

August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Owen Township was held at the Owen Township Hall, on August 5<sup>th</sup>, 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  
Kenneth G. Benz, Attorney  
Joseph Goldsworthy, Member of Public  
Mary Talley, 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. Mary Talley, a member of the public, spoke regarding a dead and fallen tree located on the township easement. Highway Commissioner Charles Barnes advised that the tree was on the list for removal this fall. The Highway Commissioner stated that part of the issue in removing dead trees in the township is the Road District has two employees who remove the dead trees. If the employees are able to remove the tree, it generally saves money to avoid having to contract out.

Next, Supervisor Side Moate had called for approval of the July 2025 meeting minutes. Upon motion to approve the July 2025 meeting minutes as amended to reflect a correction in the misspelling of Dana and to reflect that the township funds had \$186,760.03, the trustees first, seconded, and unanimously approved the amended 2025 meeting minutes.

Next, Supervisor Side Moate advised he had spoken with the Township Assessor Dana Lemke. The assessor advised him that the assessment was complete and will be available on the County website.

The Highway Commissioner further reported that they are finishing sweeping the roads, the mowing has been done, and they are moving on to tree removal. In general, the potholes have been taken care of, and the Road District will continue to make pothole repairs. The Commissioner has no new update on the truck box.

Trustee Jeffrey Arnald asked the Highway Commissioner if he heard anything about a potential roundabout being constructed. Highway Commissioner Charles Barnes advised he has not heard anything regarding a roundabout. He advised that there have been discussions on construction on route 2. There have been discussions about the township assisting in maintaining part of route 2. The Highway Commissioner advised that the increase in motor fuel tax would not make it worth it. He advised that there are potential further negotiations to receive assistance from the County that would make it fiscally worth it. The Highway Commissioner stated that he will investigate if there are discussions for a roundabout.

Highway Commissioner updated that he had given Frontier a permit. He advised that the work Frontier has been slow due to them not getting back to him. He often talks to someone who does not have the info resulting in a slow response.

Highway Commissioner then explained the process of receiving a permit from the Road District and the conditions they generally attach. He has investigated charging for a permit but due to the low request rate, two or less a year, it would not be worth it.

Supervisor Side Moate stated that he has received correspondence from two constituents regarding letters received by ComEd. He had explained the energy rate to one constituent and explained to both that the residence may opt out of receiving energy from the negotiated rate. Both were satisfied with the information given.

Next, Supervisor Side Moate called for discussion and possible action regarding a Board action on insurance settlement for building damage. Trustee Mark Smith reported he had met with the contractors. He was told that they cannot replace the siding with what the Board had picked. Due to the inspection done by the insurance company, they will only approve replacing the siding with a siding constant with what is already installed on the building. Trustee Mark Smith has advised the contractors to go ahead. He was advised that the contractors cannot begin construction until September. Supervisor Side Moate has confirmed that the change in siding will still result in a negligible out of pocket expense.

Seeing no further comments or discussion, Supervisor Side Moate moved on to the next agenda item. He advised the board that the general assistance fund's balance is \$48,582.69 and the township funds are \$211,408.03. He advised that the increase in funds to the township funds is due to direct payment from the County from tax allotment.

Next, Supervisor Side Moate called for the presentation of the Township Bills. Upon motion made and seconded, the Township Bills were unanimously approved. After which, Supervisor Side Moate called for review of the Road District Bills. Finding everything in order and no further business to discuss, the August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025, regular monthly meeting was called to adjourn on motion duly made, seconded, and unanimously carried at 7:16 P.M.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE THE NEXT REGULAR  
MEETING WILL BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 2<sup>ND</sup>, 2025, AT

7:00 P.M. AT THE OWEN TOWNSHIP HALL, 4019 LATHAM  
ROAD, ROCKFORD, IL.

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Susan Barnes, Township Clerk