

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
CITY of BLOOMINGTON TOWNSHIP

Tuesday, April 14, 2015
6:00 p.m.

City Hall Council Chambers
109 East Olive Street, Bloomington, IL

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order: Renee Gooderham, Interim Town Clerk
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Introduction of Town Officers
- IV. Nominations for Moderator
- V. Election and Swearing in of Moderator
- VI. Remarks by Moderator on Conducting the Meeting
- VII. Approval of Minutes of April 8, 2014 Annual Town Meeting
- VIII. Reports and Introduction of Employees
 - Assessor: Steve Scudder
 - Supervisor: Deb Skillrud
- IX. Public Comments
- X. Setting of time for Next Annual Town Meeting
- XI. Other Business
- XII. Adjournment

TOWN OF THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON TOWNSHIP
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
APRIL 8, 2014

The Meeting was called to order by the Town Clerk, Tracey Covert. She asked that everyone rise and join her in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The Town Clerk announced that the nominations for Moderator would be in order.

Motion by Stephanie Uzueta, seconded by Gabrielle Nichols, that Joe Gibson be nominated as Moderator.

The chair called for further nominations from the Floor. There were no further nominations.

Motion by Stephanie Uzueta, seconded by Deb Skillrud that Joe Gibson be elected Moderator by acclamation.

Motion carried.

The Chair announced that Joe Gibson had been elected as Moderator.

Joe Gibson came forward and was given the Oath of Office as Moderator by the Town Clerk.

Mr. Gibson opened the Town Meeting. He referred to the Annual Town Meeting Agenda. The meeting would be conducted in compliance with the Open Meetings Act. The Annual Town Meeting Agenda was approved by the Township Board at their March 24, 2014 meeting. The meeting notice had been published. The Annual Town Meeting was a meeting of the electors, (i.e. registered voters).

He stated that it was a privilege and honor to serve as Moderator. He described the City Township as a successful unit of local government. He recognized Mike Ireland, former Township Assessor. He also recognized Deb Skillrud, Township Supervisor and Steve Scudder, Township Assessor. Both were newly elected and this would be their first Annual Town Meeting. This was the first time for him to fill the role of Moderator and noted the past service of David Stanczak. All townships in the state held the Annual Town Meeting on the second Tuesday in April after 6:00 p.m.

The Moderator directed the Town Clerk to read the "Notice of the Annual Town Meeting."

Tracey Covert, Town Clerk, read the Notice as published.

The Moderator requested all present to sign in. Records prepared for the Annual Town Meeting were available.

Town Clerk, Tracey Covert, presented the 2012 Annual Town Minutes.

Motion by Stephanie Uzueta, seconded Gwen Donnelly, that the minutes be approved as corrected.

Motion carried, (viva voce).

Deborah Skillrud, Township Supervisor, addressed those present. She noted that Mike Ireland, former Township Assessor and David Stanczak, former Moderator, were present at the meeting. This would be her first Annual Town Meeting. The Town of the City of Bloomington Township was one (1) of nineteen (19) coterminous townships in the state. The Township shares the same boundary as the City of Bloomington and was considered an urban township. A mandatory function of township government was General Assistance, (GA). GA was provided to qualified residents as a flat grant. The other mandatory function provided by the City Township was property assessment. As a coterminous township there was no responsibility for road and bridge maintenance. Another function of the Township was Evergreen Memorial Cemetery. Ms. Skillrud addressed the Board's responsibilities.

As part of the GA Office, the Township provided community grant funding which supported existing agencies in the community that provided youth and senior programs. She described the GA Office as being fiscally responsible to the taxpayers while at the same time being compassionate to those in need. She added that the GA Office and Assessor's Office worked together as a team. She had prepared a flow chart for the Township. She also addressed the General Town Fund and the positions placed under same, (Comptroller and Intake/Receptionists). Expenditures for both the Town Fund and GA Fund were provided. The focus of GA was education and training to promote employability/employment. She noted that John M. Scott Health Resource Center's financials were handled by the Township. The GA grant could be used for a variety of purposes, (i.e. rent, utilities, groceries, laundry, clothing), and GA funds also addressed transportation, dental and medical co-pays. Finally, the GA Office offered emergency assistance.

The Tax Levy had declined slightly since 2010. In the past, the Township had higher fund reserves. She expressed her opinion that the tax levy could not be reduced further. Medical expenses were an unknown.

She introduced the GA Office staff. Gwen Donnelly, Medical Caseworker, had been with the Township for thirty (30) years. There were state statutes which controlled GA/medical. There were minimal levels of medical care that must be provided. Medical was separate from the flat grant. The average cost per GA client was \$377. This cost had been declining since 2010. The Affordable Care Act (ACA) would have a large impact upon GA. The GA Office has informed the medical providers that medical services would no longer be provided by the Township. She also addressed the cost for prescription drugs. This cost has been declining since 2010. She anticipated further reductions.

Ms. Skillrud also addressed the Workfare Program. She recognized the various public and non for profit agencies that participated in same. She also addressed the Skills for Success

and Life Skills Class programs. These programs enhanced employability of GA clients. Tom Maruna, Workfare Coordinator, had formerly been employed at ODC (Occupational Development Center). A listing of local employers who had employed GA clients was presented.

The John M. Scott Health Resource Center was administered by the Township. She recognized Stephanie Uzueta, Caseworker. An individual may qualify for selected health care services based upon income and need. These services were not duplicative or a replacement of programs provided by other agencies/payment sources. She cited dental health services. The Township work with the McLean County Health Department, (MCHD), and nine (9) private dentists to provide dental services. The vision program was a part of the MCHD, (i.e. Eye Care Referral Network). A flu shot clinic was hosted with the assistance of the MCHD and Walgreens. Seventy-eight (78) individuals were immunized.

Ms. Skillrud addressed the Evergreen Memorial Cemetery. She introduced the Board of Trustees: Gene Lorch, Pamala Eaton and Amelia Buragas. Tina Crow, Office Manager, was also present at the meeting. She noted the Cemetery's Memorial Day Event. Individuals can purchase a flag for \$112. A long range goal for the Cemetery was to address parking.

Finally, Ms. Skillrud addressed the 2014 highlights. She noted the administration changes in both the Supervisor and Assessor's Offices. The Township had implemented fiscal control over the Cemetery. Work processes would be streamlined. She also noted the collaborative efforts regarding senior and youth services. The goal of the GA Office was to work within the statutes to make the community better. Township government has been described as the truest form of government and she noted the powers of the electors.

Steve Scudder, Township Assessor, addressed those present. His term of office commenced on January 1, 2014. He recognized the coaching and training efforts of Mike Ireland, former Township Assessor. He expressed his appreciation to Mr. Ireland. He presented an organizational chart of the Assessor's Office. He also recognized the Assessor's Office staff.

The City Township had over 26,000 parcels: 24,114 were zoned residential and 2,376 were zoned commercial. The total assessed value was \$1,904,478,411 which resulted in a market value just under \$6 billion. He had prepared a bar graph which documented the growth in assessed value from 2003 to 2013. The assessed value had remained stable which was a credit to the community. The top ten (10) principal taxpayers were identified. They represented thirteen percent (13%) of the total assessed value.

Mr. Scudder addressed the amount of information that was available on line. He had prepared an Internet usage report for the Assessor's Office's website.

Finally, Mr. Scudder addressed the future. Work had already started on the 2014 assessment cycle. 2015 would be a quadrennial year.

Gene Lorch, Cemetery Board President, addressed those present. Evergreen Cemetery had a unique opportunity to purchase real estate, (1006 S. Wright St.). He noted the Cemetery's

chapel/mausoleum. At this time, there was no available parking. The property in question was adjacent to and just south of the Cemetery. The Cemetery had made an offer and plan was to convert the property into a parking lot. The Cemetery had products to sell, (i.e. cemetery plots, niches, crypts, etc.). They represented nontax revenue. The tax levy had remained flat for the past nine (9) years. Nontax revenue had increased by \$128,000. The Cemetery planned to purchase the property with nontax revenue. The total cost, (including demolition, pavement and landscaping), was estimated at \$100,000.

Gwen Donnelly questioned the time line. Mr. Lorch hoped that the Cemetery would be able to take possession by July 1, 2014. He hoped to let bids for the demolition and parking lot pavement within a month to six (6) weeks after that.

David Stanczak questioned preparatory work. He believed that the work involved would impact the total cost. Mr. Lorch noted that there was a clause in the purchase agreement.

Motion by David Stanczak, seconded by Joni Painter to approved the purchase of 1006 S. Wright St., by the Evergreen Memorial Cemetery, in the amount of \$76,000.

Motion carried, (viva voce).

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Pamala Eaton, Cemetery Board Vice President, addressed those present. She thanked Ms. Skillrud and Mr. Scudder for taking on the positions of Township Supervisor and Township Assessor. They had the passion, energy and time to fulfill these roles.

Mr. Gibson noted that the next Annual Town meeting would be held on Tuesday, April 14, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

Motion by Stephanie Uzueta, seconded by Sally Rudolph to hold the Annual Town Meeting on Tuesday, April 14, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

Motion carried.

Motion by Bruce Meeks, seconded by Pamala Eaton to adjourn. Time: 6:58 p.m.

Motion carried.

Tracey Covert
Town Clerk