

January 6th, 2026

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Owen Township was held at the Owen Township Hall, on January 6th, 2026, 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 December 2nd, 2025, meeting minutes. Seeing no further discussion, a motion to approve December 2nd, 2025, meeting minutes as presented were made, first, seconded, and unanimously passed.

Next, Supervisor Sid Moate called for discussion and possible action on continuing with a lawyer at each meeting or maintaining on retainer. Supervisor Sid Moate opined that it was not necessary for an attorney to be present at every meeting. Trustee Tom Lawson advised that since retaining an attorney, the administration of the township has progressed to being more formal and complying with applicable regulations. Trustee Tom Lawson advised that the township could keep an attorney on retainer in case questions or situations arise requiring an attorney. Trustee Jen Grady requested information from Attorney Kenneth G. Benz on whether he can be present at the meetings upon request and if he can be available to advise on situations as they arise. Attorney Kenneth G. Benz responded he can be available as needed should the township need assistance. Upon motion to continue retaining Guyer & Enichen, P.C. at meetings but only at the request of the Supervisor were made, first, seconded, and unanimously passed.

Seeing no further discussion, Supervisor Side Moate called for discussion and possible action regarding Road District installation of solar panels. Highway Commissioner Charles Barnes reported a bid was placed by Iconic Energy. They were the only bid. Highway Commissioner Charles Barnes provided the estimate from Iconic Energy. Trustee Jen Grady proceeded to educate those present on the possible savings.

Highway Commissioner Charles Barnes explained the out-of-pocket expenses. He explained that the township will need to pay Iconic Energy for the panels and installation to receive rebates/credits. Unlike residential properties, Iconic Energy cannot give a discount to reflect rebates/credits that will be applied once the rebates/credits are received. Highway Commissioner Charles Barnes advised that to receive rebates/credits, the township must maintain the panels for 15 years. He further advised that Iconic Energy will be investigating the strength of the roof and verify the roof warranty. Finally, Highway Commissioner Charles Barnes stated that in the event the panels need to be disposed of, the issues previously discussed are not present.

Trustee Mark Smith expressed concerns about the maintenance costs for solar panels. He further expressed concern given that the warranty on the inverter is for 10 years. Highway Commissioner Charles Barnes explained how an inverter works and explained why he does not expect it to need maintenance during the 15-year period. Trustee Tom Lawson advised that the insurance carrier be advised regarding solar panels.

Seeing no further discussions, Supervisor Sid Moate discussed the upcoming scholarship application opportunity for a township college bound resident. He requested that the application and other pertinent information be made available on the website. He further requested assistance from Jen Grady to notify schools regarding this opportunity.

Next, Supervisor Sid Moate reported that construction on the building was complete and he is waiting for a final invoice.

Finally, Supervisor Sid Moate stated the current balance of the General Assistance Fund is \$51,138.25. Supervisor Sid Moate further stated the Township fund is \$138,932.43. Supervisor Sid Moate then called for review of the township and hard road bills. Seeing everything in order, a motion to approve the township and hard road bills was made, first, seconded, and unanimously approved.

With no further business to discuss, the January 6th, 2026, 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 HELD ON FEBURARY 3rd, 2026 AT
7:00 P.M. AT THE OWEN TOWNSHIP HALL, 4019 LATHAM ROAD,
ROCKFORD, IL.

Susan Barnes, Township Clerk