

Homer Township Special Meeting of the Electors

Minutes

Date: 9/5/19

Time: 7:30 P.M.

Location: Old Town Hall, 16057 Cedar Road, Lockport, IL

This Meeting is subject to the Open Meetings Act

The Electors met at the Old Town Hall, 16057 Cedar Road Lockport IL where the following official business was transacted. The meeting was run by Homer Township Clerk Kathleen Kruczek and Moderator Mayor George Yukich. 52 people signed in at the meeting 2 of which were not registered voters. 45 people cast votes. The meeting began at 7:35 P.M. and ended at 9:36 P.M.

1. Call Meeting to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:35 P.M
2. Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America was performed.
3. Election of moderator A.
Moderator Oath of Office:
 - a. Motion by Steve Balich to nominate Tony Drabik for Moderator, second by John Flemming. Tony Drabik accepts his nomination
 - b. Motion by Pam Meyers to nominate George Yukich for Moderator, second by Sharon Sweas. George Yukich accepts nomination.
 - c. No other nominations made.
 - d. Motion to close nominations by Steve Balich, second by John Flemming.
 - e. Vote began to choose moderator by show of hands. Tony Drabik respectfully declines nomination allowing Mayor George Yukich to be moderator. Mayor George Yukich is moderator.
4. Oath read and signed by Mayor George Yukich.
5. Steve Balich voiced his concern over the title on the Agenda and contends it should be read as "Homer Township Special Town Meeting". He cited under attorney advice he wanted to make sure this was noted and amended. Pam Meyers added minutes can be amended but not a title of an Agenda. Others argued that a title is insignificant and cited was is most important are the actions taken as the result of the petition.
6. Agenda item requested by petition, filed in the Office of the Homer Township Clerk on August 9th 2019:

A. We, the undersigned, registered voters of Homer Township, Will County, Illinois, pursuant to 60 Illinois Compiled Statutes 1/35-5, et. al., do hereby Petition the Homer Township Board that a Special Meeting is necessary for the interests of Homer Township and that the objects of this Special Township Meeting is for an order under 60 ILCS 1/30-50 that Homer Township Board shall not purchase, lease or use of any real property for the purpose of having an Event Center for events like weddings, banquets and larger meetings for invited guests and that legal notice that a Special Township Meeting be duly published and called for by law at 7:30 P.M. on a day not less than 14 nor more than 45 days after the filing of the Petition for a public discussion and vote on this order.

- a. Motion to approve this petition by Tony Drabik, second by John Flemming. Discussion: Discussion is as follows.

Discussion ensued for those for and those against the petition. The following is a summary of the views held by the electors.

In Favor of the Petition

Those in favor of the Petition claim that this Event Center would be a for-profit entity that would compete with local business. They claim that it was indicated to them that the Event Center was already being addressed at the Township Board level thus signifying its approval. They contend that Open Space Funds were not meant to be used for the construction of a facility of this type and that it does not conform to the Open Space Mission Statement. They believe the construction of a facility of this type would violate grants. That the need for an Event Center is negated and that there are other ample locations for events available to the public elsewhere. Concern is made that construction, use, and maintenance of a facility of this type would result in increased taxes.

Other concerns involved the physical location of this Event Center (Trantina Farm) and parking issues. Safety concerns were noted given the location of the proposed Event Center and the two lane road it would be adjacent to. They worry this could be a source of accidents given the topography of the area and the traffic flow. Overflow parking into the Dog Park and people crossing a busy street was also an issue for those in favor of the petition.

There was unease about the actual use of this facility. Apprehension about alcohol use, types of venues and food at this establishment was questioned.

They also noted that this petition in their opinion was specific to the discussed Event Center in the Open Space Committee and was never intended to include any other venues, current events and land use in Homer Township.

Opposed to the Petition

Those opposed to the petition stated that the petition is still exploratory and in Committee at present and may not even come to pass. They declare that the idea of an Event Center has not made it to the Township Board level other than the Committees request for permission to gather resources/information from professional services. That to date, no money has been issued for professional services. That the idea of a community/event center on Open Space Property does not violate any grant monies and will not result in increased taxes. It was added that a referendum would be necessary if a tax was to be established for a facility of this type however the goal of the committee was to find alternate resources to sustain the property.

They also ascertain that given the Petition's vagueness and lack of clear parameters it could be legally interpreted that it encompasses all land areas and venues in Homer Township. Quoting from the Petition itself which reads, "Or use of any real property" as support for the lack of clarity. They believe the Petition also fails to add the verbiage "build and construct" which could open doors in need of a more definitive explanation as to what is defined as an event/venue. They contend that the lack of specifics could render the interpretation of the Petition as problematic and the consequences could be far reaching potentially effecting many current programs.

Others debated that the Event Center is needed for non- profit organizations that cannot afford the more expensive establishments available. Dismissing the contention that this would compete with local businesses, they stated it could be used for programs like scouts, educational, art, senior events etc. They added a facility of this type may even promote business to local for profit entities by enlisting their services for food catering and the like.

Conclusion

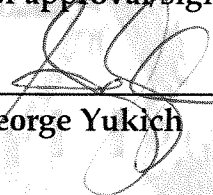
Despite the many passionate attitudes held by the electors in regard to this petition it was clear that a middle ground was unattainable. Debate

ensued well into the evening and grew increasingly heated as time passed. A ballot was presented to the Electors and a vote taken.

7. **Vote by ballot:** Each registered elector present at the Special Meeting received a ballot. 52 people signed up at the meeting two of which were not registered voters. Of the remaining 50 registered voters, 45 received a ballot when their name was called to step forward to receive and cast a vote. All names were called. It is assumed that 5 registered voters left early and were not present during voting. 15 votes indicated they were in favor of the petition with 30 votes opposed the petition. Ballots were counted by Clerk Kathleen Kruczek and Mayor George Yukich both individually and together. The same results were reached during each count. Petition fails.

5. **Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn at 9:36 P.M. by Pam Meyers, second by John Kruczek. No Discussion- voice vote Yes- Motion Carries.

Moderator approval/signature of minutes (60 ILCS 1/40-10):



Mayor George Yukich

10/26/19
Date

HOMER TOWNSHIP