

MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF THE CITY
OF BLOOMINGTON TOWNSHIP
MONDAY, MAY 26, 2020; 5:00 P.M.

This meeting was conducted under Governor Pritzker's Executive Order 2020 – 07, Section 6 implemented in response to COVID – 19, which suspended in-person attendance under the Open Meeting Act, 5 ILCS 120.

The Board of Trustees for the Town of the City of Bloomington met both in-person in the Council Chambers of the City Hall Building and virtually via Zoom conferencing at 5:00 p.m. on May 26, 2020. The meeting was called to order by Trustee Renner.

Trustee Renner directed the Township Clerk to call the roll and the following members of the Board answered present:

Trustees present remotely: Jamie Mathy, Donna Boelen, Mboka Mwilambwe, Julie Emig, Joni Painter, Jennifer Carrillo, Scott Black, Jeff Crabill, Kim Bray, and Tari Renner.

Elected officials present remotely via telephone: Deborah L. Skillrud, Supervisor.

Elected official absent: Steve Scudder, Assessor.

Staff present: Leslie Yocum, Township Clerk.

Action and Approval of the Monthly General Town Fund, General Assistance Fund and Evergreen Memorial Cemetery Audits of April 2020 accounts as presented.

Motion by Trustee Boelen, seconded by Trustee Mathy that the Audits be approved as presented.

Trustee Renner directed the Township Clerk to call the roll which resulted in the following:

Ayes: Trustees Mathy, Boelen, Mwilambwe, Emig, Painter, Carrillo, Black, Crabill, Bray, and Renner.

Nays: none.

Motion carried.

Approval of the General Town Fund, Anticipated Expenditures as presented and certified.

Motion by Trustee Boelen, seconded by Trustee Mathy that the Anticipated Expenditures be approved as presented.

Trustee Renner directed the Township Clerk to call the roll which resulted in the following:

Ayes: Trustees Mathy, Boelen, Mwilambwe, Emig, Painter, Carrillo, Black, Crabill, Bray, and Renner.

Nays: none.

Motion carried.

Draft Budget Amendment for the Town Fund for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021– recommended the document be accepted and placed on file for a thirty (30) day review period.

Deborah Skillrud, Supervisor, addressed the Board. She had received questions from Trustee Mathy and Billy Tyus, City of Bloomington's Deputy City Manager. She addressed these questions and clarified differences in the projected, approved, and amended budgets for the General Town, (GT), Fund. The budget amendment provided nine months of financial data and listed the various changes in the budget.

Mrs. Skillrud stated \$100,000 would be allocated from the GT Fund for a COVID - 19 Community Emergency Response Program, (CERP), and \$200,000 would be moved from GT Fund to the General Assistance (GA) Fund. Funds would be moved to be available, if needed. A COVID - 19 program would need to be developed in order to distribute funds.

Trustee Black requested clarification of the amounts discussed. Mrs. Skillrud responded accordingly.

Trustee Painter stated the \$100,000 were GT Fund reserves. Mrs. Skillrud responded affirmatively. The Board had the authority to allocate additional funds to the CERP.

Trustee Carrillo sought clarification regarding CERP restrictions compared to GA. Mrs. Skillrud noted the Board needed to decide parameters and restrictions. Mrs. Skillrud believed there were no emerging needs in the community at this moment. Trustee Carrillo's concerns addressed students and undocumented individuals. These individuals were not eligible for federal programs. She questioned the need for specific eligibility requirements as federal funds would not be used. Trustee Renner questioned how the Board could create requirements to assist these groups.

Mrs. Skillrud offered to research if this program would be able to assist these groups. She informed the Board that on May 29, 2020 the United Way of McLean County's Housing Assistance Coalition would release their findings. This information would be helpful to address the needs of individuals who were falling through the cracks of existing assistance programs.

Mrs. Skillrud introduced John Redlingshafer, Township Attorney, to the Board. Mr. Redlingshafer stated the Board and Township staff needed to develop program guidelines. He

compared GT Fund to the more restrictive GA Fund which operated under the state's Public Aid Code.

Trustee Crabill clarified guidelines would align the Township with the United Way's Coalition. Mrs. Skillrud noted the Township did not want to replicate United Way's system and Township funds should be seen as a last resort for residents.

Trustee Crabill requested Mrs. Skillrud share additional details about the Coalition. Mrs. Skillrud stated the Coalition was working to address the gaps in need. The Coalition organized one place for application submissions. Requests would be routed to the responsible parties.

Trustee Renner believed it was the Board's responsibility to create policies to ensure individuals did not fall through the cracks. Mrs. Skillrud responded affirmatively. At this time, she believed there were sufficient services to address current community needs. Trustee Renner questioned where residents could locate program information. Mrs. Skillrud stated documents would be available online.

Trustee Mathy expected a plan would have been presented. He understood this vote would prepare funding as the waiting period for a budget amendment was thirty (30) days. This time period allowed the Board and Township staff to review the Coalition's plan and determine resource areas not covered by the plan. During this time, the Board and Township staff had the opportunity to draft guidelines which would capture individuals who fall through the cracks. Mrs. Skillrud concurred.

Trustee Mathy clarified the Board only needed to decide the dollar amount to place in CERP. He believed the Board could transfer additional funds and request an amount must be kept in reserve. Mrs. Skillrud noted a minimum of \$774,000 must remain in reserve as this represented four (4) months expenditures. The Township would be more financially secure with five or six, (5 or 6), months of expenditures in reserve.

Trustee Black sought program specifics. He also believed the Board could transfer additional funds if the initial dollar amount was depleted. He inquired if there was a more expedient approach. He added concern the Board was behind in offering assistance. Trustee Renner concurred.

Mrs. Skillrud restated Township staff was working with the Coalition on a program. She did not believe Township was behind in offering assistance.

Trustee Boelen believed a minimal amount should be kept in reserve. The Board and Township staff should remain flexible while staying within the confines of a policy statement.

Mrs. Skillrud inquired if a policy could be drafted to regulate reserve funds. Mr. Redlingshafer responded affirmatively. Policies require Board approval.

Trustee Emig questioned if the Board could transfer more than the proposed \$200,000 with an understanding these dollars might not be needed. Mrs. Skillrud concurred. She added the GA Fund took four (4) years to recover from the 2008 recession. She explained the \$200,000 was proposed based on the highest usage from that recovery period.

Trustee Emig inquired if the Coalition planned to create a unified set of guidelines. Mrs. Skillrud stated uniformity would be driven by the application process and community needs.

Trustee Mwilambwe questioned how quickly \$200,000 would be depleted. Mrs. Skillrud restated the dollar amount was for the remainder of the FY. She cautioned the property tax levy for the coming year might need to be increased.

Trustee Bray wanted to assist as many residents of possible. She believed the Board needed to meet to finalize the program outline. Mrs. Skillrud believed a work session might be beneficial. Many questions would be answered by the Coalition's press release.

Trustee Carrillo was concerned the Board would approve money for an undefined program. She was frustrated the Board had not been part of the Coalition's planning process. She believed the community currently had current needs. The Township should have more actively worked on a solution. Finally, she requested the reason for the proposed transfer of funds between accounts.

Mrs. Skillrud noted the GA was mandatory. There were legal repercussions if the balance was zero. Funds could be transferred to the GA Fund to protect it and for potential use. She went on to explain dollars would be moved, a line item created and money would not be spent from either account until there was a defined program.

Trustee Mathy questioned the process for the CERP line item. He also inquired if additional funds could be transferred if needed. Mr. Redlingshafer detailed the budget amendment process and noted the dollar amount could be changed before Board approval in June.

Trustee Crabill questioned whether community needs were being met by the Township and other organizations. Mrs. Skillrud responded affirmatively. Trustee Crabill believed there was the potential for a variety of future needs. He inquired if aid requirements could be adjusted in order to serve more citizens. Mrs. Skillrud responded affirmatively. Trustee Crabill questioned if the Township was capable of administering the City of Bloomington's Community Development Block Grant's, (CDBG), COVID-19 funds. Mrs. Skillrud stated Township staff was trained and capable to administer these funds free of charge to the City of Bloomington.

Trustee Black suggested a Board work session to draft clear communication. He wanted 1.) least restrictive requirements possible, 2.) to see the application and eligibility requirements, and 3.) to see the total amount of funding available that could be spent by the Township. He was concerned about a lengthy process. Mrs. Skillrud acknowledged less restrictions might be better.

Trustee Carrillo requested Trustee Black clarify his comments.

Motion by Trustee Crabill, seconded by Trustee Painter, that the draft Budget Amendment Town Fund for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 be accepted and placed on file for a thirty (30) day review period.

Trustee Renner directed the Township Clerk to call the roll which resulted in the following:

Ayes: Trustees Mathy, Boelen, Mwilambwe, Emig, Painter, Carrillo, Black, Crabill, Bray, and Renner.

Nays: none.

Motion carried.

Mrs. Skillrud did not have anything additional to report.

Mrs. Skillrud informed the Board Steve Scudder, Assessor, was not present due to family matters. He could be reached via email.

Trustee Renner opened the meeting to receive Public Comment. No one came forward to address the Board.

Motion by Trustee Mwilambwe, seconded by Trustee Carrillo, that the meeting be adjourned.

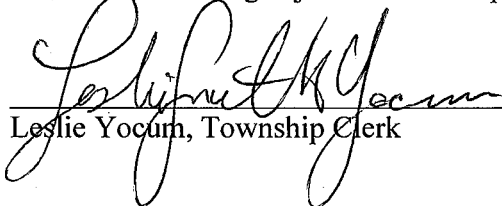
Trustee Renner directed the Township Clerk to call the roll which resulted in the following:

Ayes: Trustees Mathy, Boelen, Mwilambwe, Emig, Painter, Carrillo, Black, Crabill, Bray, and Renner.

Nays: none.

Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.



Leslie Yocum, Township Clerk