

September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Owen Township was held at the Owen Township Hall, on September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025, at 7:01 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  
Dan Van Sickle, Member of Public  
Brent Canyon, Member of Public

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Supervisor Sid Moate. After leading the pledge of allegiance, he called for public comment. Dan VanSickle, a member of the public, spoke regarding a large quantity of dirt being delivered to a property within the township. He was concerned about the potential runoff that would result in adding dirt to the neighbor's property. Additionally, he was concerned about the quality of dirt as it did not appear to be quality topsoil. His concern was about the possible contamination with bring polluted topsoil. He explained that if the dirt was toxic or contained harmful materials, those toxic or harmful materials could seep into the surrounding area polluting the well and septic systems.

Highway Commissioner Charles Barnes advised that he has also seen multiple deliveries of dirt being delivered to the subject property. The Highway Commissioner opined that the dirt appears to be take and fill. Trustee Tom Lawson advised that he has already contacted the County to investigate the subject property. Trustee Lawson has requested permit information from the County on the subject property. He advised he will continue to investigate and report his findings. He had confirmed with the County that the property is zoned AG. Supervisor Sid Moate echoed concerns of the toxic material leaching into the surrounding area. Trustee Mark Smith advised Trustee Tom Lawson to see if the permit required testing the soil for toxic materials.

Highway Commissioner Charles Barnes stated that he had received a call from Slabaugh's owner regarding the old quarry. He was advised that the owner has been cleaning out the quarry and putting clean fill in. Brent Canyon was present and also expressed concerns regarding the soil quality being used on the neighbor's property. Supervisor Sid Moate advised the public that they will continue to investigate the concerns raised by the public. Supervisor Sid Moate called for further public comment.

Seeing none, Supervisor Sid Moate had called for approval of the August 2025 meeting minutes. Upon motion to approve the August 2025 meeting minutes, the Trustees first, seconded, and unanimously approved of the August 2025 meeting minutes.

Next, Supervisor Sid Moate called for discussion for a motion or resolution for the Highway Department to change banks. Highway Commissioner Charles Barnes spoke in favor of changing banks. He advised the Trustees the current bank charges a fee to hold assets of the Highway Department. He advised he had talked to Rockford Community Bank regarding transferring the accounts. He was advised that Rockford Community Bank does offer accounts with similar protection as Northwest Bank of Rockford. He advised that the new account would be in compliance with state law regulating accounts opened by the township. He also advised that Rockford Community Bank is owned by Wintrust with a local charter. He had investigated and found that the president of the local charter grew up in the area and is local. For these reasons, Highway Commissioner Charles Barnes recommended the assets held at Northwest Bank of Rockford on behalf of the Highway Department be transferred to Rockford Community Bank.

Highway Commissioner further advised that he is still looking into whether the credit card should be closed and new one opened with better benefits. He advised that he would continue investigating to see if a new credit card should be opened or if the existing credit card should be modified to add Susan Barnes and remove the prior authorized user.

Upon motion made to authorize the Highway Commissioner Charles Barnes to open an account with Rockford Community Bank and transfer all assets held by Northwest Bank of Rockford on behalf of the Highway Department to Rockford Community Bank, first, seconded, and unanimously carried.

The Highway Commissioner further reported that they have received correspondence from the public regarding a trench. He was advised from the member of the public that an insurance company had concerns revolving around the trench being a hazard/safety issue. The Highway Commissioner advised he plans on cooperating to fill the hole.

Supervisor Sid Moate stated that he had received a call from a member of the public regarding Denergy. Supervisor Sid Moate explained Denergy to a member of the public and received no further correspondence.

Supervisor Sid Moate advised that the siding construction is expected to begin in September. He advised that depreciation value from the insurance company will be considered once construction is complete. He again advised that there would be minimum costs for the township.

Seeing no further discussion, he called for review of the township finances. Supervisor Sid Moate stated the current balance of the township fund is \$122,379.47 and the general assistance fund is \$48,855.78. He opined that the township is in good financial shape. Seeing no further discussion, Supervisor Sid Moate called for review of the township bills. Seeing no further discussion, upon motion duly made to approve the township bills, first, seconded, and unanimously approved. Next, Supervisor Sid Moate called for review of the Road District bills. Everything was in order regarding the Road District bills.

Supervisor Sid Moate advised that they will be working on the levy for the township. He further advised that the township CPA is working on the yearly audit and may file an extension if needed for compliance.

Highway Commissioner Charles Barnes advised that they were planning on constructing a fabric building for the salt shed but are unable to due to an employee being injured. He further advised that a small bus accident occurred within the township. He received a call complaining about the trees near the accident. He investigated and does not believe the trees contributed to or caused the accident. He cleaned up the area. He then stated that he had removed a beaver dam that was causing concerns with water backup. He has widened the area and believes the concerns have been resolved without removing another beaver dam.

Finally, Township Assessor Dana Lemke reported the surrounding area's multipliers and the ranges thereof. She opined the township is on the higher end of the range. She further opined that the home prices have stabled out.

No further business to discuss, September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025, regular 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 HELD ON OCTOBER 7<sup>TH</sup>, 2025, AT 7:00 P.M. AT  
THE OWEN TOWNSHIP HALL, 4019 LATHAM ROAD,  
ROCKFORD, IL.

---

Susan Barnes, Township Clerk