

**MINUTES
AFTON TOWNSHIP
REGULAR MEETING
December 12, 2023**

The regular meeting of the Afton Township Board was convened at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 12, 2023, at the Elva Town Hall with Supervisor Randall Bourdages presiding.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Supervisor Bourdages requested all in attendance to stand for The Pledge of Allegiance to open the regular meeting of the Afton Township Board of Trustees.

ROLL CALL OF ELECTED OFFICIALS

The roll call was conducted by Clerk Hellmuth; Supervisor Randall Bourdages, Highway Commissioner, James Elliott, Trustees Julie Barr, Eric Christensen, Steve Schramm, Multi-Township Assessor, Jay Walker, and Clerk Sherry Hellmuth answered the call. Trustee Craig Donnelly was absent.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The December 12, 2023, meeting agenda was provided, via email, to all members of the board on December 7, 2023, was available on the website, and posted at the Elva Town Hall. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Trustee Christensen. The motion was seconded by Trustee Schramm. Motion passed by voice vote.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A draft of the November 14, 2023 regular meeting minutes was provided, via email, to all members of the board on December 7, 2023. A motion to approve the minutes of the regular township board meeting held on November 14, 2023, was made by Trustee Schramm. The motion was seconded by Trustee Barr. Motion passed by voice vote.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS

Supervisor Bourdages provided copies of the December check register and the current month's expense report for the township and road district.

Highway Commissioner Elliott reviewed the Road District expense report. A motion to approve the Afton Township Road & Bridge District Fund Expense Report totaling **\$14,658.14** for the December, 2023, township meeting was made by Trustee Schramm. The motion was seconded by Trustee Christensen. Motion passed by roll call vote.

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Supervisor Bourdages	X		
Trustee Barr	X		
Trustee Christensen	X		
Trustee Donnelly			X
Trustee Schramm	X		

Supervisor Bourdages reviewed the expense report and claims for the township. A motion to approve the Afton Township General Fund Expense Report totaling **\$9,906.96** for the December, 2023, township meeting was made by Trustee Christensen. The motion was seconded by Trustee Barr. Motion passed by roll call vote.

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Supervisor Bourdages	X		
Trustee Barr	X		
Trustee Christensen	X		
Trustee Donnelly			X
Trustee Schramm	X		

CEMETERY

See Public Forum Statement by Mr. Fred Walker.

PUBLIC FORUM

Notice of the Agenda was posted at the Elva Town Hall on Wednesday, December 6, 2023, and was available on the township website at www.aftontownship.org.

Mr. Charles McCormick, 3688 Pebble Beach Court, DeKalb, wished to thank the Afton Township supervisor and trustees for undertaking the strategic planning process. He stated that the citizens focus group wanted to make certain the township received and utilized every tax dollar available from the new industrial development within the township.

Mr. Fred Walker, 17610 State Route 23, DeKalb, presented cemetery records to Supervisor Bourdages and the township board. The records are from the beginning of the Afton Cemetery. Supervisor Bourdages explained that these records will be scanned into new cemetery software he has obtained.

Additionally, Mr. Walker noted that Mrs. Carole Hilleson is interested in purchasing two grave plots. Supervisor Bourdages stated that he would look into the location and other details of the situation

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

See Chairman’s Report.

NEW BUSINESS

Supervisor Bourdages reviewed the Afton Township Tax Levy, indicating the levy increase was less than 5 percent. A motion to approve the Afton Township Tax Levy Ordinance No. 2023-2024-A003 was made by Trustee Christensen. The motion was seconded by Trustee Barr. Motion passed via roll call vote.

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Supervisor Bourdages	X		
Trustee Barr	X		
Trustee Christensen	X		
Trustee Donnelly			X
Trustee Schramm	X		

Highway Commissioner Elliott reviewed the Afton Road District Tax Levy, indicating the levy increase was less than 5 percent. A motion to approve the Afton Road District Tax Levy Ordinance No. 2023-2024-A004 was made by Trustee Schramm. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Bourdages. Motion passed via roll call vote.

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Supervisor Bourdages	X		
Trustee Barr	X		
Trustee Christensen	X		
Trustee Donnelly			X
Trustee Schramm	X		

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

Supervisor Bourdages provided a list of township residents and other stakeholders who participated in various focus group meetings as part of the strategic planning process. He indicated that the Afton Township board would be participating in two additional sessions necessitating change in some meeting dates and times. Three separate motions were made and passed to approve changes in the January, February and March meeting schedules. The change in January’s meeting date results from a schedule conflict for Supervisor Bourdages. The change in February and the special meeting in March are due to the strategic planning process.

A motion was made by Trustee Christensen to change the meeting date of the Regular January Afton Township Board Meeting from the second Tuesday (January 9) to the third Tuesday, January 16 at 7:00 p.m. to be held at the Elva Town Hall. The motion was seconded by Trustee Schramm. Motion passed by voice vote.

Trustee Barr made a motion to change the meeting date of the Regular February Afton Township Board meeting from the second Tuesday (February 13) to Thursday, February 22 at 6:00 p.m. at the Elva Town Hall. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Bourdages. Motion passed by voice vote.

A motion was made by Trustee Schramm to hold a Special Meeting of the Afton Township Board on Friday, March 8 at 6:00 p.m. at Faranda’s Restaurant and Banquets. Trustee Christensen seconded the motion. Motion passed by voice vote.

REPORTS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS

Supervisor Bourdages – See Chairman’s report.

Highway Commissioner Elliott – The Road District is making preparations for winter.

Clerk Hellmuth – No report.

Assessor Walker—stated that a meeting was held with the DeKalb County assessor. At that meeting three items of importance were discussed. Those are:

1. The State of Illinois is raising farmland assessment, which is based upon soil samples, by 7-8%.
2. Throughout the county home sales have increased, along with selling prices, which means that an increased multiplier, along the lines of 10%, will be seen when tax bills are distributed.
3. As of the current date and time, the DeKalb School District 428 is increasing the tax levy for 2024. It is estimated that with the increased multiplier and the increased

tax levy, the taxes on an average \$300,000 home could increase by \$1,000. Mr. Walker felt certain residents would phone the board members with questions when they receive either their notice of assessment or their tax bill.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Trustee Schramm to adjourn the meeting, and the motion was seconded by Trustee Barr, with all in favor. The Regular Meeting of the Afton Township Board of Trustees adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sherry Hellmuth".

Sherry Hellmuth, Afton Township Clerk