

Winnebago Township Board of Trustees Meeting
March 11, 2025
7:00 p.m.
Winnebago Township Westfield Facility

Supervisor Hodges called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and then led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Township officials present were Supervisor, Greg Hodges; Trustees: Dennis Cross, Ray Heeren, Craig McClure and Barry Palm; Road Commissioner, Aaron Rowley; and Clerk, Sue Jansen. Assessor Paula Lutzow was absent. Guests present were Ernie Fuhr, Irv Koning, Jim and Joyce King, and Don Crawford.

Public Comments

Irv Koning distributed the calendar of events for 2025 for the Winnebago Historical Society and informed the board that the Winnebago Historical Society is planning a cemetery walk at Winnebago Cemetery on Saturday, September 13, 2025.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the February 11, 2025 Regular Meeting were read. Trustee McClure made a motion to approve the minutes; seconded by Trustee Palm. All voted aye and the minutes were approved as read.

Financial Reports

Supervisor Hodges read the General and Cemetery Funds Bills Payable Report for March 2025. Trustee McClure made a motion to approve the General and Cemetery Funds Bills Payable for March 2025; seconded by Trustee Cross.
Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cross, Heeren, McClure, Palm and Hodges. Nay: None.
Motion approved 5-0.

Supervisor Hodges read the General and Cemetery Funds Bills Paid Report for February 2025. Trustee McClure made a motion to approve the General and Cemetery Funds Bills Paid for February 2025; seconded by Trustee Heeren.
Roll Call Vote: Aye: Heeren, McClure, Palm, Hodges and Cross. Nay: None.
Motion approved 5-0.

Road Commissioner Rowley read the Road and Bridge and Hard Road Bills Payable Report for March 2025. Trustee McClure made a motion to approve the Road and Bridge and Hard Road Bills Payable for March 2025; seconded by Trustee Palm.
Roll Call Vote: Aye: McClure, Palm, Hodges, Cross, and Heeren. Nay: None.
Motion approved 5-0.

Road Commissioner Rowley read the Road and Bridge and Hard Road Bills Paid Report for February 2025. Trustee McClure made a motion to approve the Road and Bridge and Hard Road Bills Paid for February 2025; seconded by Trustee Cross.
Roll Call Vote: Aye: Palm, Hodges, Cross, Heeren and McClure. Nay: None.
Motion approved 5-0.

Supervisor's Comments

Supervisor Hodges stated that \$91,000 was transferred to the Cemetery Fund for the purchase of seven acres of land for future Winnebago Cemetery expansion. The closing went smoothly on February 21, 2025.

The township received a rebate of \$2142 from TOIRMA for last year's insurance.

Road Commissioner's Comments

Road Commissioner Rowley mentioned that part of the Maggio bill is for two times of towing and that should be reimbursed by TOIRMA. He moved about \$22,000 from the Hard Road checking account to the Hard Road CD to make the CD \$100,000 at the renewal time.

He has a new contact at ComEd that is investigating the amount we were mistakenly charged for electricity for the township garage. In the mean-time he is not approving digging permits from ComED until we get satisfactory answers.

Assessor's Comments

Absent.

Old Business

Supervisor Hodges provided the Trustees with statistics on land rental rates for 2023 for Winnebago and Ogle Counties. After review, Trustees Heeren made a motion to rent the seven acres of land to Gene Weerda for \$2000 per year, with \$1,000 due in the spring and \$1,000 due in the fall; seconded by Trustee McClure. (Mr. Weerda chose to pay annually in the spring.)

Roll Call Vote: Aye: Hodges, Cross, Heeren, McClure and Palm. Nay: None.

Motion approved 5-0.

Trustee McClure made a motion to pay Kenneth (Jim) King \$300 a month, year around to pick up sticks and make sure everything is OK at the cemetery, effective April 1, 2025; seconded by Trustee Palm.

Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cross, Heeren, McClure, Palm and Hodges. Nay: None.

Motion approved 5-0.

Don Crawford and Irv Koning were present representing the Winnebago Cemetery Board to make a recommendation for contracting the mowing of the entire cemetery for the 2025 season. They recommended Riceland, who mowed last year. After discussion, Trustee McClure made a motion to accept the bid of D & M Lawncare to mow and trim the entire cemetery for the 2025 season for the fee of \$750 per mowing, which was significantly less than Riceland's bid; seconded by Trustee Cross.

Roll Call Vote: Aye: Heeren, McClure, Palm, Hodges and Cross. Nay: None.

Motion approved 5-0.

Trustee McClure made a motion to approve the Revised Annual Meeting Agenda for April 8, 2025; seconded by Trustee Cross. All voted aye and motion was approved.

New Business

Trustee McClure made a motion to approve the Regular Board Meeting Dates for the 2025-2026 fiscal year; seconded by Trustee Cross. All voted aye and the motion was approved.

Trustee Palm made a motion to approve the resolution Not to Eliminate Township Governments; seconded by Trustee McClure.

Roll Call Vote: Aye: McClure, Palm, Hodges, Cross and Heeren. Nay: none.

Motion approved 5-0.

Trustee McClure made a motion to open a special bank account to account for revenues generated by the land rental for future development of the land for cemetery purposes; seconded by Trustee Cross. All voted aye and the motion was approved.

There being no further business Trustee Heeren made a motion for the meeting to be adjourned; seconded by Trustee McClure. All voted aye and the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Sue Jansen, Winnebago Township Clerk

Gregory Hodges, Supervisor

Approved: April 8, 2025