

**PLATO TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING MINUTES
PLATO TOWN HALL
MAY 18, 2009**

Board Members Present:

Trustees: Jack Jablonski, Philip Nomellini, Ron Straub, 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.
Oath	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Judge Sheldon swore in Ron Straub as a new Trustee. • Judge Sheldon swore in all other elected officials. 	
April 20, 2009 meeting minutes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April 20, 2009 meeting minutes were read and motioned to approve with one correction. 	Trustee Jablonski motioned to approve the minutes with one correction with a second by Trustee Nomellini. Minutes approved – 5 ayes 0 nays
Supervisors Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Depot clean-up went well – thanks to all participants. • Walking Path Update: - Supervisor Swanson reported the path was adjusted. Supervisor Swanson reported that a permit would be obtained tomorrow from the Kane County Development Department for grant reimbursement. • Supervisor Swanson reported calls from pleased residents concerning the volleyball courts. 	
Treasurer's Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Park - \$54,328.02 • Road & Bridge - \$17,100.27 • Township - \$63,269.26 	Trustee Jablonski motioned to approve with a second by Trustee Nomellini. Approved – 5 ayes 0 nays
Highway Commissioner's Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioner Hulke reported IDOT has plans for improvement of Rte. 20 from Rte. 47 to Udina if monies are available. • Underground gas tank monitoring and associated costs were discussed. 	Commissioner Hulke will determine payment method/time frame.
Assessor's Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tax rates are listed on the Kane County web site. The supervisor's new web site has a link called "Subscribe" so individuals can know when the assessments are printed in the paper. There is also a newsletter. 	

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Informational Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public meeting for township budget review will be @ 6:30 PM prior to the June meeting followed by Road & Bridge @ 6:45 PM. • Newsletter changes – Proposal for distribution in mid March. • Trustee Wallace stated three checks were collected from CDGS, CDBC, & AYSO for porta potties. 	
Action Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clerk Parsons read the following statement: <p>In the following I am proposing tentative budget allocations for fiscal year 2009-2010 for the Cemetery. Consideration of total budgeted amounts and the income identified from the county are used as benchmarks; the sub-accounts may require adjustments in the final budget. I will e-mail the other proposed budgets after considerable more detailing. As we move forward into the next budget, I would like to follow-up with some recommendations.</p> <p>As the economy continues to struggle and is expected to for the next few years, as a township we may want to evaluate our expenses more closely. Kane County is seeking a 5.5% budget cut. With the economic downturn, we may not be able to expect the same tax revenue we have been receiving in the years ahead. The tax dollars we do obtain may not be able to keep up with the inflationary rate of our routine expenses. The first recommendation I have is to evaluate each and every expense incurred and determine if the expense is absolutely necessary, if a change in vendor is possible, and/or can the expense be eliminated by providing the service “in-house.” I would challenge the township members to seek means in providing our services in a more “cost-effective” manner. Additionally, I would ask the township to seek a reduction in expenses of 5-6% each year over the next 3-4 years to weather the economic storm.</p> <p>My second recommendation comes from the recent conversations during the board meetings of late regarding expense authorization. Before I follow with my recommendations, I would like to share my thoughts on the events surrounding the process issue of approving township expenses. I believe there is an opportunity for the board to define a process that fulfills the needs of it’s’ members and at the same time assure some confidences in the end result.</p> 	

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Action Items	<p>My personal observations of the last couple of month's board meetings on the activities surrounding this issue have left me many sleepless nights and extremely disappointed. Each and every one of us has their own personal dynamic of how we process information and communicate our thoughts and differences on matters, especially matters close to the heart. As I reflect on the oath of office each one of us have taken; "I do solemnly swear that I will uphold the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the Sate of Illinois," I reference Article VIII, Section 1, General Provisions of the Constitution of the Sate of Illinois," where it reads: "Public funds, property, or credit shall be used only for public purposes." It is clear to me that this in fact, by admission has not been the case by Commissioner Hulke on a minimum of two occasions.</p> <p>During the March board meeting, it was pointed out by citizen Krog that Commissioner Hulke directed a township employee to service his personal vehicle using tax payer's dollars. Commissioner Hulke admitted this to the newspaper reporter at the meeting. At this same meeting, allegations were made that Commissioner Hulke identified, by writing on an invoice that a part purchased for a township owned vehicle was instead purchased for his personal vehicle. Commissioner Hulke informed the board that "he must have returned the part" and "he would have to look for the return receipt."</p> <p>Commissioner Hulke scheduled an appointment with me four days prior to the election in which he informed me that he spoke to the lawyer regarding the issue of assigning the township employee to work on his personal vehicle. Commissioner Hulke told me the lawyer told him that he should not do this. "This was my bad," he stated. Commissioner Hulke also told me that he did in fact purchase the part for his tractor using township funds. He explained to me his justifications e.g.; using his mower to mow the lawn, static fee, and gas prices. I asked him why he was telling me this information and he responded, "I am meeting with the other board members about this." I clarified with him the following personal viewpoint: He made a choice to purposefully and knowingly deceive the board into utilizing tax payer's monies to personally gain when he had the choice of being honest and submitting the invoice for payment without deception. I informed him that trust</p>	

Topic	Discussion	Action
Action Items	<p>was lost. I also suggested that a positive will arise from this in that the township bills will undoubtedly be scrutinized more closely.</p> <p>My recommendation is as follows: the board determines a process whereby the clarity and confidence of the bills submitted is secured. I would suggest a review of invoices (or at least non-routine and miscellaneous invoices) in advance of the meeting. This would allow for an opportunity for clarifications by the individuals submitting the bills.</p> <p>Lastly, I believe “what you permit, you promote,” and after speaking with legal counsel and understanding that we all have a fiduciary responsibility to the community we serve that if we are unable or choose not to fulfill this obligation we should not hold public office. Based on the purposeful deceptive practice and dishonest behavior of Commissioner Hulke, I personally recommend he resign from office.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervisor Swanson requested comments be on the agenda and not up for discussion. She stated that all of the budgets should be available for this meeting for review and action. • Supervisor Swanson recommended all board members review duties of their positions. • Supervisor Swanson provided an overview of budget allocations for the township and indicated the Cemetery budget should be about the same as last year. • Trustee Jablonski inquired if the R& B was using straight diesel fuel for weed control. Commissioner Hulke responded that diesel fuel has been used with Round-up. Commissioner Hulke indicated he will cease using it and check with the Department of Agriculture. • Garden Club Project – No new information. • Boy Scout Project – Discussion surrounded the project details and a proposed cost of \$600.00 and a request of monies from the Board. 	<p>Trustee Wallace motioned to approve \$200.00 for start-up costs for the project with a second by Trustee Nomellini. Motion passed 5 Ayes 0 Nays.</p> <p>Trustee Jablonski motioned to approve the \$600.00 needed for the entire project with a second by Trustee</p>

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Action Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The volleyball net storage was discussed. • Weed control @ park – \$1,700.0 quote. • • Mosquito prevention – spraying of township roads and park. • Township mowing services – Trustee Jablonski stated that the township needs to avoid paying Dolly Hulke for work that Commissioner Hulke is providing. Supervisor Swanson received a bid from James Hulke for mowing services for \$75.00. 	<p>Nomellini. Motion passed 5 Ayes 0 Nays.</p> <p>A decision was made to leave it up.</p> <p>Tabled until June meeting.</p> <p>Supervisor Swanson to obtain costs.</p> <p>Dolly Hulke will inquire from Social Security if current process is legal.</p>
Citizen Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervisor Swanson provided an overview of the process for citizen comments. • L. Lederle represented a large group of Shadow Hill residents sharing their concern over the taxes and assessment process. • A. Krog thanked the Board for allowing his return to work. • M. Frangella asked the Board for clarification on the allegations regarding Commissioner Hulke and requested the Board “do something to either clear his name or move on.” • B. Krog indicated that he was terminated for a reduction in work force. He indicated that he is owed money as there is a discrepancy in his pay. He requested the Board hold Commissioner Hulke accountable for hiring process; “He should not be able to hire for one year.” 	<p>Assessor Roush provided an overview of the process and indicated she is available for detailing the process at a later time.</p> <p>Commissioner Hulke clarified the discrepancy and Supervisor Swanson indicated the pay will be corrected.</p>

Topic	Discussion	Action
Approve payment of Township Bills.		Motion by Trustee Jablonski and a second by Trustee Straub. Approved 5 Ayes 0 Nays.
Adjournment	Meeting adjourned at 9:28 PM.	Motion by Trustee Straub and a second by Trustee Nomellini. Approved – 5 ayes 0 nays
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