

CUNNINGHAM TOWNSHIP BOARD  
Monday, February 4, 2019

The Cunningham Township Board met in Regular session Monday, February 4, 2019 at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers at the Urbana City Building, 400 S. Vine Street, Urbana, Illinois.

**ELECTED OFFICIALS PHYSICALLY PRESENT:**

**Chair:** Diane Wolfe Marlin  
**Trustees:** Bill Brown; Dean Hazen; Shirese Hursey; Dennis Roberts; Eric Jakobsson; Maryalice Wu  
**Township Clerk:** Charles A. Smyth  
**Supervisor:** Danielle Chynoweth

**ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT VIA TELECONFERENCE:** Assessor Wayne T. Williams

**ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT:** Jared Miller

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Frederic Grosser, William Harris

1. **ROLL CALL**

Chair Marlin called the meeting of the Cunningham Township Board to order at 7:06 p.m.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Trustee Brown made a motion to approve minutes from November 5, 2018. Trustee Miller seconded and the motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

3. **ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

There were none.

4. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There was none.

5. **COMMITTEE TO VERIFY BILLS**

The following items presented in omnibus fashion by Supervisor Chynoweth:

- a. Town Fund - \$28,679.30
- b. General Assistance Fund - \$44,026.64

Trustee Miller made a motion to approve the Town Fund for \$28,679.30 and the General Assistance Fund for \$44,026.64, seconded by Trustee Hazen. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

6. **REPORTS OF OFFICERS**

a. **Supervisor's Report:**

Supervisor Chynoweth provided the board with a written monthly report and gave a summary, noting that General Assistance participants are at 113 (down from 120 of last month), of which 38 are homeless; 37 are assigned to community workfare; three are on the job search track; 60 are disabled with pending social security income (SSI)/social security disability (SSDI) cases, and their age average is 38. For homeless assistance, eight households served (down from 22 of the previous month). She noted that the office helps with applications to waitlists over the phone and provides an address for those who are homeless. She described a recent case where an individual on GA moved to into housing with help from donations to the Township's angel fund, the first housing he has had in two years and is now working at Salt and Light.

Supervisor Chynoweth provided follow up on previously presented poverty data. She thanked and introduced PhD student Allan Axelrod who has been helping with statistical analysis in the office for the past year. She noted that, adjusting for university student population, there is a poverty problem in Urbana and it is significant, providing a table of comparisons in her monthly written report. Trustee Brown asked if the University of Illinois has aggregated data from students. He considered the age rates appropriate and tends to agree but noted that we probably get more than

our share of the poorer students as we don't have a large luxury apartment presence compared to Champaign.

Mr. Axelrod added that he's met with one faculty member about food insecurity data and attempting a systemic analysis but the data is hard to come by. Trustee Roberts asked if there is a correlation between large rental population versus home ownership and poverty? Mr. Axelrod said that he would need to get back to that, while Trustee Jakobsson noted a related statistic, if available, would be cost of housing. Mr. Jakobsson stated that this is one area we can impact with policy that make affordable housing more likely. Ms. Chynoweth added that county wide housing costs are available and she will share it with trustees and that it does not break it down to CU, but it does talk about urban housing. Trustee Wu asked that the actual poverty rate be included in the data and is assuming it is based on federal standards. Mr. Axelrod stated that analysis is based on the 2012-2016 community census data.

Supervisor Chynoweth also shared maps of geographic distribution of who is accessing GA noting the spread across the community with homeless recipients tagged to the Township office. She also announced that the township is supporting a National Science Foundation grant application with Univ. of Illinois departments to get three data scientists for three years to study poverty in Champaign County.

b. Assessor's Report:

William Harris, new Deputy Chief assessor, provided the Assessors report. He noted that notices have been sent out and that they have been dealing with responding information. The current will be spent correcting characteristics. One of the major projects is dealing with the large quantity of paper which they hope to have all property data digitized in 2019. He noted going through this same process in 2011 in Dekalb GA. He also indicated that a lot of time is being spent on the senior exemptions that are coming in. Mr. Harris also added that a goal is to go completely digital and have everything quickly accessible by the end of 2020. In response to questions from Trustees, Mr. Harris responded that they hope to have some data online and Trustee Jakobsson indicated a need for offsite backup. Mr. Harris explained the timeline for the two exemptions and how they are working to get information out early so that people will file now so that there are fewer issues on follow-up and closer to the deadline at the end of the year.

7. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was none.

8. **NEW BUSINESS**

a. **Resolution No. T-2019-02-002R:** Resolution regarding the release of Closed Sessions Minutes (For the period ending January 31, 2019)

Town Clerk Charles Smyth presented Resolution No. T2019-02-002R with recommendation for approval. Clerk Smyth noted the closed minutes to be released. Trustee Brown made a motion to approve Resolution No. T-2019-02-002R as presented, seconded by Trustee Hazen. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

b. **Resolution No. T-2019-02-003R:** Resolution authorizing the Cunningham Township to sign a depository pledge agreement with the State of Illinois (Illinois Funds)

Township Supervisor Chynoweth presented Resolution T2019-02-003R as furthering a goal of achieving higher returns on Township funds. Trustee Wu made a motion to approve Resolution No. T-2019-02-003R as presented, seconded by Trustee Brown. The motion carried by a unanimous voice vote.

**Resolution No. T-2019-02-004R:** Resolution Authorizing the Cunningham Township Supervisor to pay funds to Rosecrance for Consolidated Social Service Fund agreement for Men’s Transitional Housing FY 2018.

Supervisor Chynoweth presented Resolution No.T2019-02-004R and provided background on Rosecrance noting the programs they took over from other agencies. They closed some of those programs but Times Center did remain open until the end of the fiscal year though at a reduced level. There were email exchanges, some to an old account, and Rosecrance asked for an update on payments last month. Ms. Chynoweth noted the history of email requests with their second request arriving July 17. She said other agencies were also late and received payment, but stated that she now needs board approval to make payment; that it is up to the board if payments are made. Discussion followed.

Trustee Roberts reviewed the two requested payments with Supervisor Chynoweth, noting that there were other late payments and those were paid. She also stated that she has been meeting with City of Urbana Grants Manager Sheila Dodd and will be much stricter and clearer going forward. Ms. Chynoweth noted that two \$2500 payments were budgeted. Trustee Brown asked about performance measures with Ms. Chynoweth noting bare minimum reports with similar statistics in quarter three and less in quarter four. Trustee Hursey asked for additional history related to Rosecrance. Ms. Chynoweth responded that Rosecrance closed several programs and has now leased the TIMES center to another group, CU at Home where there is a men’s shelter and warming center id being run by CU at Home. Rosecrance is not running any programs now but the request is for reimbursement for past programs.

Trustee Jakobsson moved approval of Resolution T2019-02-004R, seconded by Trustee Roberts. Trustee Jakobsson stated that as long as we don’t violate contractual obligations, he leans towards partial reimbursement as Rosecrance did not stay open at the level of what was expected. Attorney Grosser concurred with Ms. Chynoweth’s explanation as correct, that payment is at the board’s discretion with three choices: do nothing, make one payment, or two payments. Trustee Jakobsson moved to amend the resolution to make payment for only quarter three at \$2500 with language as suggested by Supervisor Chynoweth. The motion was seconded by Trustee Wu. The motion to amend carried by unanimous voice vote. With no further discussion, the motion as amended carried by unanimous voice vote.

## 9. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Cunningham Town Board, Chair Marlin declared the meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Charles A. Smyth

Town Clerk

This meeting was video recorded with website link (viewable on demand):

<https://www.urbanaininois.us/node/7549>

This meeting was broadcast on cable television (UPTV) and streamed live:

<http://urbanaininois.us/uptv>

**Minutes Approved: March 4, 2019**