

**PALOS TOWNSHIP
COMBINED BILL AUDIT AND ROAD AND BRIDGE DISTRICT MEETING
10802 S. ROBERTS ROAD PALOS HILLS, ILLINOIS 60465**

January 25, 2021 – 6:30 P.M.

Call to Order

The Combined Bill Audit and Road and Bridge District Meeting of the Township Board was called to order by **Supervisor Schumann** who was in attendance at the Township Hall. The meeting was held via internal conference call pursuant to Executive Order of the Governor. It was held via video/audio conference on WWW.Zoom.US at 6:30 P.M.

All persons interested in attending were able to do so by visiting the website at www.palostownship.org and selecting the link to JOIN THE MEETING.

All persons wishing to address the Board will be permitted to do so through the web conference platform, following the standard rules previously adopted by the Board.

The Township Hall was not opened for the meeting.

Roll Call

Roll call was taken by the Clerk of the Township, **Jane Nolan**. Present were Trustees Brannigan, Woods, Supervisor Schumann and Highway Commissioner Adams. Also present was Township Attorney, Erik Peck.

Absent: Trustee Jeanes
Trustee Riley

Officials present: Clerk Nolan.

Pledge of Allegiance

Supervisor Schumann led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Disposition of Minutes from Previous Meeting

a. Approval of Minutes – Combined Bill Audit and Road and Bridge District Meeting of December 28, 2020

Trustee Woods moved to approve the minutes of the Combined Bill Audit and Road and Bridge District Meeting of December 28, 2020. **Supervisor Schumann** seconded the motion. Roll call was taken. Ayes: Trustees Brannigan, Woods and Supervisor Schumann. Nays: None. Motion carried 3-0.

Special Presentations/Communications

There were no special presentations or communications at this meeting.

Reports of Officials

a. Supervisor

Supervisor Schumann stated she has met with Trustee Brannigan concerning food donations to the Palos Township Food Pantry. Due to the Holiday season, as always, the township has received an extremely large amount of donated food from several sources. The Cadets of Palos Park delivered large amounts of donated food twice per week at one point. She noted that she did not know if there will be Souperbowl donations from the school districts this year, but she doubts it. The township can always give some of our donated food to other pantries. The food donations are under control.

b. Clerk

1. Lottery Results

Clerk Nolan reported the lottery results for the April 6th, 2021 Consolidated Election. The lottery was for the Assessor candidate position. The candidates for this were Robert E. Maloney (Palos Township Independent Party) and Sharon M. Brannigan (Republican). The lottery was held and the results for the ballot certification were:

1. Robert E. Maloney (Palos Township Independent Party}
2. Sharon M. Brannigan (Republican)

She thanked Trustee Woods for his help.

2. Ballot Certification

Clerk Nolan stated that she completed the Ballot Certification for the April 6, 2021 Consolidated Election on January 14, 2021. She sent it to Cook County and it was accepted as written.

c. Highway Commissioner

Commissioner Adams reported that the state, the county, and other municipalities plow snow in the same way. We plow from the center of the road to the shoulder of the road. We have to keep plowing the same way we have in the past. With wet snow, balls of snow fall off truck blades, and they land in the front of residents' driveways. He has had a few complaints about this but nothing can be done. There is a storm headed this way. The Road District has been using a lot of salt doing the snow plowing trying to keep the residents happy.

Commissioner Adams discussed again the incident with the contractor on 125th Street in Palos Park involving school buses that were not able to make the necessary turn. (this was explained in the December Bill Audit and Road and Bridge District Combined Meeting.) The contractor was cited for doing work without a permit. Paperwork for the permit was filled out in the Road District Office and never returned. He took out the asphalt driveway and cut into the newly paved street so he could put bricks the way he wanted to put them out into the street. They are now proceeding with the County

Building Department. Erick Peck, the Township Attorney, is following up on this situation.

Attorney Peck reported that he and the Highway Commission went to the site and took pictures. He is commencing drafting a complaint to compel the resident to comply with the township ordinance. The complaint will be filed shortly and they will keep the Board abreast of the situation as it proceeds.

Attorney's Report

Attorney Peck stated there was no report for the Board.

Reports of Standing Committees

a. Finance and Administration – Trustee Woods

1. Audit and Approval of Town Fund Bills and Warrants dated February 1, 2021.

Trustee Woods moved to approve the audit of the Town Fund Bills and Warrants in the amount of \$28,450.47. **Supervisor Schumann** seconded the motion. Roll call was taken. Ayes: Trustees Brannigan, Woods, and Supervisor Schumann. Nays: None. Motion carried 3-0.

2. Audit and Approval of Road and Bridge District Fund Bills and Warrants dated February 1, 2021

Trustee Woods moved to approve the audit of the Road and Bridge District Fund Bills and Warrants in the amount of \$50,664.34 and the Administrative Expense in the amount of \$5,933.89 for a total of \$56,598.24. **Supervisor Schumann** seconded the motion. Roll call was taken. Ayes: Trustees Brannigan, and Woods, Supervisor Schumann. Nays: None. Motion carried 3-0.

3. Approval of General Assistance Fund Bills and Warrants dated February 1, 2021

Supervisor Schumann moved to approve the audit of the General Assistance Fund Bills dated February 1, 2021. **Trustee Woods** seconded the motion. Roll call was taken. Ayes: Trustees Brannigan, and Woods, Supervisor Schumann. Nays: None. Motion carried 3-0.

b. Policy and Personnel – Supervisor Schumann

Supervisor Schumann discussed that Palos Township is registered on the Cook County Website for the COVID-19 vaccine. There is no update at this time concerning our site. Tinley Park has opened their Conference Center for COVID-19 vaccine purposes. They do not have the vaccine right now. Some residents may be looking at summertime for vaccinations. There is another vaccine coming out. It is going to be from Johnson and Johnson. The residents need to know that we have registered our site.

Trustee Riley arrived at 6:51 P.M.

c. Technology, Information and Automation – Trustee Riley

Trustee Riley stated that he has no report for the Board.

d. Buildings and Grounds – Trustee Jeanes

Trustee Jeanes did not attend the meeting so there was no report from Buildings and Grounds. Trustee Jeanes will inform the Board concerning the cameras at a later date. **Supervisor Schuman** stated that there was someone surveying the property for the cameras.

e. Public Services and Health – Trustee Brannigan

Trustee Brannigan asked if **Trustee Woods** would put the information concerning the availability of the COVID-19 vaccinations on the website when it becomes available to the residents. **Trustee Woods** will do so.

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business to come before the Board.

New Business

Trustee Brannigan discussed the situation with the Food Pantry. She talked about how things were stored in the township food pantry when she was first elected. She felt this was often in an unkempt way. She stated that she was instrumental in having the cabinets installed in the Town Hall to hold the food and make it look more presentable and be safer. There was a rotation of the food in the cabinets after they were installed. Currently the COVID-19 hit the overstock food hard. We have obtained another storage bin for the pantry items. She stated that the last time she was in the township there were cans of food, dry food, pet food, etc., in carts in the office, the Board room, etc. She addressed the Supervisor with this, and said she would be happy to help organize the donations and get volunteers to help with this daunting task. This was not well received. She is concerned with the items being stored without containers or in the open air. It can be open for all kinds of critters. This causes diminished dignity and respect for the residents who come to get anything from the pantry. It is difficult for them to come into the pantry to search through bags to get what they need. This is degrading and demoralizing. Her suggestion is that the goods be put away just as you do in your own house. The Board should have a regular schedule for the overstock foods to go to other pantries. A scheduled disbursement needs to be done. She will do whatever needs to be done to get this under control.

Commissioner Adams stated that during COVID-19 the township can no longer bring goods to Moraine Valley, as has been done in the past.

Supervisor Schumann stated that the township does use the food for the residents of Palos Township, and there has never been a time when anybody has been treated with anything but dignity and respect. They do not come in to pick up food out of bags as you implied. **Supervisor Schumann** stated quite emphatically that she resents that being said. The staff has worked extremely hard, and in the sixteen years that she has that he has been the supervisor in this township no resident has ever been treated with anything but dignity and respect

and that will continue. When we need to move food out, we do move food out, and we share it with people. We have time frames for the families we service. The township gets the bags ready for what they are going to pick up. You owe the staff who does this work an apology.

Trustee Brannigan stated that she asked if we could get the food organized and not have all this food lying about. **Supervisor Schuman** stated that she explained this to you on Friday. This is no different than any other year in the township **Trustee Brannigan** said it was not a problem after the cabinets were installed and **Supervisor Schumann** answered that it was because of holiday donations.

Trustee Woods interjected that the residents do not come in and pick out their food – the bags are handed to them. It is good that we have too much food because then we can give people more food. We have never had a problem with vermin and rodents.

Trustee Brannigan said she understands that the staff is working hard but she would like the Board to think about this to find a solution.

Citizen's Wishing to Address the Board

Speaker #1

Bill Beaulieu

Bill thanked Supervisor Schumann for standing up for the employees of the township and their integrity. That was a very nice thing to do. I think a lot of us know why Sharon is bringing up all her issues. She is very good at manufacturing issues. We all know how much we can count on her integrity. Thank you for facing her and exposing what she is saying at this point. Thank you for exposing the truth about the issue rather than what she is trying to claim is the truth.

Speaker #2

Margaret

Margaret is one of the neighbors complaining about the water problem at 133rd and 88th Avenue in unincorporated Orland. She would like an update concerning the situation.

Commissioner Adams answered that the Water Reclamation District requires numbers and figures and bids, and they are not getting any information themselves. The Palos Road District is busy procuring the information that they want. Construction is on hold in the middle of winter. Our engineer has determined that we would like to get started in March if the Water Reclamation District will let us proceed in March. They are defiant. We have all the numbers together, but the bidding process has not taken place as they have not approved the amount of money that they are going to contribute. The Road District anticipated that the cost may approach \$86,000.00. They are questioning our figures as they sound too light to the Water Reclamation District.

The Road District engineers are working closely with the Water Reclamation District. There are constant letters going back and forth with the Water Reclamation District asking questions. They are not concerned about the residents being flooded. They are doing things according to their own numbers. It is difficult to appease them.

Trustee Woods asked if the Road District engineering firm filled out an application for projects. MWRD just opened a call for projects and it is open until mid-March. **Commissioner Adams** said there is money coming out of the state. Palos Township should get about \$90,000.00 from Motor Fuel Tax but it has not come out yet. These projects from MWRD are not the above. They are just starting and we do not want to miss out. **Commissioner Adams** stated that we are on the list for the project and have been since last year.

Margaret is very happy because for the first time in many years she is hearing something positive. Gene told her MWRD has agreed that the project will go forward.

Speaker #3

Red Wagon

The resident stated that Commissioner Adams is still talking about the project. Is there anyway the residents on 133rd Street could see a plan about the project? Or are you going to come out and dig out our side again and say “we fixed it again” even though we have not had our property restored since you started digging four or five years ago. **Commissioner Adams** answered that the Road District asked the Water Reclamation District if they could send some of the communication that we have had to the residents so that they residents would know what was going on, and they said the communications between the Water Reclamation District and Palos Township Road and Bridge District at this point must be between us.

The Road District would tell the residents if a full scall plan had been accepted by MWRD. The concept has been accepted. The engineer has all kinds of information he had to fill out before he can get it approved by the MWRD. **Commissioner Adams** stated that dealing with MWRD is heart throbbing. The Road District wanted to send you letters of communication between both of us but their secretary said that the Road District could not do that. **Commissioner Adams** told this resident to come to the township to see all the correspondence between the Road District and the MWRD.

Trustee Woods stated that there are steps to this process. The first step is to have MWRD come out and survey the site. Plans do not get drawn up until there is funding from the MWRD. If there is no funding, the plans are not done until they provide the funding to do so. They will typically pay for major engineering costs, and they will draw up the plans.

Commissioner Adams said you were all there when MWRD surveyed the site. The resident still wants to see the plans. A woman (no name) said that Mrs. Flynn from the MWRD said “they have nothing from Palos Township, and I can do nothing until I hear from Palos Township.”

The time for this resident speaking to the Board expired. **Supervisor Schumann** suggested that Mr. Red Wagon set up a time to talk further with Commissioner Adams.

Executive Session

No motion was made to enter Executive Session.

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Board, **Supervisor Schumann** asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. **Trustee Woods** moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 P.M. Roll call was taken. Ayes: Trustees Brannigan, Riley and Woods, Supervisor Schumann. Nays: None. Motion carried 4-0. Meeting adjourned.

Jane A. Nolan
Clerk
Palos Township