

MOLINE TOWNSHIP

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

April 8th, 2025

The Moline Township Board: The Moline Township Board meeting was called to order by Supervisor Bonnie Johnson at 4:45pm. The Board met in regular session at the Moline Township Hall, 620 – 18th St, Moline, IL 612

Roll Call: Trustees present: Mary Beth Loos, Rand Wilson, Staci Early, Hayleigh Covella, and Supervisor Bonnie Johnson.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The Civility Pledge was recited.

Approval of Minutes: After receiving a copy of the March 18th, 2025 Township minutes and having an opportunity to review them, Trustee Loos, with a second from Trustee Early, moved to approve the amended March 18th, 2025 minutes to include public comments. Ayes: Trustees, Loos Wilson, Early, Covella, and Supervisor Johnson. No Nays. Motion carried.

Approval of Claims: After reviewing the claims of March/April 2025, Trustee Wilson with a second from Supervisor Johnson moved to accept the March/April 2025 claims submitted to exclude item D, (E,F&S) Ayes: Trustees: Loos, Wilson, and Supervisor Johnson. Nays: Trustees Early and Covella due to Per Diem. Motion carried.

Training: see Perspective for training opportunities.

Reports:

Supervisor's report; General Assistance Activity report; MAC report
Assessor's Report; Trustees Report; Clerks Report

MAC Happenings:

Currently 325 members

Senior Easter Egg hunt week of 14th-17th.

Old Business:

Discuss and adopt Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for the 2025-26 FY: After review and discussion, Trustee Covella, with a second from Trustee Wilson motioned to approve the Tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance pending confirmation of procedures for open/close of the public meeting. Ayes: Trustees: Wilson, Early, Covella, and Supervisor Johnson. Nays: Trustee Loos due to questioning procedures. Motion carried.

Funding request St. Joseph Evening Meal: After discussion, Trustee Early, with a second from Trustee Wilson motioned to approve spending up to \$250.00. Ayes: Trustees Loos, Wilson, Early, Covella, and Supervisor Johnson. No Nays. Motion carried.

Funding Request for Arc-Catalyst Awards Golf Outing: After discussion, Supervisor Johnson with a second from Trustee Covella motioned to reject the request. Ayes: Trustees Loos, Wilson, Early, Covella, and Supervisor Johnson. No Nays. Motion carried.

Requests: Matt Hernandez inquired where the townships statutes were located. He was directed to 60ILCS.

Public Comment: See Attached from Trustee Covella

Adjournment: Trustee Covella, with a second from Trustee Early, moved to adjourn. Ayes: Trustees Loos, Wilson, Early, Covella, and Supervisor Johnson. No Nays. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Theresa Oak

Theresa Oak
Moline Township
Clerk

I request that my comments be included in the public record/minutes. I have provided the Clerk a copy for reference and have copies available for any trustee who would like one.

full meetings

Today is my last ~~day serving~~ as a Township Trustee. I only served just over one term, but I have learned a lot and would like to pass along those lessons to the incumbent and incoming trustees and Clerk.

Remember: Your duty is to the citizens of the Township, not to any overarching political body that may be trying to tell you otherwise.

First and foremost, I insist that you learn and become comfortable with the Open Meetings Act. The members of this body must be able to prevent violations of OMA, especially voting for items that are not on the agenda. The posted agenda should be followed so the public is aware of the Township's business and can attend a meeting if an issue affects them. When trustees express concerns, they should be included in the minutes, which should accurately reflect the discussions at the meetings. Rules for public comment must be abided by. This Board needs people who are ready and able to step in when there are OMA violations, even if that means causing conflict. The openness and integrity of this body must be a foremost priority.

Along with OMA, I encourage members to become familiar with Robert's Rules of Order, which describe how meetings should be run, including how to take a vote, how to amend a vote, and what to do in a tie.

For your own sake, conduct all Township business in writing. Do not trust verbal conversations. Keep a record. Do not let your words be misconstrued and used against you. Use email as much as possible, but do not forget that emails are FOIA-able. Take clear notes at meetings to ensure that you can understand and follow up on past decisions if you need to look back.

Most importantly, do not let anyone, especially township officials from other townships, intimidate you by telling you how you can and cannot vote. This situation occurred at our December 2023 meeting and was unacceptable. It is *always* acceptable to cast a "no" vote if your conscience or logic tells you to. A trustee is not a servant to a township supervisor. A trustee watches out for what is best for our citizens. A Board on which everyone is required to vote "yes" is not a functional board. The governing body at the top of our country is a clear example of what happens when people are not allowed to disagree with the person in charge. Compelling Board members to vote a certain way is authoritarian, plain and simple. A no vote is not an attack on the supervisor. It is simply a vote against the business being presented. And no, to disagree does not mean you've caused strife among all Illinois townships. Though certain other supervisors may try to convince you otherwise, a no vote is not going to take down townships in Illinois. Ineffective governance, including blindly voting yes on all proposed agenda items, will.

Remember: You work for the people in this township most in need. You are here to help people. You are here to spend the aid and assistance money we have, and to spend it in the most effective ways possible. I do hope this Board continues to seek additional places where we can help the community. John Deere and other companies in the QC have laid off many people, and others are already struggling as the economy collapses around us. People will need food. They will need help with rent. They will need help meeting their basic needs.

Unfortunately, I have to warn the incoming trustees that it is important to keep your eyes open and your back well-watched. As is typically the case in politics, there are people on this Board who will work against you while presenting a friendly face. You will hear cruel, untrue things about yourself from people who frequent certain bars. You may be encouraged to run for a position, thus giving up your seat, only to serve as an opposition candidate to the already hand-selected one. You are your own best resource. Trust your gut, and trust that nothing is private. Be careful of slates and alliances.

Finally: nondisclosure agreements, or NDAs, do not apply to whistleblowers. Past employees who signed an NDA regarding the behavior of Township employees and officials are not always required to honor that NDA if it applies to behavior that is illegal, unethical, or inappropriately sexual in nature. Past employees who were asked to sign NDAs should be reviewed and the reason for the NDA confirmed. Any questionable NDAs should be reviewed by an attorney other than the one who drafted the original documents. Those employees to whom the NDA does not apply should be encouraged to come forward and treated without hostility or animosity. They have seen or know something the township clearly does not want disclosed to the public. Moline Township officials should be aware of any existing NDA(s) and ensure the Township is not operating unethically.

A township is a tiny body of government. Most people don't know what we do. If you've ever tried to explain townships to someone outside of Illinois who does not have them, you will quickly learn that their existence is a mystery. Local levels of government are becoming increasingly important in the face of strife at the national level. It is important that we inform our citizens of the services we offer, and to serve as an intervention for those among us who are struggling. All levels of government should have the best interests of its citizens in mind and should operate with integrity. This mandate starts at the smallest local level. Be attentive to both local and national news so you can operate with current events as a guide. You may learn about someone in the township who has lost their home, layoffs that affect our community, and cuts to programs that will cause our community to struggle. Please remember that you are here to serve those people.