

July 1st, 2025

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Owen Township was held at the Owen Township Hall, on July 1st, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.

The following Trustees were present:

Sid Moate, Supervisor
Mark Smith
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 7:00 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 June 2025 meeting minutes. Without further discussion, the motion to approve the June 2025 meeting minutes as presented was first, seconded, and unanimously carried.

Next, Supervisor Sid Moate called for discussion on new business. The Township Assessor Dana Lemke informed those present the books were turned in to the Winnebago County Assessors Office. Those books will be available to the public on July 30th or 31st once processed. The Assessor further stated that they have not seen a price jump in sales compared to historical data. Not a significant amount of home sales for the reporting period.

Highway Commissioner Charles Barnes advised that the seal coating is mostly done. Secondary coats are still pending. Assessment of trees near the roads are being planned for possible removal. The Highway Commissioner has advised Roger Ready Mix of its operators operating construction equipment on roads not designed for construction equipment. This is the 10th time the Highway Commissioner has advised Roger Ready Mix of the issue.

The internet company advised the Highway Commissioner they plan on picking up their lines or abandoning them. They further plan to extend the line on a right of way.

The Highway Commissioner advised that a dead end road with four residence will likely not be redone. This is due to a number of factors including the cost of the road being redone and the

inability to properly have the seal coat harden due to the shade from trees resulting in the road being damaged quickly. Finally, the Highway Commissioner advised that there is not a schedule for seal coating yet. He expects to have a schedule for the next meeting.

Next, Supervisor Sid Moate called for discussion on the FOIA from Benjamin Donovan of Rockford, IL. Township Clerk Susan Barnes advised that the FOIA request seeks the financial records for the last five years. Trustee Jeffrey Arnold advised that he is familiar with Benjamin Donovan and Mr. Donovan is likely checking to see if the township is hiring contractors who pay the prevailing wage. With no further discussion, Supervisor Sid Moate called for the next agenda item.

Supervisor Sid Moate lead discussion on the possible board action on insurance settlement for building damage (4/2023). The insurance carrier had approved coverage for either aluminum or vinyl siding. Supervisor Sid Moate advised that with whatever the board decides, the costs to the township would be minimal. Supervisor Sid Moate advised that the prior issues with the insurance carrier has been resolved. Trustee Tom Lawson inquired whether the insurance limit would be an issue. Supervisor Sid Moate advised that the limit was not an issue. Trustee Jen Grady advised the board of her research on aluminum vs. vinyl siding. Without further discussion, a motion to approve vinyl siding for the building was first, seconded, and unanimously carried. Mark Smith advised he will get color samples from the contractor. The board generally agreed that a neutral color such as light gray is desirable.

Highway Commissioner Charles Barnes discussed the current state of the shop roof. He advised that the building flooded, two or three weeks ago, due to the incomplete roof. The flooding did not result in damage. The roof has since been finished. The roof is not leaking and the need for heat tap has been eliminated. The Highway Commissioner advised that the leaky roof has been an ongoing issue resulting in the waste of resources preventing water damage to the tools and equipment in the building.

Next, Supervisor Sid Moate reported the current balance as of May 31st, 2025. The township fund has \$186,260.03 and the general assistance fund has \$49,791.87. Next, there was the presentation of the Township Bills. With everything in order, a motion to approve the township bills and presented was first, second, and unanimously passed.

Finally, a review of the Road District Bills was called. Finding everything in order and no further business to discussion, the July 1st, 2025, monthly meeting was called to adjourn on motion duly made, seconded, and unanimously carried at 7:25 P.M.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE THE NEXT REGULAR
MEETING WILL BE HELD ON AUGUST 5TH, 2025, AT 7:00
P.M. AT THE OWEN TOWNSHIP HALL, 4019 LATHAM
ROAD, ROCKFORD, IL.

Susan Barnes, Township Clerk