



**TOWN OF THE CITY OF PEORIA
DECENNIAL COMMITTEE MINUTES
January 9, 2024**

A Meeting of the Decennial Committee of the Town of the City of Peoria was held on Tuesday, January 9, 2024 at 5:01 P.M., at City Hall, 419 Fulton Street, Room 400, Peoria, Illinois

ROLL CALL

Decennial Committee Members present: Trustee Allen, Trustee Cyr, Trustee Gordon-Young, Trustee Grayeb, Trustee Jackson, Trustee Kelly, Trustee Oyler, Trustee Riggerbach (Arrived 5:05 P.M.), Trustee Velpula (electronic attendance), and Chairwoman Ali, Township Supervisor LaTrina Leary, Evonne Fleming, and Pastor Irene Lewis-Wimbley

Others present: Township Collector Stephen Morris, Township Assessor Max Schlafley, Township Attorney John Redlingshafer, Township Clerk Stefanie Tarr, Township Assistant Ian Munk.

MINUTES

Trustee Cyr moved to approve the minutes of the June 27, 2023, meeting of the Decennial Committee; seconded by Trustee Allen.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Gordon-Young, Grayeb, Jackson, Kelly, Oyler, Riggerbach, Velpula, Chairwoman Ali, Leary, Fleming, Lewis-Wimbley – 13;

Nays: None.

REVIEW OF RESIDENT SURVEYS

Township Clerk Tarr noted that the Committee received a survey requesting information regarding the roles and responsibilities of the Township Board. Township Attorney Redlingshafer addressed the public's general question about the role of the Board of Trustees, provided an overview of the membership of the Board, their roles and responsibilities during the Township Budget and Levy process.

Committee Member Lewis-Wimbly expressed a concern about the level of training received by the Town Trustees and whether any had taken place. She inquired as to how the Trustees were held accountable and expressed a concern the Trustees had to be informed of their roles as Town Trustees. Attorney Redlingshafer said, under Illinois law, statute made it clear the Peoria City Council acted as Peoria Township Trustees. He explained not all Townships had co-terminus boundaries like Peoria. He explained the Town Attorney was partially responsible for some of the training, but also noted there were many publications available, such as the *Township Perspective*.

Committee Member Lewis-Wimbly inquired about the Town budget and whether building the budget rest solely on the Town Supervisor. Attorney Redlingshafer explained the composition of the Town Budget Committee and its makeup, process and procedures, noting it met once in the fall to establish a levy and again in the spring to prepare a budget.

Chairwoman Ali said Board Members received an orientation of their duties. She said part of the Decennial Committee meeting was to review the rules of all positions of the Township. She mentioned there were Trustees on the Town Board who could vote as a Board Member but were not able to vote as electors at the Annual Town meeting.

Council Member Grayeb said these were good questions, noting the Township Attorney stated Township government was as close to the people as could possibly get, stating it worked well. He said there was a learning process for the Town Board, which was more of an on-the-job training.

Trustee Allen said Supervisor Leary had sent training opportunities to the Board. He requested additional opportunities continue to be sent to the Board, noting Township government was unique.

Committee Member Lewis-Wimbly said Township government was for the poorest of the poor, and she noted there had not been a levy increase for many years, and she inquired when the last increase was.

Supervisor Leary said the Town Board reviewed the levy on an annual basis. She said she started collecting data when she first came into office, stating she was still working on the numbers. She said she was unable to compare prior numbers to when she assumed office. She went on to say that the Peoria Township received numerous calls for assistance from individuals who were not residents of the Township. She said she would like to be able to provide information on the website that would assist people finding the Township of which they reside.

Committee Member Fleming asked whether the Trustees had any solutions to make the Township more sustainable.

Trustee Grayeb said the Town Board tried raising the profile of the Township government to reach the people and their needs, noting the Township will probably not have enough money to reach all the needs.

DISCUSSION FROM BOARD OF TRUSTEES

It was determined that there was no discussion at this time.

DISCUSSION FROM TOWN OFFICIALS

It was determined that there was no discussion at this time.

COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE

Committee Member Fleming requested the Township Trustees each develop a goal to accomplish for the Township and to work on that goal to make the Township more sustainable.

Supervisor Leary recommended having more dialogue during Town meetings. She said she would like to see the building for the Town office be utilized more, noting half the building was

not being used. She said the goal was to serve the people where they live, and not just those who were struggling financially.

Trustee Kelly questioned Supervisor Leary regarding the limitations imposed on the Township by statute in the types of programs and support that could be offered. Supervisor Leary said limitations were due more to budget constraints, not State law.

Trustee Gordon-Young expressed her appreciation for Supervisor Leary always reaching out to the Trustees and giving them the opportunity to learn what the Town Office provided. She said there may be some ideas from other Townships, and she asked Supervisor Leary to bring suggestions back to the Board to review.

Supervisor Leary said there was a variety of programs; however, she said the most feedback she heard was the need for programs for seniors, regardless of their financial status.

Trustee Allen moved to direct Township Attorney John Redlingshafer to draft a preliminary committee report for review; seconded by Trustee Gordon-Young.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Gordon-Young, Grayeb, Jackson, Kelly, Oyler, Riggerbach, Velpula, Chairwoman Ali, Leary, Fleming, Lewis-Wimbly – 13;

Nays: None.

Chairwoman Ali questioned if Township Attorney Redlingshafer would have a draft available for the next committee meeting. He confirmed that he would have a draft available to present and receive feedback on before final action.

Trustee Kelly moved to begin drafting the committee's report as required by the governing statute; seconded by Trustee Jackson.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Gordon-Young, Grayeb, Jackson, Kelly, Oyler, Riggerbach, Velpula, Chairwoman Ali, Leary, Fleming, Lewis-Wimbly – 13;

Nays: None.

**CITIZENS OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS BUDGET
COMMITTEE**


It was determined that there were no citizens wishing to address the Township Budget Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Allen moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Trustee Gordon-Young.

Approved unanimously by viva voce vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:54 P.M.



Stefanie Tarr, RMC, CMC, MMC
Town Clerk