

TOWN OF FREEPORT

Barbara L. Burns, Town Clerk

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MINUTES OF REGULAR SEMI-MONTHLY MEETING OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF FREEPORT

The Town Board of the Town of Freeport met on **Monday, December 4, 2017 at 5:30 PM**, Stephenson County Farm Bureau located at **210 W. Spring Street**, in the City of Freeport, Illinois.

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order:** Supervisor Sellers called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance** was recited and roll call taken as follows:
3. **Roll Call** - Board member present were: Trustee Nickee Bender, Trustee Joy Sellers,, Trustee Melinda Cook and Supervisor Patrick Sellers. Also present were Assessor Cynthia Petta Connell and Town Attorney, Michael J. Phillips Trustee Kathi Altensey was absent.
4. **Approval of Minutes for November 20, 2017** - A motion was made by Trustee Sellers and seconded by Trustee Bender to approve the minutes as presented for the November 20, 2017, Town Board Regular Meeting. A voice vote was taken and all voted in the affirmative. Supervisor Sellers declared the motion passed and the minutes were approved.

5. Approval of Bills Payable

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| General Town Fund | \$ 7,960.73 |
| General Assistance | <u>\$ 1,564.28</u> |
| Total | \$ 9,495.00 |

A motion was made by Trustee Bender to approve the Bills Payable and seconded by Trustee Cook. A roll call vote was taken as follows:
Trustee Bender yes, Trustee Sellers yes, Trustee Cook, yes, Supervisor Sellers, yes. Supervisor Sellers declared the motion passed and the Bills Payable were approved as presented.

6. **Discuss Tax Levy Ordinance 2017- TO – 03** (Approval on December 18, 2017 Board Meeting) Trustee Cook has a few questions regarding the differences in a Tax Levy and the Appropriation Budget. Attorney Phillips described in detail how the law dictates each of their differences and why there are differences in their passage by the Town.

7. **Supervisor's Report** – Supervisor Sellers reported to the Board that the Step To Your Destiny went well. Supervisor Sellers reported that there were 24 applications that were picked up with 3 pending and the rest were not returned. He also reported that 3 clients were terminated from Township for not following procedures in the Work In Training Program. The termination is for 90 days at which time the client can reapply for Township services. He also invited the Board to a Christmas gathering at Cimino's Italian Restaurant on December 21st at 5:30 P.M for Township employees and Board.

8. **Assessor's Report** – Assessor Connell reported to the Board that the Board of Review met last Friday (December 1st). She also discussed with the Board of a meeting that is scheduled for Friday, December 8th, with all the Taxing Bodies. This meeting was set to discuss the hiring of an outside Appraiser. This person may be asked to do a review appraisal as well as a written appraisal in defense of our assessments. This meeting was prompted due to an incident that happened when 2 commercial properties appealed their 2015 assessment, at the Property Tax Board Appeal Level (PTAB), and won by default as the Board of Review did not submit any evidence, not even that which was submitted to the Board of Review, by the Assessor's Office, in support of the 2015 Assessment. The Assessor's Office had no knowledge that these two properties had even filed with the PTAB and only found this when they got on the State website to look for any 2016 PTAB Appeals that might have been filed against Freeport Township. In hopes of preventing this from happening again Supervisor Sellers set up a meeting with all the Taxing Bodies to discuss the hiring of an Appraiser with the MIA accreditation, to do an independent review/appraisal for commercial/industrial properties that are seeking a lowering in assessment.

9. **Trustee's Report** – None stated.

10. **Public Comments** (3 minutes maximum per person) None stated

11. **Other Business** – None stated.

12. **Adjournment till Monday, December 18, 2017 at 5:30 P.M.** A motion was made by Trustee Sellers and seconded by Trustee Bender to adjourn until Monday, December 4, 2017 at 5:30 PM. A voice vote carried the motion and the meeting was adjourned to 6:00 PM.



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