the report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Township - \$84,938.57 (estimated within \$1,000.00)</li> <li>• Road &amp; Bridge – \$51,267.38</li> <li>• Park - \$56,401.49</li> </ul>	Trustee Jablonski motioned to approve with a second by Trustee Nelson. Approved – 5 ayes 0 nays

Topic	Discussion	Action
Highway Commissioner's Report	<p>Commissioner Hulke read a statement to the board as follows: For the past 13 years I have been mowing the townships lawn using my own lawn tractor. Not everyone present was aware of this at last months board meeting. For the last six years I have been receiving\$35.00 per mowing again using my own lawn tractor and various other pieces of my own equipment. Anyone else would be charging at least twice that amount per mowing. The part in question has since been paid back to the R &amp; B dept. by me. I should've handled this whole situation differently but I didn't.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trustee Jablonski asked Commissioner Hulke why he paid the money back. Commissioner Hulke replied "I just want it to go away."</li> </ul>	
Assessor's Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assessor Roush handed a Plato Township Sales Ratio Report to the board and answered questions regarding the taxes.</li> <li>• Assessor Roush fielded a citizen question regarding the three-year window if sales of houses continue to deflate, will the taxes decrease?</li> </ul>	

Topic	Discussion	Action
Informational Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eric Holmgren offered a proposal for the Eagle Scout project with an estimated cost of \$500.00 of which he plans on raising the funds.</li> <li>• Cemetery lot purchase by Supervisor Swanson – Supervisor Swanson replied to a question of her purchase of a cemetery lot. She indicated that she paid full price and that her private business is not for discussion.</li> <li>• Newsletter – Trustee Jablonski requested that the distribution of the newsletter dates be placed on next months agenda. He stated that the self-praising immediately before the election poses and advantage. Supervisor Swanson indicated it is a board decision to change the dates. Trustee Wallace indicated that the content has not changed.</li> <li>• Trustee Jablonski offered that he met with Commissioner Hulke following last months meeting. Commissioner Hulke did not return the part in question. Trustee Jablonski queried Commissioner Hulke about a battery charger. Trustee Jablonski suggested the board look into discrepancies. Trustee Wallace questioned Clerk Parsons if there were any file requests. Clerk Parsons replied “No.” Supervisor Swanson indicated that it was against the law to “go through files.” Trustee Nomellini stated “Grey areas are there, I am not willing to condemn someone for one mistake in ten years.” Supervisor Swanson agreed it is against the law to go through files and there is a process for this – freedom of information allows the access of files through a defined process. Trustee Jablonski reiterated an admission of guilt by Commissioner Hulke.</li> </ul> <p>Trustee Nelson read a statement prepared by Commissioner Hulke that read as follows: The first seven years I worked for the township. I used my personal truck for township business. This involved going to county zoning meetings in Geneva, meetings at K.D.O.T., Road commissioner meetings, meetings with township residents about their concerns and much much more. All of these trips amounted to 30-35 thousand miles being put on my personal vehicle. This was done at <u>no expense</u> to the township residence. At the time I was appointed by the board there was 1 chain saw. This chain saw had 3 different length bars for cutting trees up. I bought my own Homelite chainsaw in for township use when a need occurs! After a couple of ears the saw died. I could have but <u>didn't</u> make the R &amp; B dept. purchase me a replacement chainsaw. I did purchase a second chainsaw for the R &amp; B dept.,; so that we would have 2</p>	To be placed on next months as an action item.

Topic	Discussion	Action
	<p>chain saws available. The second one is a lot smaller!</p> <p>Thanks to <u>me</u> the R&amp;B dept. now has a nice big pile of Blacktop grindings we can use on the shoulders of our roads. If road rock is costing \$5.57 per ton presently, this pile of grindings has the potential of saving the R&amp;B dept. 4 to 5 thousand dollars. These grindings come at no cost to the taxpayers. The material was <u>free</u>! Again thanks to me! If you would look back before me and then after I started the R&amp;B would pay an outside contractor \$1,000.00 to \$2,000.00 to fix the snow plow tear ups. We now fix 70% to 90% of these repairs in house annually. Again saving taxpayers money!</p> <p>In the pasty year I have been able to save 30% to 40% off of the uniform bill. I was also able to cut the Nextel bill by 35-40%. These 2 items will save the R&amp;B between \$1200.00 -\$1800.00 per year.</p> <p>Over the years I've been able to save thousands of dollars on health Insurance. I am looking at ways presently to save more money on insurance.</p> <p>By switching to Toirma insurance we have saved hundreds of dollars annually. Plus now we receive a dividend check each year cutting our costs even more on our yearly premium!</p> <p>With <u>me</u> being able to get Larry Trainor to come and work for the R&amp;B dept., the R&amp;B has been able to save thousands of dollars in various repairs to township equipment. Larry has the ability to fix almost everything that may break. There will always be certain things that we can't fix, either for safety reasons or lack of the proper tools to perform the repair. Again having Larry working here has been huge!</p> <p>For the past 10 years I have also used my personal motor scooter for various township business. The most important time I use my scooter is while resurfacing is being done on our roads. By using the scooter I am able to stay right with the paving crew! If they should have a question, we can address it right away. There is also times when I would like something done differently, that I can ask them to do when they are passing by that particular area. I also use the scoter on many occasions to check township roads or even meet a resident about their concern. The R &amp; B bridge is able to save money, because my scooter gets 70 mpg compared to a regular vehicle that gets 15 to 17 mpg. These are just some of the money savings ways I have been able to save Plato</p>	

Topic	Discussion	Action
Action Items	<p>Township residence money.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trustee Nelson thanked Commissioner Hulke for his service.</li> <li>• Park Septic – Jim Gough from Welch Bros to look at the tank for free. Tim Metz provided an opinion why the tank is filling – hydrostatic pressure. Much discussion ensued regarding the rationale for the tank filling.</li> <li>• Depot Clean-up Day – Scheduled May 2 @ 8:00 AM.</li> <li>• Mowing at Township – Commissioner Hulke to continue to mow – open it up for bids. Trustee Jablonski proposed that Judy Krog bring the tractor from the park and pay accordingly. Supervisor Swanson requested to forward any bids or changes to her. Commissioner Hulke indicated he will continue to mow in the meantime.</li> <li>• AYSO – Received check and insurance covered to 7/1/09.</li> <li>• CDBL – Certificate of insurance received.</li> <li>• Opening day last Saturday – New superintendent threw out first pitch.</li> <li>• Garbage cans – need them available</li> <li>• Scoreboards ready to be installed.</li> <li>• Sinnett Builders – Mike Sinnett from Sinnett Builders answered questions and provided an overview of the path project. Project can possibly be completed by 6/1/09 if all goes well.</li> </ul>	<p>Board members to meet and clean.</p> <p>Mike to meet board members on Thursday to walk path and cover details. Motion to accept bid by Trustee Nelson with a second by Trustee Wallace. Motion passed 5 Ayes 0 Nays.</p>
OSLA Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supervisor Swanson indicated that there needs to enter and approve a discussion of the details for the acquisition of playground equipment and park work as discussed at the November meeting.</li> </ul>	<p>Motion to approve separately the park details for OSLA. Supervisor Swanson motioned to approve with a second by Trustee Wallace. Motion passed with 4 Nays and one abstention by trustee Jablonski.</p>
Volleyball Project Citizen Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tim Metz reviewed the detail changes with expanding the border and using red rope, needs to be #1 sand (approx. \$1,200.00 for sand and poles), once/year edging, and proposal for work on Earth Day. Tim Metz thanked the board on behalf of Scout Pack 38.</li> </ul>	<p>Motion by Trustee Nelson and a second by Trustee Wallace. Approved 5 Ayes 0 Nays.</p>

Topic	Discussion	Action
<p>Approve payment of Township Bills.</p> <p>Adjournment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Citizen Dolly Hulke reported concerns regarding election signs dumped for disposal, biased news reports, cars delivering articles to mailboxes illegally, political sabotage – she is saddened by the hateful activities of people.</li> <li>• Citizen Nelson – township employees had the right to refuse work they thought was wrong to do, and they were paid for the work, it is the duty of the board to review these bills and approve them and not three months later. She also asked the process for hiring Park employees. Trustee Wallace provided an historical synopsis, not a bid with board approval, but an add in newspaper and interview process.</li> </ul> <p>Meeting adjourned at 10:02 PM.</p>	<p>Trustee Wallace motioned to approve with a second by Trustee Nomellini. Approved – 5 ayes 0 nays</p> <p>Motion by Trustee Nelson and a second by Trustee Wallace. Approved – 5 ayes 0 nays</p>
Approval	Supervisor:	Kathleen Swanson
	Member of Board:	Jack Jablonski
	Member of Board:	Phil Nomellini
	Member of Board:	Ron Straub
	Member of Board:	Heather Wallace
	Clerk:	Rich Parsons