



***Township Officials of Illinois
Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting
Capitol Room – Hilton Hotel – Springfield, Illinois
Friday December 5, 2008***

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting of the TOI Board of Directors was called to order by President Richard Ralston at 10:30 a.m. in the Capitol Room on the Mezzanine Level of the Hilton Hotel, Springfield, Illinois.

MOMENT OF SILENCE / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1st Vice President Mickey Goral asked for a moment of silence for our military, followed by leading with the Pledge of Allegiance.

FILLING VACANCIES

President Ralston asked Executive Director Bryan Smith to explain board vacancies. Bryan stated that with the election of Bob Miller as Treasurer, there was one year left on his term as Director so the Highway Commissioners Division have named Danny Hanning from Huntsville Township, Schuyler County to fill out the remaining one year on the unexpired term. Les Hild made a motion to appoint Danny Hanning to the Board for the one-year unexpired term. Olen Kibler seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Hanning was welcomed to the Board and presented a Certificate of Appointment.

ROLL CALL

Secretary Karen Reese took the roll call with 28 members present and 5 absent as follows:

Members Present: Richard Ralston, President; Michael Goral, 1st Vice President; Jeff Wallace, 2nd Vice President; Larry Mowery, 3rd Vice President; Karen Reese, Secretary; Robert Miller, Treasurer; Olen Kibler, Immediate Past President; Wanda Cantrell, Susan Carpentier, Susan Curtiss, George Grosso, Mary Hamilton, Danny Hanning, Leslie Hild, Imelda Kelch, Ann Dynako-Kubiczky, Alan Labaj, Steve Martin, Shirley Moore, Carol Perschke, Ron Reeder, R.C. Smith, Patricia Ann Thompson, Karen Twitty-Hartlieb, Grace Vetter, Robert Wisniewski, and Jim Young.

Members Absent: Charles Foley, Gene Jacoby, Ronald Johnson, Karen Megan and Steve Schrage.

Others Present: Bryan Smith, Executive Director; Jerry Crabtree, Associate Director/Educational Coordinator; Tim Bramlet, Legislative Consultant; Barbara Hale, Meeting Consultant; Rod Beck, TOIRMA Executive Director; and Simphi Lenover, CCMSI.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the August 8, 2008 minutes of the Board of Directors was made by Patricia Ann Thompson, and seconded by Leslie Hild. Motion carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Richard Ralston stressed unity for all townships and to keep working for the best interest of townships. He is looking forward to his term as President.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Bryan Smith gave a welcome to all board members, especially all the new board members. Bill Prather has resigned as Highway Commissioner due to poor health and his position will be replaced by an appointment made by the Highway Commissioners Division at a later date.

Mileage as of January 1, 2009 will be \$.55 per mile as per the IRS.

Bryan walked board members through the new board manuals.

2009 Board Meetings will be held at the Northfield Inn and Suites on the following dates:
Friday, March 27, 2009; Friday, August 7, 2009; and Friday, December 18, 2009. Topics Day will be Tuesday, April 21, 2009 when the General Assembly will be in session.

Currently there are 1433 townships in Illinois. In April, Milam Township in Macon County will dissolve and become part of Mt. Zion Township so there will then be 1432.

TOI has mostly "rural" membership. Out of the 1432 townships:
1,187 or 83% have a less than 5,000 population
683 or 48% have a less than 1,000 population
376 or 27% have a less than 500 population
Some townships in the last category do not even have any public building. They are totally rural.

The *Illinois Issues* magazine will be sent once again to all current Board of Directors. Everyone is encouraged to take advantage and read it.

TOI Director and President of the Township Clerks Division, Patricia Ann Thompson, was recognized for being selected as the Clerk of the Year in Cook County.

Bryan turned the meeting over to Tim Bramlet, TOI Legislative Consultant. After the November election there were no changes in the Senate and three Democratic seats were added to the House. Emil Jones is stepping down and will be replaced as Senate President. Most of State Parks slated for closing were closed down Sunday, November 30, 2008. Some may have limited access.

Bryan thanked Tim and asked the Board to pay close attention to *Illinois Issues*. They will cover a lot of issues in the coming months.

In closing, Bryan wished everyone a wonderful Holiday Season.

NATaT REPORT

The NATaT Conference was held September 29 – October 2 in Washington, D.C. Almost 400 township officials from across the country attended. As you know, Illinois was the "featured State" and Illinois had 106 attendees for the third year in a row, we won the Attendance Award for having the most attendees.

Bryan thanked Mickey Goral our 1st Vice President who helped lead our delegation out to D.C. since Olen could not attend. Our staff did a fantastic job with our booth out there and Bryan thanked the board members who helped obtain "goodies" for our Illinois goodie bags that we gave out to everyone attending the conference. We had over 30 items in our bags and we had nothing but rave reviews on them but again thank you to those of you who helped make this part of our "featured state" status such an outstanding success.

The conference sessions were excellent and as part of our "featured state" status there was a reception focusing on Illinois. We had a large variety of Eli's Cheesecake from Chicago donated and it was well received by those attending (including staff...it was delicious).

Illinois also held its breakfast while we were there. Unfortunately, this was exactly during the time that Congress was debating the financial bailout and only the Senate was in town at the time of our breakfast. We didn't expect any Representatives but we did get a commitment from Senator Dick Durbin to come and speak at our breakfast and he did. Unfortunately, right when we were getting ready to have him speak, the hotel fire alarms went off and the hotel was evacuated. By the time we were herded back in, the Senator could not return so he didn't get to speak but at no fault of his own. We do appreciate his support. We did however have a backup speaker for breakfast and that was former State Senator Gary LaPaille who is now a Washington lobbyist and he did a fantastic job of filling us in on the happenings in DC and what was expected/predicted for the November election.

The 2009 NATAT Conference will return to its normal time, the week of Labor Day, September 9-11 at the Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C.

ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS REPORT

Jerry Crabtree, Associate Director/Educational Coordinator, advised that the first week of March is Local Government Week. Jerry asked that all townships help promote this event. TOI's partnership with IML and Illinois Association of County Board Members is planning an event to promote the theme, Communities Count, emphasizing on the importance of the upcoming census.

TOIPAC was a great success this past year. Over \$7,000 was raised from the Las Vegas drawing. \$900 was the cost for the trip and \$200 was set aside for expenses. The basket program has made \$410 and we will still sell baskets.

The Education Program is dedicating three of the eight training sessions for 2009 to be Training for Newly Elected Officials. All sessions will be held on Saturdays. Sessions for the Training for Newly Elected Officials will be held, June 27, 2009 in Bloomington; July 18, 2009 in Rockford, and August 1, 2009 in Fairview Heights.

As in 2005, a session with a panel of the township board is being offered. Letters have been sent to the Division Presidents being represented. Jerry indicated that all of the panel positions have not been taken. A sign-up paper was sent around asking for volunteers for the panel.

Registration fee for the Newly Elected Officials Training will be \$85.00 and the fee for the remaining five sessions will be \$75.00. Deadlines will be in effect for registration and hotel reservations. Jerry updated the board on the status of the 2010 Education Review Committee. The Education Committee consists of two members from each division. The first meeting is scheduled for January 7, 2010 and Jerry asked committee members that if they can't attend, please send someone from their division to take their place. The committee will be discussing the possibility of combining education sessions for 2010 for all the divisions and TOI. All meetings will be held in the Springfield office unless otherwise decided by the group at the initial meeting.

Jerry advised the Board that a telephone conference with the Division Presidents will be called around the 3rd week in January. This is to review the 2009 calendar and to make sure all division meetings are on the TOI calendar. This meeting also helps determine ways that TOI might be of help to the individual divisions. Jerry commented on efforts in 2009 to reach out to county associations. As the Association continues its renewed focus on education programs, this is an important part of the process. Jerry asked for Board support as we again contact county associations.

CONFERENCE REVIEW

The question was asked if the Annual Educational Conference is always held around Veterans Day. In response, yes it has always been around this time. This seems to be the best time for the farmers and the road commissioners, and it also doesn't interfere with elections.

The Board was informed that the Conference Committee will be meeting soon to request bids on where to have the conference in 2010, 2011 and 2012.

Barbara Hale gave conference numbers and a quick overview of the 2008 Conference. We had 724 full conference attendees, 69 Monday only and 18 Tuesday only for a total of 811. We had 33 exhibitors that brought in revenue of \$13,425. Exhibitors expressed that they liked all the activity that went on in the exhibit hall because it keeps the attendees present in the hall. The Annual Educational Conference for 2009 will be November 8-10 in Springfield.

OLD BUSINESS

None reported.

NEW BUSINESS

President Richard Ralston announced that committee assignments are in the Director Manuals. Members were instructed to check the list so they would know what committees they had been assigned to.

A new scholarship will be added in 2009, the Robert L. "Bob" Turner Scholarship, which will make seven scholarships to be offered. Bryan recommended the board to go forward with seven \$2,000 scholarships for 2009. A motion was made by Jeff Wallace and seconded by Carol Perschke. Motion carried.

TOIRMA REPORT

Rod Beck thanked everyone responsible for the President's Award he received at the Annual Conference. He stated that he felt the fall conference was a job well done. Rod wished all a wonderful Holiday Season.

DIVISION REPORTS

Supervisors

Steve Martin, president of the Supervisors Division reported they will continue to put education first and will work to computerize the Supervisors General Assistance handbook.

Township Clerks

Patricia Ann Thompson, President of the Township Clerks Division said meetings for the Township Clerks have been set for the 2009 year and the time and locations will be in the *Township Perspective* magazine. They will be working on the Township Clerks manual in the coming year.

Highway Commissioners

Leslie Hild, President of the Highway Commissioners Division said that Bill Prather will be missed and his replacement will be appointed at a later date. The Summer Seminar will be in August in Peoria.

Assessors

James Young, President of the Assessor's Division said that the Assessors had a good attendance and a very good meeting at the November conference. The Annual March Education Sessions are going to be in Bloomington at the Double Tree.

Trustees

Mike Foley, President of the Trustees Division was not present and Mary Hamilton gave the report. The meeting at the November conference was a great success. There are 688 trustee members. There will be an Education meeting on June 6, 2009 in either Bloomington or Springfield. The Trustees gave umbrellas to those in attendance at the Conference, and this was a big hit as it was a very rainy day.

Tax Collectors

Imelda F. Kelch, President of the Tax Collectors Division said that four were in attendance at the November conference. Their secretary's report was read and approved. Their treasurer's report was read and approved with an \$898.42 balance. They approved to donate \$100 to the scholarship fund.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, President Richard Ralston called for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Susie Carpentier and seconded by Steve Martin. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Karen L. Reese, Secretary