MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON TOWNSHIP ANNUAL TOWN MEETING TUESDAY, APRIL 13, 2021

The meeting was called to order by Tracey Covert, Administrative Assistant/Acting Town Clerk, in the Community Room of the Bloomington Public Library, 205 E. Olive St., at 6:05 p.m. on April 13, 2021 for the Annual Town Meeting. She requested everyone rise and join her in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Covert noted that Leslie Yocum, Township Clerk, was unable to attend the meeting. Ms. Covert had served as Township Clerk in the past and was asked to act as Clerk for the meeting. She introduced the Township officials who were present: Deborah Skillrud, Supervisor and Steve Scudder, Assessor.

Motion by Stephanie Uzueta, seconded by Jennifer Curtiss, that David Stanczak be nominated as Moderator.

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

Motion by Stephanie Uzueta, seconded by Jennifer Curtiss, that David Stanczak be elected Moderator by acclamation.

Motion carried. (viva voce)

David Stanczak came forward and was given the Oath of Office as Moderator by Ms. Covert.

Mr. Stanczak opened the Annual Town Meeting. He welcomed citizens in attendance and reminded them that the Annual Town Meeting's decision makers were the electors, (i.e., registered voters). He noted the impact of the COVID – 19 Pandemic. The State of Illinois had been under Disaster Proclamations since March 2020. The Governor had issued monthly Executive Orders. Executive Order 2020 – 22 addressed the postponement of the Annual Town Meeting. It was noted that a Disaster Proclamation was in effect to this date. The Township had scheduled this year's Annual Town Meeting in the spirit of openness and transparency. The Annual Town Meeting was an exercise of good citizenship. The Public Library's Community Room provided the space to be socially distanced. The Annual Town Meeting was also available virtually via Zoom.

This Annual Town Meeting would address the Township's Fiscal Years (FY) for 2020 and 2021. An Annual Town Meeting packet had been prepared. It was available in hardcopy at the meeting location and it had also been posted to the Township's website. The packet contained the meeting agenda, the Annual Statement of Receipts & Expenditures (unaudited) for FY 2020 and FY 2021, the draft Minutes for the Annual Town Meeting held on April 9, 2019 and a draft Resolution in Support of POTS (Promoting Other to Succeed) Program.

The first item of business on the agenda was approval of the minutes for the April 9, 2019 Annual Town Meeting. He questioned if there were any additions, deletions, or corrections to these minutes.

Motion by Stephanie Uzueta, seconded by Jennifer Curtiss, that the Minutes of the April 9, 2019 Annual Town Meeting be approved as presented.

Motion carried. (viva voce)

Mr. Stanczak introduced the update on POTS Program, future plans and Resolution supporting same.

Deborah Skillrud, Supervisor, provided an update regarding this program. This year, there would be new blue collection bids. The Township was currently seeking a fifth collection site. She expressed her hope that the Township would be able to renew its agreement with Home Sweet Home Ministries as the workfare site.

Mr. Stanczak read the Resolution in Support of POTS Program. He cited the following additions item J. and the Now Therefore section.

Motion by Stephanie Uzueta, seconded by Jennifer Curtiss, that the Resolution in Support of POTS Program be adopted.

Motion carried (viva voce).

Mr. Stanczak introduced Steve Scudder, Assessor, who came forward to provide his report.

Mr. Scudder thanked those in attendance. He noted that the City Township was co-terminus which meant that its boundaries grew with the City of Bloomington. He introduced his staff members and key areas of responsibility: Terri Joyce, Chief Deputy/GIS Specialist; John Gochanour, Documents & Records Management; Kyle Strong, Residential Appraiser; Mike Ireland, Staff Analyst; and Tim Jorczak, Commercial Appraiser. Due to the pandemic, they were not in attendance. He addressed the property assessment cycle. There was a workflow to this annual process.

The State of Illinois had performed a Sales Ratio study in 2019. The Median Ratio for 2019 was 33.03. The state's expectation was 33.33. He presented the state's Department of Revenue's Sales Ratios for 2016 – 2019. The medians were 32.88, 33.16, 33.55 and 33.02 respectively. This demonstrated metrics were fair as monitored by the state.

The Assessor's Office has mapping and statistical software to assist staff. The City has been divided into neighborhoods which assists with assessment adjustments. If an individual wished to appeal their property's assessment, they file with the County's Board of Review. In calendar year 2020, there were 286 appeals filed. The Board of Review decreased the total assessed value by $8,739,077. Bar charts were provided that documented the Number of Appeals and Dollar Amount Change for 2014 – 2020. The County multiplier was 1. He added that the state's multiplier was also 1. A County Multiplier History chart for 2012 – 2020 was included. The City total Equalized Assessed Value (EAV) was $2,056,234, 826. EAV is generally divided by Residential and Commercial properties. There were 23,284 Residential Parcels and 2,289 Commercial Parcels. He provided a listing of the Top Property Taxpayers in the City Township.

In closing, he reminded those present of the Assessor's Office's website: wevaluebloomington.org. He expressed his appreciation again to those present at the meeting and to his staff for their efforts.

Mr. Stanczak introduced Deborah Skillrud, Supervisor, who came forward to provide her report.

Mrs. Skillrud thanked those in attendance in-person or virtually via Zoom. She introduced her staff. There were General Town and General Assistance (GA) staff. Catherine Davis, Comptroller and Tracey Covert, part time Administrative Assistant were General Town staff. Stephanie Uzueta, Intake/Front Office Coordinator, Tammie Turner & Jennifer Curtiss, Caseworkers, Tom Maruna, part time Workfare Coordinator and Jack White, Stevenson Center Fellow were GA staff. Staff is cross trained to perform work tasks of other positions.

She addressed Township Expenditures for Fiscal Years, (FY) 2017 – 2021. In FY 2021, expenditures had decreased across the board. She explained a couple of reasons for this decrease: 1.) decreased staffing and 2.) COVID – 19 and the impact of federal and state dollars. The Township was the payer of last resort.

She presented a Tax Levy Comparison for FY 2017 – 2021. The levy had been held flat for the past three (3) FY. The total levy was $2,351,500. In FY 2021, the impact of the levy on a $165,000 home was $61.069 as a portion of the total property tax bill.

GA had other sources of revenue. SSI Recoupment was one of the revenue sources. A chart had been provided that listed SSI Recoupment from FY 2013 – 2021. In FY 2021, there were no pending cases and fourteen (14) clients had been awarded SSI.

Ms. Skillrud addressed the pandemic. Statistics covered the period from March 2020 to the present. Charts had been prepared that showed the impact of COVID – 19 on the Township. The chart entitled Township Orientations 2020/21 addressed COVID – 19, Potential Twp, Referrals and Total. Referrals addressed individuals who might be sent to local churches, (i.e., undocumented persons), or the City of Bloomington and/or Mid Central Community Action for individuals who were over the income threshold. The Orientations Who Become Clients chart, (covered April 2020 through February 2021), documented that only twenty percent (20%) of all individuals who request services complete the required paperwork. The Township worked with the McLean County Housing Coalition to streamline processes. Coalition partners included the United Way, Mid Central Community Action, Normal Township, Salvation Army of McLean County, and the Immigration Project.

Ms. Skillrud addressed GA comparisons for FY 2016 – 2020. The first chart addressed yearly comparisons for new clients, redetermination, denials workfare assignments, and Emergency Assistance grants & denials. Redeterminations had been declining. She believed this could be impacted by: 1.) SSI determinations and 2.) COVID – 19, (i.e., federal stimulus dollars). If an individual is denied, the Township makes a referral to other service providers. Workfare has been increased. New GA clients were addressed. This chart compared new clients, redeterminations, and denials. The largest percentage of change was in redeterminations. Residence of GA clients was noted. This chart compared treatment center, subsidized, rent, own, live-in, and homeless. The largest percentage were renters. She also investigated Postal Code. There were two (2): 61701 and 61704. Most GA clients reside in the 61701 zip code. A breakdown by Age was presented. The percentages were consistent over time. Those who ages were between 26 – 40 ended up being the largest percentage. The final chart addressed Employability. This chart compared exempt, restricted and able. Most GA clients were able bodied. The Township offered classes to develop job and life skills.

Curt Oyer, elector, noted that the Township's Tax Levy had been held steady. He cited the difference between the fund balance and expenditures. Ms. Skillrud noted under state statute, (60 ILCS 1/85-65), townships shall not exceed an amount equal to or greater than 2.5 times the annual average expenditure of the previous 3 fiscal years. Capital funds would be excluded. A Property Condition Assessment had been completed for the Township Building. The building is eighteen (18) years old. The Town Fund balance has been increased slowly to address the maintenance and upkeep needs of the building. GA has been impacted by the pandemic. The federal government had provided citizens with stimulus checks. There were moratoriums on residential evictions and utility shut offs. In addition, Connect Transit had suspended fares from April 2020 to May 2021. The Township was the payer of last resort.

Moderator Stanczak commended the meeting, as well as the purpose and importance of the Township government. He opened the meeting to receive public comment. No one came forward to address the group.

Moderator Stanczak requested a motion to set the date and time for the 2022 Annual Town Meeting.

Motion by Stephanie Uzueta, seconded by Jennifer Curtiss, to set the next Annual Town Meeting on April 12, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

Motion carried. (viva voce)

Moderator Stanczak stated there was no additional business to be addressed and requested for a motion to adjourn.

Motion by Stephanie Uzueta, seconded by Jennifer Curtiss, that the meeting be adjourned.

Motion carried. (viva voce).

The meeting adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

Tracey Covert
Administrative Assistance/
Acting Township Clerk

David Stanczak, Moderator

Attested upon elector approval:

Leslie Yocum, Township Clerk