

STATE OF ILLINOIS

Diane Wolfe Marlin, Chair

CUNNINGHAM TOWNSHIP

Charles A. Smyth, Township Clerk

CUNNINGHAM TOWNSHIP BOARD

400 S. Vine Street, Urbana, Illinois

Monday, May 11, 2020

The Cunningham Township Board met in Regular session Monday, May 12, 2020 at 6:30pm virtually via Zoom (due to the Illinois Governor's Stay at Home Order).

ELECTED OFFICIALS PHYSICALLY PRESENT:

Chair: Diane Wolfe Marlin

Trustees: Bill Brown; Bill Colbrook; Shirese Hursey; Eric Jakobsson; Jared Miller; Dennis Roberts; Maryalice Wu

Township Clerk: Charles A. Smyth

Supervisor: Danielle Chynoweth

Assessor: Wayne Williams

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT VIA TELECONFERENCE: ALL

ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Frederic Grosser

1. ROLL CALL

Chair Marlin called the meeting of the Cunningham Township Board to order at 6:30 pm.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Trustee Roberts made a motion to approve minutes of April 13, 2020, seconded by Trustee Wu. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

3. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

5. COMMITTEE TO VERIFY BILLS

The following items were presented in omnibus fashion:

1. Town Fund

2. General Assistance Fund

Township Supervisor Danielle Chynoweth reviewed the town fund and general assistance fund expenditures. Town fund expenditures totaled \$51,124.54 and General Fund expenditures totaled \$73,330.80. Supervisor Chynoweth noted an increase to 150 participants in GA of which 63 are homeless. Twenty three have found temporary housing.

Trustee Miller made a motion to approve the Town Fund expenses for \$51,124.54, seconded by Trustee Hursey. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote. Trustee Roberts moved approval of the General Assistance Fund of \$73,330.80, seconded by Trustee Jakobsson and carried by unanimous voice vote.

6. REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Supervisor Danielle Chynoweth noted her monthly report and addressed the county-wide partnership Covid Relief Rental Assistance Fund. She noted that it is for those unemployed due to Covid 19 issues and to date have served 23 households. She reported on assistance statistics and has closed eight cases with no terminations as workfare is unavailable. She noted Angel Fund donations and is using that for weekly bucket brigades for prepared meals, provisions, toiletries and cleaning supplies delivering 211 buckets serving about 400 people. This program extends to covering

Urbana School District families. Efforts are being made to find more permanent housing for the homeless. She also described how to access the Township Building given the closure of Green Street. Ms. Chynoweth then answered questions from trustees describing how the Rental Assistance Relief Fund is being used and related issues regarding use of Housing Authority vouchers for those in shelters, definitions of homelessness, and upcoming examination of CDBG funding.

Assessor Williams provided an update noting that property tax bills have been mailed out by the county. His office is answering questions related to the bills. In response to trustee questions, Mr. Williams described exemptions and noted that county policy requires that some of these need to be renewed annually. He also noted that only a single Homestead exemption is allowed per owner. Mr. Williams has asked that the annual renewal need be waived by the county.

7. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was none.

8. **NEW BUSINESS**

a. **Ordinance No. T2020-05-001: An Ordinance Approving the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance (Fiscal Year 2020-2021)**

Supervisor Chynoweth presented the tentative 2020-2021 Township budget in preparation for 30 day review and public hearing. Ms. Chynoweth noted main points including that GA payments will stay at \$300 per month. She anticipates a large increase in GA clients to 190. She also increased the Rental Assistance Budget while decreasing Social Services funding. There is also a set-aside fund for emerging needs. Assessor Williams noted an increase of about 2% in his overall budget noting the need to replace a server. He expects to underspend his current budget. He noted health care costs and lowered IMRF funding liabilities. Questions from trustees followed.

Supervisor Chynoweth noted that funding for the Township is property tax based and as this year's assessments are complete, there should be little effect on the budget due to Covid-19 this year, but that may change the following year. She described places in the budget with flexibility, potential cuts in staff and other budget tightening efforts as well as looking at other income sources and levy changes. Ms. Chynoweth noted that on the last page of the budget are the fund balances beginning and end of the fiscal years. She stated that the Town Fund is generally balanced but that the GA fund is where the deficit is occurring due to increases in GA participants. She discussed funding options, potentially trying to restore the GA levy to previous levels, and that her budget is based on experiences of past recessions.

Trustee Brown moved to place the Budget on file for review, seconded by Trustee Jakobsson. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

b. **Rescheduling of the Regular meeting of June 8, 2020 to June 15, 2020**

Supervisor Chynoweth noted that because of the days between regular meetings, the next regular meeting of the Town Board needs to be moved to provide for 30 days before the Budget public hearing, so requested the move to June 15, 2020. A motion to reschedule the regular June meeting to June 15, 2020 was made by Trustee Roberts and seconded by Trustee Miller. The motion passed 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 7:20 pm.

Charles A. Smyth
Township Clerk

This meeting was video recorded and broadcast on cable television. Meeting materials and video:

<https://www.urbanaininois.us/node/8646>

Minutes Approved: June 15, 2020