

LAKE VILLA TOWNSHIP BOARD
Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, Feb 8, 2021
37908 N. Fairfield Rd. Lake Villa, IL 60046
6:00 pm.

Meeting live and via teleconference (712-775-7200 access code 746610#)

PUBLIC COMMENTS should be emailed to Supervisor@Lakevillatownship.org (if you do not have email call 847-356-2116) including your name, city, state and include topic or agenda item.

Public comments are welcomed. Public Comments received by 5PM on February 8, 2021 will be read at the beginning of the meeting under public comment.

- I. Call to order: Meeting was called to order by Supervisor Venturi at 6:00pm

- II. Roll call: In Attendance, Supervisor Venturi, Trustee Berker via Teleconference, Trustee Stout, Trustee McCollum, Trustee Johnson, Highway Commissioner Jim Jorgenson not in attendance, Assessor Jeff Lee via Teleconference, Clerk Jean Smuda.

- III. Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Supervisor Venturi

- IV. Approval of Minutes: Motion of approve minutes of the regular board meeting of January 11, 2021 by Trustee Stout, seconded by Trustee McCollum. Roll Call, all ayes, motion passes.

- V. Old Business
 - a. Discussion and possible action concerning continued violation of Random Drug testing requirement: Supervisor Venturi presented the board with a summary of the "Drug Testing Violation, Background and update." Supervisor Venturi read the summary to the board and asked for it to be put into the minutes. The floor was open for discussion. Trustee Stout stated the Highway Commissioner should agree to a drug test or return the Township truck. Trustee Johnson questioned if the resident observed him taking drugs? Supervisor Venturi said the resident spoke with him and observed that he had the appearance of glossy eyes and appeared to be affected by drugs while operating a Township Vehicle. Trustee Stout questioned if he causes an accident are we personally liable? The board has immunity because we are acting reasonably to correct the issue. We requested the Lake County States Attorney to intervene, however as it was a Township ordinance, the States Attorney's office informed us that we need to file a court action to enforce the ordinance and we have filed a court action. Trustee McCollum questioned how does someone get to continue a court case for over a year? Supervisor Venturi stated the litigation is taking longer because of Covid and it can take one or two years in the courts.

 - b. Discussion and possible action concerning Fresh Energy proposal to upgrade Township lighting to LED including ComEd incentives: The lighting in the Township office, community rooms, Highway department, shops, football field, sled hill, Dering Park and West Campus will be upgraded to LED. Motion to approve the upgrade subject to Supervisor's approval and not to exceed \$11,679.20 by Trustee McCollum, seconded by Trustee Stout. Roll Call, all ayes, motion passes.

- VI. New Business
 - a. Discussion and possible action concerning and extension of the Families First

Coronavirus Response Act: Motion to approve the extension of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act through March 31, 2021 by Trustee Johnson, seconded by Trustee Stout. Roll Call, all ayes, motion passes.

VII. Approve Payment of Bills

- a. Approve payment of current Town and Road district bills: Motion to approve the payment of current Town and Road district bills as amended by Trustee Stout, seconded by Trustee McCollum. Roll Call, all ayes, motion passes.
- b. Approve payroll payments from last meeting: Motion to approve the payroll payments from last meeting by Trustee Johnson, seconded by Trustee Stout. Roll Call, all ayes, motion passes.

VIII. Public Comment: No public comment. Jerold Coia and Jim Stout attended the meeting.

IX. Assessors Report: Assessor Lee reported the senior assessment freeze letter is going out next week. The office is encouraging the seniors to stay home, e-mail or mail in their documents to the office in order to keep them safe. Information can be found the web-site

X. Road Commissioners: Commissioner Jorgensen not in attendance

XI. Supervisors Report: Individuals associated with the Township and the Highway Department have reported having confirmed cases of Covid 19. Appropriate action has been taken to limit the risk of community spread. The Lake County Health Department contact tracing called and asked for names of the individuals. Supervisor Venturi offered Commissioner Jorgensen help if needed, Commissioner Jorgensen told Supervisor Venturi that he had everything under control. We will not be holding the St. Patrick's Day senior luncheon this year but we are considering offering a virtual lunch and we will deliver the meals to the seniors who register. Trustee McCollum questioned the Highway department's 100K budget for vehicle maintenance and they already are up to 71K in vehicle maintenance. At the Village of Lake Villa he has a larger fleet and we budget 28K for vehicle maintenance and 28K for supplies. The Township Highway Department has new vehicle, it doesn't make sense to spend that much money to maintain new truck, commented Trustee McCollum. Supervisor Venturi stated at the last meeting we talked about changing the accounting systems over to Quick Books and they require a credit card for their monthly billing. We generally don't have one; the one we have is used for General Assistance when a residence need help paying a utility bill and a monthly service fee at Peacock Camp. Suggestion would be to use the same credit card for the monthly Quick books billing with consensus from the board. Let the minutes reflect the board was in agreement with using the same credit card for the monthly billing.

XII. Calendar Review

- a. Next meeting Monday, March 8, 2021 @ 6:00 pm

XIII. Closed Session: None

- a. Discussion concerning employee discipline and enforcement including pending probable and imminent litigation: No Discussion took place.

XIV. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn regular board meeting by Trustee Johnson, seconded by Trustee Berker. Meeting adjourned at 6:32 pm.

Minutes of the February 8, 2021 Lake Villa Township regular board meeting has been prepared and respectfully submitted for approval at the next regular board meeting on Monday, March 8, 2021 by Jean Smuda, Clerk.

Lake Villa Township

Drug Testing violation

Background and update

Several years ago members of the Lake Villa Township Board became aware of a possible drug use issue with the Township Highway Commissioner Jim Jorgensen. After discussions between Board members and Jim Jorgensen regarding the use of drugs while driving Township Vehicles, Jim said he had controlled the issue and would continue to control the issue. Jim also agreed to participate in the Township mandatory drug test program required for all regular township employees driving Township Vehicles on public roads.

Jim participated in the program from 2016 and was random tested on at least 2 occasions. However, In January of 2020 Jim Jorgensen refused to take the random drug test and informed Board members he would no longer participate in the program or take any required drug tests. The Board again became concerned about Jim Jorgensen's use of drugs while driving Township vehicles.

The Township Board demanded the Jim either participate in the drug testing program or stop driving Township vehicles.

At the February 2020 Township Board meeting Jim agreed with the Township Board to participate in the drug testing program going forward, however within the next few days he informed the Board he would not participate.

The Township Board requested the Lake County State's Attorney intervene, however as it was a Township ordinance, the States Attorney's office informed us that we would need to file a court action to enforce our ordinance.

In April of 2020 after receiving residents concerns stating they met with Jim Jorgensen and he looked to be "on drugs" and was "concerned that he was driving around our neighborhood in this state". The Township Board was unfortunately left with very few options. It could not ignore the problem and allow the Highway Commissioner (or anyone else) operate Township trucks while under the influence of drugs. The Highway Commissioner should make our roads safer and not cause an unacceptable hazard.

We are now requesting the Court to order the Highway Commissioner answer discovery and provide details of his drug usage and to participate in the random drug testing program.

Presented to Lake Villa Township Board 2-8-2021

Daniel Venturi

Township Supervisor