

December 2nd, 2025

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Owen Township was held at the Owen Township Hall, on December 2nd, 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

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 November 4th, 2025, meeting minutes. Seeing no further discussion, a motion to approve November 4th, 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 that the end of the year is approaching. He clarified that it is not the end of the fiscal year. Supervisor Sid Moate reported that the annual levy is done, the annual audit is complete, and AFR is done.

Township Assessor Dana Lemke advised she was contacted by a representative for True North Title Company operating out of Fond Du Lac, WI. The title company inquired regarding applying for a special assessment for parcels within the township. Township Assessor Dana Lemke is not aware of any special assessment being made on property within the township. Township Assessor Dana Lemke briefly explained special assessment and advised that it did not make sense for a title company to contact her regarding a special assessment. Supervisor Sid Moate read aloud the email correspondence from the title company for those present. Highway Commissioner opined that perhaps the title company is mistaken on who they are emailing. He further advised, and Trustee Tom Lawson confirmed, there is a Winnebago County in Wisconsin. Supervisor Sid Moate advised he will contact the title company for clarification.

Next, Supervisor Sid Moate presented a letter from the State regarding overpayment. Supervisor Sid Moate advised that overpayment was minimum and would be credited to the next billing cycle, if the Township did nothing to claim the funds.

Seeing no further discussion on the overpayment, Supervisor Sid Moate invited Highway Commissioner Charles Barnes to speak on the construction progress. Highway Commissioner Charles Barnes stated that the town hall building has been completed and construction has started on the next building. He explained that the electrical box needed to be changed to bring the building up to code. The electrical box in the town hall has been removed. Electrical for the town hall is now tied with a neighboring building. The building is now up to code with the added benefit of cutting down on administrative fees for power. He advised that the same fix should be made to a third property to further eliminate administrative power fees. As a result of tying in the electrical to the neighboring building, the town hall electric bill will be reflected in the road district bill. Supervisor Sid Moate advised he would need some letter or inspection done to forward to the insurance company.

Highway Commissioner Charles Barnes has been in contact with Iconic Energy regarding possible solar panels. He was advised that funding/benefits could be available to the township for installing solar panels. He further advised that the cost for solar would need to be paid upfront. Highway Commissioner Charles Barnes was advised by Iconic Energy that they are unsure if the funding/benefits would be available for contracts entered in 2026. Highway Commissioner Charles Barnes advised he is waiting on a quote from Iconic Energy and a special meeting may need to be called. Trustee Jen Grady stated she had used Iconic Energy for her residential solar system. She opined that they were fantastic to work with and advised what she paid for solar panels and installation on her home.

Next, Supervisor Sid Moate stated the current balance of the General Assistance fund is \$51,126.00. He thanked Trustee Jen Grady for her work in updating the website to assist residents in applying for General Assistance. Supervisor Sid Moate further stated the Township fund is \$150,658.21. 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.

Highway Commissioner Charles Barnes stated he had the town hall furnace serviced. He was advised that the furnace is a low-end model and is not burning as efficiently as it should be. He advised that the township may want to consider replacing it in the future. Township Assessor Dana Lemke reported she had finished her last site visit and has an annual tax assessor meeting next week. She is monitoring a few homes that are on the market. She opined that those homes appear to be sitting longer than usual.

With no further business to discuss, the December 2nd, 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 HELD ON JANUARY 6TH,
2026 AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE OWEN TOWNSHIP HALL, 4019
LATNIAM ROAD, ROCKFORD, IL.

Susan Barnes, Township Clerk