

**CITY OF BLOOMINGTON TOWNSHIP
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 2024
MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order by Leslie Yocum, Town Clerk, in the Government Center Boardroom, 4th floor, Room #400 of the Government Center Building, 115 E. Washington St., at 6:02 p.m. She requested everyone rise and join her in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Yocum introduced: Deborah Skillrud, Township Supervisor, and Steve Scudder, Township Assessor.

Mrs. Yocum then asked for nominations for a meeting Moderator.

Jennifer Curtiss nominated Debbie Stilwell as Moderator.

Mrs. Yocum closed nominations for Moderator at 6:04 p.m. and asked for a motion for Moderator.

Motion by Jennifer Curtiss, seconded by Gary Heinz, that Debbie Stilwell be elected Moderator.

Motion carried (viva voce).

Mrs. Yocum welcomed Debbie Stilwell as Moderator and asked her to come forward to be sworn in. She then administered her the Oath of Office as Moderator to which Mrs. Stilwell accepted.

Mrs. Stilwell opened the Town Meeting. She welcomed those in attendance and reminded them that the Annual Town Meeting's decision makers were the electors (i.e., registered voters) of the City of Bloomington Township. She stated that the next item on the agenda was approval of the minutes for the April 11, 2023 Annual Town Meeting. She stated that the minutes would be reviewed and approved at the 2025 meeting.

Mrs. Stilwell then called Steven Scudder, Township Assessor, forward to provide his report.

Assessor Scudder provided a brief overview of the report on 2023 assessments. He shared that the City of Bloomington is coterminous due the City being within six different townships to ensure fair and equitable assessments. He explained the tax cycle, assessment process, and the metrics used for assessment evaluations. He shared that the Township was divided into 115 neighborhoods and over 14,000 adjustments were made prior to turning assessments into the County. He explained that the City had received a County multiplier in 2022 and 2023 due to assessments falling behind rapid sales growth and neighborhood adjustments. He stated that all 27,000 parcels had been adjusted by the County and noted an increase in appeals in 2022 and 2023 based on the assessment adjustments. He explained the Equalized Assessed Value (EAV) increase and discussed how it affected residential and commercial properties. He presented a list of the top taxpayers in the Township, with State Farm being the highest. He shared that additional assessment information could be found on the <https://www.wevaluebloomington.org> website. He recognized and thanked Assessment office staff for their hard work throughout the assessment process. He ended by introducing his staff member in attendance, Kolton Canales, and then also thanked his staff not in attendance, Maureen Sternberg, Josh Gochanour, Kevin Walter, Ben Ireland, Kyle Strong and Mike Ireland.

Minutes of the Annual City of Bloomington Township Meeting
Tuesday, April 9, 2024; 6:00 PM

Deborah Skillrud, Township Supervisor, came forward to provide her report. She welcomed everyone to the meeting and briefly overviewed the functions and administrative side of the Township. She mentioned the Township Board of Trustees were not in attendance, but thanked them for their service. She then introduced Leslie Yocum, Township Clerk and City of Bloomington Clerk; Catherine Davis, Comptroller; Donna Gosnell, Bookkeeper; Debbie Stilwell, Part-time Administrative Assistant; Stephanie Uzueta, Intake Administrator; Jennifer Curtiss, Case Worker; and Gary Heinz, Part-time Workfare Coordinator. She also thanked Evergreen Memorial Cemetery Board Trustees: Joe Gibson, President; Garrett Thalgott, Vice President; and Brad Williams, Secretary/Treasurer, who were not present.

Supervisor Skillrud discussed Township expenditures noting that building renovations had contributed to the General Town expense increase to \$2,479,565 for 2024. She stated that cemetery expenses had also increased in 2024 to \$811,061 due to the purchase of Columbaria. She reported the tax levy amount had remained flat for the past six years at \$2,351,600, which resulted in an annual decrease in the tax rate levied for the past five years.

She gave an overview of the General Assistance Fund and the services provided by the Township for low income and emergency assistance. She noted stabilization in the General Assistance Fund, as well as funds spent on several programs serving the community. She stated that the Township expenditures had not fluctuated in relationship to EAV growth. She shared that through the Housing Eviction Relief Efforts (HERE) Program, the Township averted 92 clients from impending eviction and 67 from utility disconnects. She mentioned Owen's Nursery's support of the Promoting Others to Succeed (POTS) Recycling Program.

Supervisor Skillrud shared a recap of the Fiscal Year 2024 projects and changes at the Township. She briefly mentioned cemetery projects. She shared that legislative code changes had been rectified to allow services to individuals with Class X and/or Class 1 drug felonies beginning in the 2024 calendar year. She also mentioned Habitat for Humanity ReStore and shared where the Decennial Report could be found. She stressed the Township's openness to feedback.

She briefly moved onto Fiscal Year 2025 goals, which included expanding the POTS Recycling Program into Mclean County, expansion of wellness lifestyle classes, potential assistance with the East Street Basin, providing lockers for homeless on-site, becoming an onsite sponsor for SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR), and intergovernmental cooperation for Human Resource and Payroll services.

She then thanked her staff for their hard work, diligence, and dedication, and ended by sharing the Township's contact information.

Moderator Stilwell asked for a motion to set the date and time of the next Annual Town Meeting.

Motion by Jennifer Curtiss, seconded by Gary Heinz, to set the next Annual Town Meeting for April 8, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

Motion carried (Viva voce).

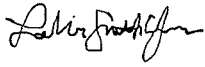
Moderator Stilwell then opened the meeting to receive public comment. No one spoke.

Moderator Stilwell then asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion by Jennifer Curtiss, seconded by Gary Heinz, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried (viva voce).

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.



Leslie Yocum, Township Clerk



Dave Stanczak, Moderator

In Process