AFTON TOWNSHIP
REGULAR MEETING
December 10, 2019

The regular meeting of the Afton Township Board was convened at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 10, 2019, at the Elva Town Hall with Clerk Sherry Hellmuth presiding.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Clerk Hellmuth requested everyone stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

The roll call of members was conducted by Clerk Hellmuth; Road Commissioner James Elliott, Trustees Julie Barr, Craig Donnelly, Eric Christensen and Steve Hilleson, and Clerk Sherry Hellmuth answered the call. Supervisor Randall Bourdages was absent.

PUBLIC FORUM

Clerk Hellmuth requested a change to the meeting order allowing DeKalb City Manager, Mr. Bill Nicklas to speak regarding development at State Route 23 and Gurler Road. Mr. Nicklas provided copies of a map (attached) showing the property being discussed. The map shows four parcels that are either under option, contract, or owned by Kruzinski Construction, approximately a 550 acre development site for a "data center" which will provide around 350 jobs (perhaps fewer). There were discussions with this unnamed company two years ago, but plans were put on hold; now that the State of Illinois has provided more incentives for data center type business, plus the nearby location of higher electrical power in this area, talks have resumed. The company is looking to make a $750 million dollar investment in four buildings plus constructing their own power generation. Mr. Nicklas will be meeting with company representatives on December 18th. DeKalb is not the only Illinois site the company is reviewing. Mr. Nicklas indicated that the property would be annexed to the city (like South Pointe) and there would be a 50/50 property tax incentive for 20 years (requiring inter-governmental agreements by all taxing bodies).

Although, the data center will cause an increase in traffic on Gurler Rd., it will be mostly cars for employees with few semi-trucks and trailers. The potential development on the north side of Gurler Road will have considerable semi-truck and trailer traffic. Ultimately, traffic signals will be located at State Route 23 and Gurler Rd. and at Gurler Rd. and Peace Rd. Gurler Rd. will have lane configuration much like Fairview Rd. State Representatives in our area, Tom Demmer and Jeff Keicher, are working with the state legislature to obtain about $1 million in capital funds for a portion of the road upgrades. There was a brief review of the development on the north side of Gurler Rd.

If the DeKalb site is selected for the data center, the company is hoping to break ground the middle of 2020. Mr. Nicklas will return to meet with the Afton board in January or February to provide an update.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Trustee Christensen. The motion was seconded by Trustee Donnelly. Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES
A motion was made by Trustee Donnelly to approve the minutes of the regular township board meeting held on November 12, 2019. The motion was seconded by Trustee Barr. Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS
A motion to approve the Afton Township Road & Bridge District Fund Expense Report totaling **$18,827.53** for the December, 2019, township meeting was made by Trustee Hilleson. The motion was seconded by Trustee Christensen. Motion passed.

A motion to approve the Afton Township General Fund Expense Report totaling **$4,657.00** for the December, 2019, township meeting was made by Trustee Christensen. The motion was seconded by Trustee Hilleson. Motion passed.

CEMETERY
No report.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
No report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS
None

NEW BUSINESS
A motion was made by Trustee Barr to approve the Afton Township Tax Levy Ordinance No. 2020-20-A001. The motion was seconded Trustee Hilleson. Motion unanimously passed.

A motion was made by Trustee Christensen to approve the Afton Township Road District Tax Levy Ordinance No. 2020-20-A002. The motion was seconded Trustee Donnelly. Motion unanimously passed.

REPORTS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS
Clerk Hellmuth reported that her application was accepted for the TOI Voluntary Township Clerk Certification program. There is a $25 fee and continuing education requirements to be fulfilled by attending TOI conferences and online webinars.

ADJOURNMENT
A motion was made by Trustee Barr to adjourn the meeting, and the motion was seconded by Trustee Hilleson, with all in favor. The Regular Meeting of the Afton Township Board of Trustees was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Hellmuth

Sherry Hellmuth, Clerk
Afton Township

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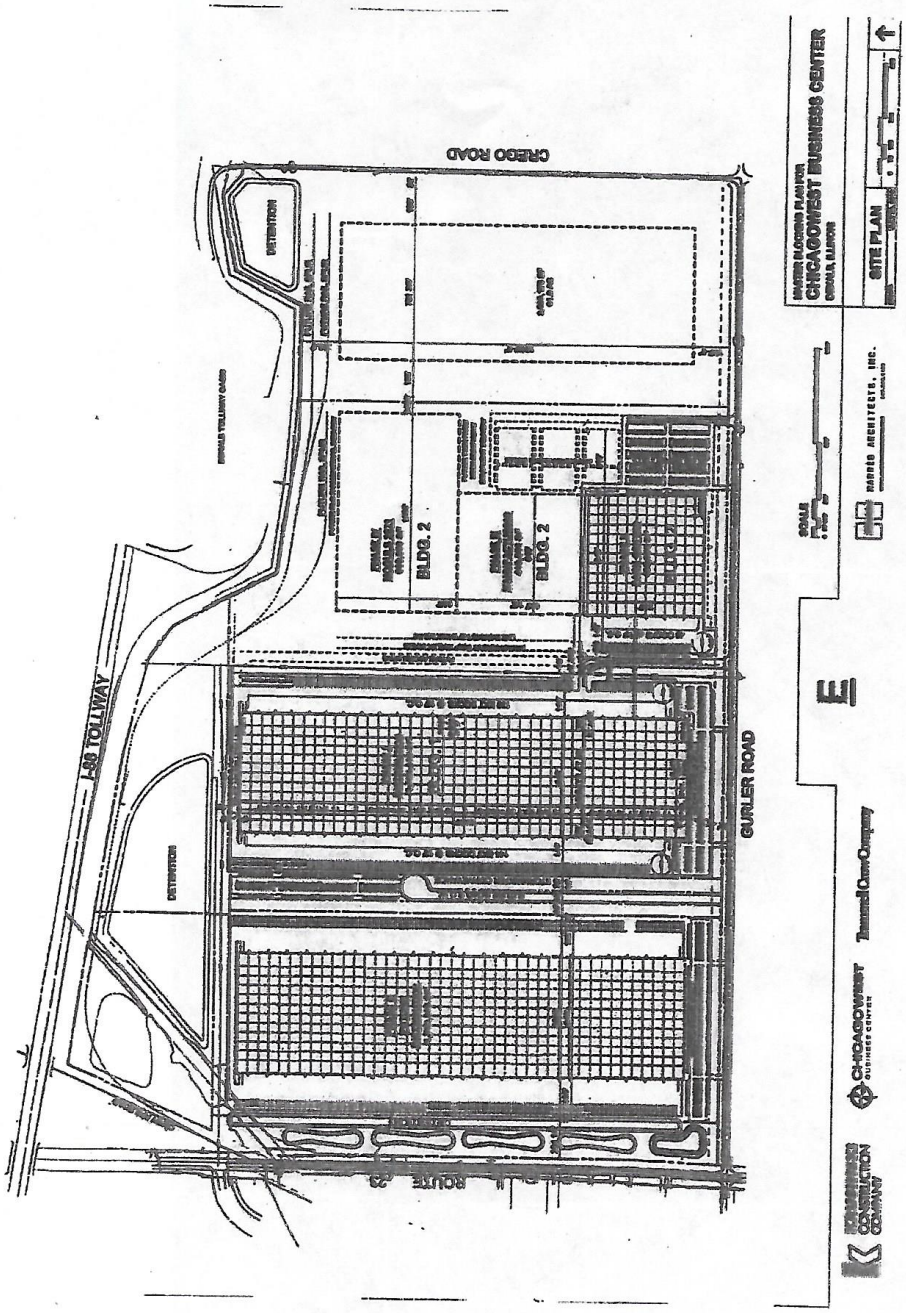
CHICAGOWEST BUSINESS CENTER
SITE PLAN
CREGO ROAD
GURLER ROAD
I-88 TOLLWAY
ROUTE 38
DETENTION
BLDG. 2
BLDG. 2
CHICAGOWEST
TownsendOwen Company