

it would be difficult to monitor donated funds to verify they are being used by Owen Township residents. Alternatively, residents may apply for general assistance per the statute. Supervisor Sid Moate stated that currently the General Assistance fund holds \$50,901.84. Supervisor Sid Moate advised that the funds can only be used for general assistance as outlined in the statute. Trustee Jen Grady requested information on the procedure to apply in the event a resident is in need. Supervisor Sid Moate stated that all requests for general assistance is made through Rockford Township. If approved, an invoice is made for payment from Owen Township. Highway Commissioner Charles Barnes and Supervisor Sid Moate advised that General Assistance fund requirements are set by statute and are only used if no other benefits are available.

Trustee Jen Grady requested that she be provided with the application information to put on the Owen Township website. Supervisor Sid Moate advised that he would procure the information for the website. Trustee Tom Lawson advised Owen Township to reach out to Rockford Township for permission to use a hyperlink directing Owen Township residents to the application hosted by Rockford Township.

Next, Supervisor Sid Moate received communication from a constituent with concerns regarding a dip by an intersection. Supervisor Sid Moate and Highway Commissioner Charles Barnes investigated with no action needed to be taken.

Supervisor Sid Moate called for discussion on old business. He reported on the progress being made on repairing the siding on the township hall. He was informed of the need for additional repairs above the door due to rot, repair to the hanging sign, an issue with the hand rail connecting to the building, and flushing being done. Trustee Mark Smith advised a change order maybe appropriate to resolve these issues. Supervisor Sid Moate stated that it was discovered the electrical box was not connected to the building. An electrician has been contacted to resolve this issue.

Highway Commissioner Charles Barnes advised there is no new updates on the truck. He did inform those present that the price has gone up since purchase, so it was beneficial to have already purchased the truck. He further stated that a recall was made and was resolved on the truck. The warranty on the truck has not yet begun to run. Finally, Highway Commissioner Charles Barnes stated that he has begun planning for next year's projects.

Next, Supervisor Sid Moate stated the current balance of the General Assistance fund is \$50,901.84 and the current balance of the Township fund is \$159,857.23. Supervisor Sid Moate then called for review of the township bills. Seeing everything in order, a motion to approve the township bills as presented was made, first, seconded, and unanimously approved. After a review of the road and bridge bills, finding everything in order, Supervisor Sid Moate requested any comments from the Township Assessor Dana Lemke. Township Assessor Dana Lemke stated she is finishing up residential appeals. There is no real change in the market. A few homes are on the market, and she is monitoring them.

November 4th, 2025

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Owen Township was held at the Owen Township Hall, on November 4th, 2025, at 7:02 p.m.

The following Trustees were present:

Sid Moate, Supervisor

Tom Lawson

Jeffrey Arnold

Jen Grady

The following other known people were present:

Susan Barnes, Township Clerk

Charles Barnes, Highway Commissioner

Dana Lemke, Township Assessor

Kenneth G. Benz, Attorney

Joseph Goldsworthy, Member of Public

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Supervisor Sid Moate. After leading the pledge of allegiance, he called for public comment.

Seeing none, Supervisor Sid Moate called for review of the October 7th, 2025, meeting minutes.

Seeing no further discussion, a motion to approve the October 7th, 2025, meeting minutes as presented were made, first, seconded, and unanimously passed.

Seeing no new business to discuss, Supervisor Sid Moate called for communications, special reports, or presentations. Supervisor Sid Moate advised he and Highway Commissioner Charles Barnes met with banking personnel at Rockford Community Bank last Friday. He advised that the meeting was cordial and professional. He further advised an account that was opened at Rockford Community Bank with similar benefits to the prior bank but without a maintenance fee. He expects deposits will be made to the new account and it could take three months to close the old account at the prior bank due to pending transactions. Additionally, he stated he will direct Winnebago County to make deposits into the new account.

Next, Supervisor Sid Moate stated he was apart of a township zoom meeting. In attendance was Jerry Crabtree and other township representatives. The topic being discussed was SNAP benefits and the current government shutdown. Jerry Crabtree advised townships could use funding from the General Assistance fund to assist residents who no longer receive SNAP benefits. It was opined that township could make an in-kind donation to a local food pantry with a letter of intent for the funds to go to Owen Township residents. With Owen Township not having a food pantry,

Finally, Trustee Tom Lawson stated there is no new update on the property that was previously looking to operate an AIR BNB. He is not aware of any new complaints, and it appears the owner is constructing a single-family home. Said use is consistent with its current zoning.

With no further business to discuss, the November 4th, 2025, regular monthly meeting was called to adjourn on motion duly made, seconded, and unanimously carried at 7:27 P.M.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE THE NEXT REGULAR
MEETING HELD ON DECEMBER 2ND, 2025, AT 7:00 P.M. AT
THE OWEN TOWNSHIP HALL, 4019 LATHAM ROAD,
ROCKFORD, IL.

Susan Barnes, Township Clerk