

Elgin Township Board
729 S. McLean Blvd Elgin, IL 60123
Meeting of January 10, 2022 Minutes

The regular meeting of the Town of Elgin, Illinois was held in Lower Level. The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Ken Bruderle at 6:01 p.m. Deputy Clerk Mihalec led the Pledge of Allegiance.

INVOCATION

Trustee Alex Lopez gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL

Trustees Mark Bialek, Alex Lopez, Janet Rogalla, and Eric Stare, and Supervisor Ken Bruderle were present.
Quorum was established.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Supervisor Bruderle announced the rules of the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made by Trustee Bialek to approve the minutes of the December 13, 2021, regular Township Board meeting. Motion seconded by Trustee Stare. Motion carried 5-0-0.

REPORTS

1. Assessor Comments: The Assessor reported that his office has completed the Kane County Board of Review on December of 2021. The computer system server was replaced in December of 2021, and the computers in two of the work stations are going to be replaced. His office is currently reviewing properties for the 2022 assessments for the 2023 real estate tax bills and is also going over sales and reviewing assessments. However, the weather is slowing down their field work.

2. Road Comments: Winter has definitely set in, as there have been 5 weather events since December 28th, with 3 inches on 12/28, 2.5 inches on 12/30, 4 inches on 1/1 and 1/2, dusting mainly dealing with blowing snow on 1/5 and 1/6, and just under .1 inches on 1/8 and 1/9. Their newest truck went down on New Year's Day and is currently at International having a bad sensor repaired. Thankfully, all of this is under warranty, and their chipper truck was already outfitted for plowing and spreading. The shop crane had its yearly inspection, which it passed with flying colors. No new update on the Coomb's Road Bridge, and March is still the target for construction letting.

3. Kane County Sheriff Dept Representative: Not present.

4. South Elgin Police Dept. Representative: Not present.

5. Elgin Police Dept. Representative: Not present.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Review and Audit of Bills/Funds: Discussion held. A motion was made by Trustee Stare to approve the audit/bills funds for the period on or before 1/10/22 in the amount of \$26,464.35 for General Town fund, \$6,432.90 for General Assistance fund, \$264.45 for the Senior fund, \$16,355.94 for the General Road fund, \$2,276.09 for the Insurance fund, for a total of all funds \$51,793.73. Motion seconded by Trustee Rogalla. Motion carried: 5-0-0.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Ride in Kane Contract –Kane County Division of Transportation Representative Jennifer Becker gave the presentation to the Board.

Ride in Kane is a public paratransit bus service that has been operating since 2008 as consortium of fifteen different sponsoring government and social service agencies. Local funding is matched with federal transit funds. Each sponsor has an agreement with Kane County Division of Transportation (KDOT) in which they commit a specific dollar amount of funding. Pace is the local provider of the buses, drivers, and rides 24/7.

Before COVID, the service completed 80,000 trips overall per year. In 2020, there were 49,000. In the first nine months, there were 37,000. According to federal guidelines, the eligible riders are aged 65 and older and the disabled. AID was previously the federal grantee and “herded the cats” until January 1st of this year, when the Kane County Department of Transportation became the federal grantee. KDOT is now trying to get things in order and make sure that the federal guidelines are being met.

During much of 2021, Elgin Township residents were taking an average of two rides per month. However, in October, residents took twenty-three rides during the month.

Ride in Kane just launched a brand-new website featuring each sponsor’s own unique information. For Elgin Township, the website directs those who are interested to Claudia in the Elgin Township office, and she determines eligibility for anyone in unincorporated Elgin Township. Elgin Township can determine what parameters/type of rides – such as rides to the pharmacy, doctor appointments, and other medical appointments. Even though these rides are critical, so far, the Township’s commitment of specific amounts of money for each program (senior and disabled) has not been reached yet.

For Elgin Township, local rides are a distance of up to ten miles, for which the copay for qualified residents is \$5. The cost to Pace is approximately \$50 per ride. A special type of driver is required for the mobility-challenged/those in wheelchairs. The local entity pays 50% of the local match; however, KDOT subsidizes every ride a bit, so the Township pays a little less than 50%.

KDOT hopes that we will continue to be partners. Elgin Township has committed up to \$15,000 for the senior portion of the program, and only a fraction of that is paid on a monthly basis.

Trustee Lopez asked if we have enough people for the program, and Ms. Becker stated that the program could see more participation if the Township gets the word out and tells residents that it is a resource that is critical to them, as well as outlining the parameters in these communications. Supervisor Bruderle stated that our population is not fully taking advantage of the program and that we do not have any limitations in place: If they need a ride, they get a ride. Trustee Lopez stated that this a basic need. Supervisor Bruderle added that this program can help in the fight against isolation, depending on how many seniors are qualified and use the program. Trustee Bialek stated that the population in rural areas already has transportation because they have chosen to live in a rural area. Ms. Becker replied that even seniors in rural areas may not have adult children home during the day to take them to appointments. Also, when the disabled turn 21, they stop receiving school services (including transportation), so they will need rides to work. Additionally, those eligible for the programs may be intimidated about taking Uber/Lyft, but they recognize PACE, taxis, and the lift buses.

Ms. Becker mentioned that KDOT would be happy to assist in the promotion to residents, and the Township could consider offering what AID in the past: a voucher system. Trustee Lopez stated that the Township could help with the \$5 copay/ride program and/or possibly offering different tiers of assistance.

Supervisor Bruderle stated that the steps are: signing the agreement, ironing out what the Board wants the program to look like, and setting an amount based on the vision for the program – especially since the line item for this program in the Township’s 2022 fiscal year budget went down to \$1,000 from \$2,000 in FY2021,

possibly because of the funds not being used in FY2021 due to COVID. However, the Township has never come close to using the entire amount specified in the contract. Ms. Becker responded that, while the Township's cost is about \$17 per trip, they are willing to work with the Township should it bump up against a challenge. Supervisor Bruderle followed with urging that, if the Township is going to promote the program, it needs to be prepared to meet the increased demand.

Trustee Bialek asked if the copay is \$5 for a one-way trip and to be paid via cash, and Ms. Becker replied in the affirmative and that KDOT needs to figure out a cashless system in the future. Also, longer rides to work can be unaffordable, so KDOT is working on a new program in which the poor can get rides to work based on income guidelines.

Supervisor Bruderle asked if this agreement helps KDOT in their efforts to receive federal funding for the program, and Ms. Becker responded that it does help with the federal application process and also affirms two separate funding sources from the past. In response to the Supervisor's question regarding this funding helping to lower the Township's costs, Ms. Becker replied that it does. Additionally, she said that the Township can iron out the parameters with KDOT's Ride in Kane coordinator Krystal Spracklen and that the agreement before the Board tonight reaffirms the amounts of the past standard agreements; however, it covers their calendar year budget, which is not synced with the Township's fiscal year.

Trustee Stare stated that regardless of the amount KDOT receives from federal transit funds, the taxpayers are going to be paying for this on the back end even with the federal funds. Supervisor Bruderle reiterated Trustee Lopez's comment that a supportive amount be budgeted and spent to zero, as it would be a good financial management practice to use all of these funds to serve the needs of the Township.

Discussion arose regarding the restrictions, and Supervisor Bruderle stated that Claudia had reported that there are no restrictions: The money can be used for any type of ride by recipients whom she determines are qualified to be on the eligibility list. Additional discussion was initiated by Trustee Rogalla regarding appropriate destinations and the ability to police proper use in that regard, and Supervisor Bruderle stated that the people who really need the service for its intended purposes will use it. Trustee Stare stated that the seniors have paid their dues, and he also expressed concern as to how the numbers were to be presented in the request for more federal funds. Supervisor Bruderle stated that the Township will participate up to the dollar amounts listed in the contracts and that the Township is being asked to recommit via the new paperwork because the administrators have changed, much like reconfirming the paperwork with a new landlord. He personally believes that it is a good program and that the Township should continue its support. Trustee Rogalla echoed Trustee Stare's concerns regarding how the numbers are presented. Supervisor Bruderle noted that the Township could go over the \$15,000 in the agreement, especially if the Township creates awareness. Furthermore, this is an example of the value of the Township, as more will participate if there is more promotion. In fact, this could be an opportunity as an addition to the Senior Access Pass. This prompted Trustee Stare to ask about the benefits of the Senior Access Pass, and Supervisor Bruderle answered that only Senior Services Associates is participating at this point – which is leading seniors to become informed that the Township extensively funds Senior Services Associates' programs. Trustee Stare then expressed his support for the amounts in the agreements as long as the funds can be used legitimately. Supervisor Bruderle volunteered having the Ride in Kane monthly report from KDOT in the Board packets.

A motion was made by Supervisor Bruderle to affirm both agreements: the Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) Phase 9 and 10 with projected service dates of July 2021 through August 2023 in the amount of \$5,172.00 and Section 5310 (for seniors) Phase 17 and 18 with projected service dates of August 2019 through August 2023 in the amount of \$15,000. The motion was seconded by Trustee Lopez. Motion carried: 5-0-0.

2. Youth Funding Schedule: Supervisor Bruderle read the Summer Programs for Youth at Risk Schedule 2022:

App deadline 3/4/22
Packets ready for pick-up 3/8/22
Decision made at 4/4/22 Board Meeting
Checks issued 5/9/22

There was discussion regarding preferences in the method of receiving any literature outside of the actual application. Trustee Rogalla stated her preference to receive the extra reading materials at the presentation. There was a Board discussion, and it was decided that the grant applicants should bring copies of any extra reading materials to the April 4th Board meeting. Trustee Lopez noted that the applicant presentations are valuable from a learning perspective.

3. Elgin Public Museum – Brick

Supervisor Bruderle presented information regarding the Elgin Public Museum’s museum garden brick fundraiser. While the museum is located in Hanover Township, the museum plays a vital role for Elgin Township residents. For \$100, “The People of Elgin Township” could be put on a commemorative brick. A motion was made by Supervisor Bruderle to have the Township purchase a brick to allow for discussion on the matter and was seconded by Trustee Bialek. Trustee Stare stated that he was against the idea and would rather personally pay for it, as did Trustee Rogalla. The question was called, and it failed 0-5-0.

Supervisor Bruderle posed a new motion in which he and all of the Board members would each pitch in \$20. This was seconded by Trustee Stare, and then Supervisor Bruderle had Trustee Stare read off the benefits derived from the brick sponsorship. Supervisor Bruderle stated that the two tickets that were a benefit could be given away as a prize to a listener the next time he is on the Senior Showcase radio show. Discussion ensued, and the trustees agreed that they would prefer using their personal money to fund the brick. The motion carried: 5-0-0.

4. Ecker Center Emergency Funding Request – Sprinkler System

Ecker Center for Behavioral Health received news of an unanticipated mandated capital expenditure of at least \$13,000 after an inspection of their sprinkler system. Supervisor Bruderle stated that, even though Ecker Center just received their Social Service funding, this unexpected mandatory expense could cause them to reduce services. As Ecker Center does not want to be forced to do that, Development Director Deb Howe has reached out to Elgin Township, Hanover Township, and other potential donors for donations. To enable discussion, Supervisor Bruderle made a motion for a \$1,000 contribution, and Trustee Bialek seconded the motion. Trustee Stare asked who else is contributing, and where the proposed level of contribution is relative to the others. The only known contribution at this time is NAMI – Kane County North at \$500. Trustee Lopez stated that government is about serving the community, and unless we cannot help, we should help, as it is the neighborly thing to do. He later stated that a percentage of Ecker’s needed funds would be okay for the Township to contribute if they are asking other entities, and the money is there to serve the people. Discussion about an amount was held, and Supervisor Bruderle withdrew his original motion and Trustee Bialek withdrew his second. Supervisor Bruderle then made a motion for the amount to be \$1,500. Trustee Bialek seconded it, and the motion passed 5-0-0.

5. Mental Health Board Referendum Timeline

Supervisor Bruderle read the timeline:

Presentation to BOT – introduction	Feb 14	2022
Board adoption of Resolution authorizing referenda (2)	March 14	2022
<i>Last day to adopt a resolution or ordinance for a binding public question</i>	<i>April 11</i>	<i>2022</i>
Ballot Certification by Town Clerk (filed with County Clerk)	April 21	2022

First day to publish and post notice of referendum question for ballot	April 29	2022
Early voting starts	May 19	2022
<i>Last day to publish and post notice of referendum</i>	<i>June 20</i>	<i>2022</i>
Election Day - Gen'l Primary	June 28	2022

The Primary Election date in Illinois has been changed to June	
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Next date after June would be November General Election	
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Trustee Lopez asked if the States Attorney had approved the language, and Supervisor Bruderle stated that she had not because the Kane County States Attorney is not the Township’s legal counsel. Trustee Lopez asked if the previous Board used legal counsel and stated that the Township attempted to form the 708 Mental Health Board after voter approval. Supervisor Bruderle stated that the previous board did utilize legal counsel regarding the language on the ballot, but not on the formation of the 708 Mental Health Board. He also noted that what the Township Board does in forming the 708 Board is critical, as it is autonomous once it is created. Therefore, having a member from the Township Board on the 708 Board would be a good idea. Trustee Stare stated that the Board had made a commitment to placing a question on the ballot regarding mental health funding and a 708 Board, and he fully intends to follow through. Supervisor Bruderle stated that the Board following up on this pledge is a show of integrity, and he is proud of the them.

SUPERVISOR’S COMMENTS

- GA/EA interview room will be finished within the next week. It will meet confidentiality, COVID deterrent, and privacy needs of the Township, as windows do not ensure confidentiality or privacy. Additionally, the Township saved money by reusing a door.
- The community continues to be generous in contributing to the needs of some seniors in the provision of food for their pets.
- Twenty-one seniors were awarded \$500 each toward their copays over the coming year at the participating pharmacy (The Medicine Stop) via the Senior Prescription Drug Program.
- The Senior Access Pass is still popular and has been a successful vehicle for getting seniors out and participating in the programs at Senior Services Associates.
- All but one of the Social Service funding checks have been delivered to the respective social service agencies. Even though no agency received the amount that they requested, he is proud of the Board’s work on this. Additionally, the recipients were grateful.
- Another example of how Elgin Township serves its residents is funeral assistance, and the Township recently contributed \$500 toward the cost of cremation for an individual who was fatally injured in an auto accident.
- Work on the Committee on Youth will be beginning with Trustee Stare and Joann Hartmann creating mission and vision statements and other elements of the committee. Applications will be available for youth and adult committee members, and the committee cannot (by statute) have fewer than five members (all having staggered terms).
- The Committee on Seniors will be meeting on January 27th. An effort is being made to encourage the committee to not just allocate funds, but to also be look for gaps in services, as Senior Services Associates cannot do it all.

TRUSTEE COMMENTS

Trustee Rogalla:

- Happy new year! We have a great team.

Trustee Stare:

- He will be meeting with Joann Hartmann to kickstart the Committee on Youth as soon as possible.
- Trustee Stare also asked if the Township is legally required to fund organizations that serve illegal immigrants. Supervisor Bruderle brought up that the Township is only a funder of the direct providers. Trustee Lopez replied that, if the Township were direct providers, the Township would create the rules. As it typically uses a third party, federal guidelines might preclude it from excluding illegal immigrants. He added that it is about helping the community. Trustee Stare asked as to where the line is drawn on accountability, and Trustee Lopez stated that we pay for incarcerations, and that it has to be fair. Supervisor Bruderle suggested that this may not be a “one size fits all” solution, and he added that he would follow up with TOI to find out if we are required to fund social service agencies that serve illegal immigrants. Trustee Stare stated that it is not the Township’s responsibility to foot the bill for somebody who breaks the law, and he will continue to ask this same question until he receives an answer. He also stated that he wants to know if we can have a referendum about funding services for illegal immigrants unless the public is likely to support such funding. He wants the question to go to the taxpayers.

Trustee Bialek:

- Thanks to Jason Krabbe for the tour of the garage on Friday. He stated that Commissioner Krabbe had the four-man crew “all hands on deck” with the weather event. He will be going on a ride-along with Jason in the future.
- Congratulations to Dementia Friendly Elgin. They just got their 501(c)(3).

Trustee Lopez:

- As past liaison of the Elgin Township 708 Mental Health Board, he wants to be sure that the Board puts a bulletproof question on the ballot.
- Trustee Lopez wants to go on record that the reason to be here is to help the community, regardless of status. The undocumented help our community and help our country move forward.

Supervisor Bruderle stated that he could not be more proud of this Board.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next regular meeting is scheduled for February 14, 2021, at 6:00 pm at Township offices, 729 S McLean Blvd. Elgin, IL 60123. Supervisor Bruderle stated that, because it is Valentine’s Day, the Trustees are encouraged to bring their spouses/significant others, as there will be something special.

ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Rogalla moved to adjourn, seconded by Trustee Stare. Motion carried: 5-0-0. Meeting adjourned 8:11 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Deputy Clerk Mihalec

Jeanette Mihalec, Deputy Clerk

Date