

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the
Batavia Township Board
131 Flinn St., Suite B
Batavia, IL 60510**

Tuesday – November 19, 2024

1. **Call to Order:** The Batavia Township Board meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Supervisor Leigh Tracy who led the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. **Roll Call:** The Clerk called the roll. Attending the meeting were Supervisor Leigh Tracy, Clerk Penelope Tracy, Trustees Walt Donat, Troy Tousana, John West, and Jennifer Zorn, Township Road Commissioner Chris Long, and Township Assessor Tammy Kavanaugh. Also present were Howard Katz and Bill Kettering, members of the Decennial Committees on Local Government Efficiency. Videographer Jim Jakubosky recorded the meeting for BATV.
3. **Approval of Minutes:** Trustee Zorn moved to approve the October 8, 2024, Batavia Township Board Minutes. Trustee Tousana seconded the motion. Supervisor Tracy noted that Item 11 in the minutes describe a motion that was approved to transfer \$1,000 from the General Fund Administrative Expense to the General Assistance Fund. Tracy reported that fund transfers are restricted. Therefore, the fund transfer approved by the trustees will not occur. Roll call for approval of the minutes: Ayes – 5, Nays – 0. The minutes were approved.
4. **Decennial Committees' Approval of Decennial Reports:** *Background - On June 10, 2022, Illinois Governor Pritzker signed the Decennial Committee on Local Government Efficiency Act, 50 ILCS 70/1 et seq., into law. This law requires Illinois townships, road districts and township multi-assessment districts to convene a committee to study and report on local government efficiency.*

Supervisor Tracy reported that the Batavia Township Road District Decennial Committee and the Batavia Township Decennial Committee have completed their reports. Committee members include the township elected officials and 2 members-at-large: Ron Link and Tammy Kavanaugh (serving on the Road District Decennial Committee) and Howard Katz and Bill Kettering (serving on the Township Decennial Committee). The two reports were submitted to the committee members for their review prior to tonight's township board meeting. Tracy requested a motion to approve the Batavia Township Road District Report. Trustee Donat moved to approve the Batavia Township Road District Report for Compliance with Decennial Committees

on Local Government Efficiency Act. Trustee West seconded the motion. Trustee Donat called the document a good report that followed the recommendations suggested by the Township Officials of Illinois. Road Commissioner Long reported that committee member Ron Link was unable to attend tonight's meeting, but Link had read and approved the content of the report. Roll call: Ayes – Long, Tracy L., West, Donat, Tousana, Zorn, Kavanaugh, Tracy, P. Nays – 0, Absent – Link. The motion was approved.

Tracy requested a motion to approve the Batavia Township Decennial Report. Committee members Katz and Kettering moved to approve the Batavia Township Report for Compliance with Decennial Committees on Local Government Efficiency Act. Trustee Donat commented that this report was also a good report. Supervisor Tracy noted that the report includes the review of the reports on government efficiency conducted by Wendell Cox in 2016 and 2012. Roll call: Ayes – Tracy, L., Donat, Zorn, Tousana, West, Katz, Kettering, Tracy, P. Nays – 0. The motion was approved.

5. **Supervisor's Report:** Supervisor Tracy reviewed the status of the bank statements and noted that tax revenue payments were received from Kane County. He also reviewed the budget reports that reflect the fund balances in the seventh month of the fiscal year.
6. **Approval of Bills to be paid in November:** Trustee Zorn moved to approve payment of the October General Fund and Assessor's Fund bills in the amount of \$63,005.54. Trustee Tousana seconded the motion. The motion to approve these bills was passed with a 5/0 vote.

Trustee West moved to approve payment of the October Road District bills in the amount of \$37,133.65. Trustee Donat seconded the motion. The motion to approve these bills was passed with a 5/0 vote.

7. **Assessor's Report:** Assessor Kavanaugh reported that the last tax hearing will be November 21. If the hearings resulted in an assessment correction, property owners will receive a notice. The corrected assessment can also be appealed if desired. She is also preparing a draft budget for the trustees to review for the fiscal year 2025-2026.
8. **Road Commissioner's Report:** Commissioner Long reported that his crew has begun collecting leaves. Trustee Zorn asked Long if he plans on increasing the fees Batavia township charges Geneva and Blackberry townships for leaf collection services since the township's cost for leaf disposal has increased. Long replied that Geneva and Blackberry fees will be adjusted to cover the increase. Long is also waiting for Kane County to compile the remaining bills for this year's road projects. Lastly, he reported

that a weather camera has been installed at the intersection of Deerpath and Seavy Roads. This intersection is one of the worst areas affected by drifting snow. The camera takes photos of weather conditions (temperature and wind direction) every 15 minutes and helps the road department monitor road issues. There are several camera systems located throughout Kane County. In the past the main source of information regarding road conditions came from police departments.

9. Trustee Reports: Trustee West reported that he attended the annual TOI Conference in Springfield last week and found the training and education sessions valuable.

10. Public Participation: None

11. Old Business - Reconsideration of Resolution 1082024 – Compensation: Trustee West stated his desire to reconsider the wage resolution passed at the October township board meeting. He said the decision to approve a 3% wage increase was hasty. Supervisor Tracy stated it was necessary to rescind the previous wage ordinance motion before reconsidering another one. Trustee West moved to rescind Wage Resolution 10824. Trustee Zorn seconded the motion. Roll call: Ayes – 4, Nays – 1 (Tracy). The motion to rescind was approved. Trustee Zorn then presented an alternative salary proposal for incoming elected officials covering 2025 – 2029. The wage increases proposed were:

Assessor, Supervisor, Road Commissioner, Clerk

- 12% - year 1
- 5% - year 2
- 3% - year 3
- 3% - year 4

Trustees – no increase

Trustee Donat moved to accept the wage proposal outlined above. Trustee Zorn seconded the motion. Trustee Donat led discussion in favor of the proposed motion and cited the negative impact recent inflation brings to the purchasing power of individuals. He also reviewed his own property tax bills over a several year period and noted that the percentage of his taxes paid to Batavia Township are very small when compared to the amount paid to the school and park districts and the City of Batavia. Trustee West reminded the trustees that there were past years when township officials did not receive wage increases from term-to-term, and although the proposed increase percentages are higher than he would like, he feels the increases are justified. Trustee Zorn cited a few starting wages for neighboring assessors as a comparison to justify the wage increase proposed for the Batavia Assessor. Supervisor Tracy told the trustees that if the motion to accept the Zorn proposal is passed, he will draft a new resolution to cover the approved increases. Roll call: Ayes – 5, Nays – 0. The motion was approved.

12. New Business – Board Approval of Decennial Reports to be sent to Kane County and Road District and Township 2025 Levies

Supervisor Tracy requested a motion to approve the two Decennial Reports accepted by the Decennial Committee members earlier in the meeting. Trustee West moved to approve the Decennial Reports. Trustee Donat seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5/0.

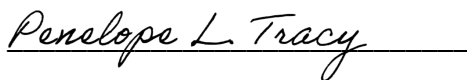
Supervisor Tracy presented Road District Tax Levy Ordinance RD25-26 and Batavia Township Tax Levy Ordinance No. L2025-2026 and asked for a motion from the trustees acknowledging that the levies were presented. Approval of the levies will occur at the December board meeting.

- 1) Trustee Donat moved to acknowledge presentation of Road District Tax Levy Ordinance RD25-26. Trustee Zorn seconded the motion. Road Commissioner Long explained that the road district tax levy calls for a 2% increase over last year's levy but does not consider the impact of new construction. Roll call: Ayes – 5, Nays – 0. The motion passed.
- 2) Trustee Donat moved to acknowledge presentation of Batavia Township Tax Levy Ordinance No. L2025-2026. Trustee Zorn seconded the motion. Supervisor Tracy explained that the township levy calls for a 4.29% increase. Because Kane County has a tax-cap limit, local governments cannot create a levy that is higher than 5% of the previous year's levy. Tracy explained that the budget is based on the levy. Since the trustees anticipate the need for more money in next year's budget to cover increased demand for general assistance, they asked Tracy to levy the full 5% maximum and include the additional 2% allowed for new construction. Tracy agreed to draft a new township tax levy ordinance for approval at the December board meeting.

13. Adjournment: Since there was no further business before the township board, Trustee West moved to adjourn. Trustee Zorn seconded the motion which was passed by voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

The next meeting of the Batavia Township Board is December 10, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Penelope L. Tracy, Township Clerk