

## **Marengo Township**

### **November 18th, 2024**

#### **I. Call to Order**

Heather Greenquist, Township Supervisor, called to order the regular meeting of Marengo Township at 7:01 pm on November 18th, 2024.

#### **II. Roll Call**

The following officials were present at roll call; Heather Greenquist: Supervisor, Jake Adamson; Highway Commissioner, Dave Bzowy: Trustee, Khaled El Qunni: Trustee, and Joe Henning: Trustee

Absent: Ray Jones; Senior Trustee

#### **III. Recognition and Communications from Visitors**

Cevin Helfvogt; Helfvogt Group and Raymond Cook

#### **IV. Approval Of Minutes**

Trustee Khaled El Qunni requested a financial overview of the township's accounts, specifically a balance sheet. Supervisor Heather Greenquist provided this document, and it was reviewed.

Trustee El Qunni was interested in understanding the township's financial health and wanted to ensure transparency in the financial operations.

1. **Minutes Review:** The minutes from the October 21st meeting were presented and discussed.
2. **Motion to Approve Minutes:**
  - **Proposed by:** Trustee Dave Bzowy
  - **Seconded by:** Trustee Joe Henning
  - **Vote:** 3-1-1 (Khaled El Qunni voted Nay, Ray Jones was absent)
  - **Result:** The motion to approve the minutes passed.

### 3. **Question Regarding Minutes:**

- **Trustee Khaled El Qunni:** Raised a concern about a portion of the Supervisor's Report, specifically regarding Certificates of Deposit (CDs).
- **Supervisor Greenquist:** Invited Trustee El Qunni to clarify his specific concern.
- **Trustee El Qunni:** Was unable to articulate the exact issue with the Certificates of Deposit portion of the report.

In essence, the minutes from the October 21st meeting were approved, with one dissenting vote. There was a minor disagreement or misunderstanding regarding a specific point in the Supervisor's Report, but the issue was not fully clarified. Trustee El Qunni's inability to fully articulate his concern highlights the importance of clear communication and documentation in board meetings.

## **V. Approval of Bills and Financials**

The bills were presented and discussed. A motion from Trustee Khaled El Qunni to approve the bills as presented including Helfvogt Group for \$9,200.00 and Blu Petroleum for \$763.62, seconded by Joe Henning; (4-0-1; Ray Jones, absent), all ayes, motion carried.

The financials were presented and discussed. A motion was made by Supervisor Heather Greenquist to approve the financials as presented, seconded by Trustee David Bzowy;(4-0-1; Ray Jones, absent) all ayes, motion carried.

## **VI. Line-Item Transfer**

## **VII. Reports**

**a. Planning:** None

**b. Highway Department;** Highway Commissioner Jake Adamson reported

- Garbage run completed

- Patched road edges
- Started servicing trucks
- Replaced rear differential seal on 2005
- Replace STOP AHEAD sign on River Road
- Rearranged and cleaned shop
- Chipped down tree on Thorne Road
- Took 1-ton to Harvard Ford for front end work

**c. Assessor:**

Assessor James Burke was not in attendance and did not submit a report. Assessor James Burke completed his OMA certification.

**d. Supervisor:** Supervisor Heather Greenquist reported

- Seniors were hosted on Friday, November 15th, 2024
- Annual Financial Report for FY24 has been filed with the State of Illinois Comptroller
- Midwest Electronic Recycling was a huge success.
- Voting took place on Tuesday, November 5th 2024, we had tons of compliments on how nice the building looks.
- The owners of 25303 Kishwaukee Valley Road were issued a citation for the “event” taking place there.
- Our accountant completed the amended 2023 tax returns for Adamson, Burke, and Essenberg.
- Certificate of Deposits will come due January 10, 2025.
- The county denied a temporary use permit for a concert to be located at 22609 Kishwaukee Valley Road..
- The county issued a conditional use permit for a rodeo held on September 22, 2024 at 24410 Kishwaukee Valley Road.

**e. Trustees: None**

**VIII. New Business**

- **Signs**
  - **Concern:** Trustee Ray Jones is concerned about signage on township property.
  - **Reasoning:** Such signage could be perceived as taking sides on issues, which is not the role of the township.

- **Proposed Solution:** To establish an ordinance that would regulate signage on township property.
- **Next Steps:** The discussion will be postponed until Trustee Jones is present to provide more details and input.

### **Potential Implications of an Ordinance:**

An ordinance regulating signage on township property could have several implications:

- **Clarity:** It would provide clear guidelines for what types of signage are permitted and where they can be placed.
- **Fairness:** It would ensure that all viewpoints are treated equally and that no particular group or cause is favored.
- **Aesthetics:** It could help maintain a consistent and visually appealing appearance of township property.
- **Administrative Burden:** Enforcing the ordinance might require additional administrative work.

### **Key Questions for Further Discussion:**

- **Scope of the Ordinance:** Should it cover all township property, or just specific areas?
- **Types of Signage:** What types of signage would be allowed (e.g., informational, commemorative, political)?
- **Permits and Approvals:** Would a permit system be necessary for certain types of signage?
- **Enforcement:** How would the ordinance be enforced, and what penalties would be imposed for violations?

By addressing these questions, the township can develop a fair and effective ordinance that balances the need for free expression with the desire to maintain a neutral and inclusive public space. This topic was tabled.

- **Land Purchase Inquiry**
- **Inquiry:** The Township received an inquiry from Cevin Helfvogt about purchasing 2 acres of land north of the town hall.
- **Township's Position:** The Township is not interested in selling any acreage at this time.

- **Legal Constraints:** Any potential sale would need to be approved at the Annual Town Meeting in April 2025, as the sale of land could have significant implications for the area.

### **Key Points to Consider:**

#### **Potential Benefits of Selling Land:**

- **Financial Gain:** Selling land could generate revenue for the township.
- **Development Opportunities:** The sale could facilitate development that might benefit the community.

#### **Potential Drawbacks of Selling Land:**

- **Loss of Assets:** Selling land is a permanent decision.
- **Future Needs:** The land might be needed for future township projects or expansion.
- **Community Impact:** The sale could impact the local community, especially if it leads to development.

Ultimately, the township will need to weigh the potential benefits and drawbacks of selling land and make a decision that aligns with its long-term goals and the best interests of the community. This topic was tabled until further notice.

## **IX. Old Business**

- **Levy's**
  - **Highway Department**  
Highway Commissioner [Jake Adamson](#) presented the 2025 Levy on behalf of the PHR Fund and Road & Bridge Fund. After a brief discussion a motion was made by Supervisor Heather Greenquist to certify the 2025 Levy as presented, seconded by Trustee David Bzowy, (4-0-1; Ray Jones, absent) all ayes, motion carried.
  - **Town**  
Supervisor [Heather Greenquist](#) presented the 2025 Levy on behalf of the Town Fund and General Assistance Fund. After

a discussion, a motion was made by Supervisor [Heather Greenquist](#) to certify the 2025 Levy as presents, seconded by Trustee Joe Henning; (3-1-1; Khaled El Qunni, Nay, Ray Jones, absent), motion carried.

In essence, the township board has approved to certify the 2025 levies for the specified funds. This decision will impact the township's budget and potential projects for the upcoming year, allowing for more services to be provided to the community.

## **Building**

- **Message Center:** The Township has received new posts from Kirby Built. The sign should be installed before the weather deteriorates. The installation of the message center will help the township effectively communicate information to the community.
- **Pole Building Construction:** The construction of the pole building is now complete. The township is now compliant with the state statute requiring township property to be under roof. The highway department is currently working on organizing, cleaning, and storing property within the new building.

This is positive news for Marengo Township, as it indicates progress in protecting township assets and complying with state regulations.

## **X. Executive Session**

## **XI. Employee Relations**

## **XII. Freedom of Information Act**

- One FOIA was received on 11/5/2024 from SmartProcure requesting a PO/Vendor list from 8/7/2024 through 11/5/2024. Supervisor Heather Greenquist compiled and emailed the information on 11/5/2024.

## **XIII. Roundtable and Adjournment**

The next regular meeting is scheduled for December 16th, 2024 at 7:00pm. At 8:28pm a motion was made by Trustee David Bzowy to

adjourn the meeting, seconded by Trustee Khaled El Qunni, (4-0-1, Ray Jones, absent; all ayes) motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by, Heather Greenquist, Marengo Township  
Supervisor