



MINUTES
DEKALB TOWNSHIP BOARD
Regular Board Meeting
2323 SOUTH FOURTH STREET - DEKALB, IL 60115
February 17, 2026

The DeKalb Township of DeKalb, Illinois convened for a regular meeting on February 21, 2026 at the township building in the conference room.

A. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Supervisor Hess called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Clerk Joan Watson-Protano called the roll, and the following members of the Board of Trustees were present: Supervisor Mary Hess; Trustee Nancy Bradlo; Trustee Dale Thurman, and Trustee Greg Akers. Other in attendance included Highway Commissioner Craig Smith and Assessor Rich Dyer. Trustee Katherine McLaughlin was absent.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Supervisor Hess

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: Trustee Bradlo moved to approve the agenda; seconded by Trustee Thurman.

VOTE: The agenda was approved by unanimous voice vote.

D. PRESENTATIONS – Northwestern Medicine - Ben Gordon Center

Four members of Ben Gordon Center, which is a part of Northwestern Medicine were present. The Ben Gordon Center provides behavioral health services to the community. They have received partnership funding from the DeKalb Township for the last two years for their collaborative program pairing police officers with social workers. They shared how funds are utilized and how the program works. Clinical Program Director Christine Maxwell made the presentation.

The program has made 827 collaborative calls with the DeKalb Police Department in the last year which was a 40% increase. The previous year the number was 566. The goal of the collaboration program is to offer professional support and assistance on calls. The aim is to help with the stabilization of an individual, reduce the number of 911 calls, emergency department visits and provide better follow up care.

Specifically, our funding allowed 310 hours of partnership time, which supported 95 initial referrals and an additional 298 hours of follow-up time. The social workers analyze the need and refer to other agencies, including our assistance programs. They also provide a warm introduction and serve as a resource for township staff. All individuals are served; children, adults, and the elderly, with each population requiring different services and referrals sources.

E. PUBLIC COMMENT None.

F. REPORTS

- a. **Supervisors Report:** Supervisor Hess reported that they are now tracking the number of phone call and walk in inquiries for assistance to discern the number of applications vs inquiries. The family of Marvin Levinsky who died in late 2025 made a generous donation to our cemeteries in his memory. Supervisor Hess attended her last watershed stewardship meeting and she hopes she has made the proper connection with IDOT to address the flooding issue that occurs regularly in the ditch between the parking lot and road. Supervisor Hess attended two classes put on by the Metro Township Association and has another one soon. Kim Barrios will be attending one on social media. They are working on the 250th Anniversary initiative which will include that planting of 250 trees. They are trying to coordinate with other governmental units and plant close to Arbor Day. The Township and the Road District renewed the annual TOIRMA insurance which covers the buildings, and payroll. We have successfully transitioned from Quickbooks Desktop, which was leased to Quickbooks Enterprise, which is now owned.
- b. **Clerks Report:** Clerk Protano shared information with the elected official's requirement to complete an Economic Interest Report, due May 1 and the upcoming Annual Town meeting in April. The deadline for agenda items for the annual town meeting is March 1. Clerk Protano announced her resignation as clerk effective the end of April, stating she would be relocating out of state and not able to serve her remaining term. She thanked everyone for their understanding and their assistance in helping her do her job.
- c. **Highway Commissioner's Report:** High Commissioner Smith reported that the new building is coming in under budget and he should be presenting the final bills at the next meeting. He anticipates moving into the new building in the next couple of weeks. The treated salt for roads has arrived, a little late in the season, however, it can be used in the future, which will alleviate the need to purchase salt in the future at anticipated higher prices. Staffing for the summer months will be former hires, which is a bonus. Karen Gumino the Road District Administrative Assistance will be retiring the end of February. Karen Gumino has worked in a variety of positions within the Township for the last eight years. In addition, Jodie Peterson who is currently the Road District book keeper is retiring at the end of March, Jodie has worked in a variety of positions within the Township for over 38 years. High Commissioner Smith thanked them for their service and hopes to find the right person to replace them.
- d. **Assessor's Report:** Assessor Dyer reported that the department received their workbooks from the county on February 11 with a June 15 deadline for the review and change to properties targeted for re-assessment. He anticipates needing to review 500-1000 parcels. In the last quadrennial year, 2023, 79% of the 12,000 parcels in the DeKalb Township (DT) jurisdiction were reviewed. The DT had the largest percentage reviewed with Cortland Township second largest at 45% of parcels.

e. **Trustees Reports:** None

G. Bill Paying

a. **Approval of January Audit Reports and February Bills to Pay**

MOTION: A motion to approve the January audit report in the amount of \$253,387.00 and the February to be paid in the amount of \$79,637.72 was made by Trustee Akers and seconded by Trustee Thurman.

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: A roll call vote of those present was taken with AYES by: Supervisor Hess; Trustees Thurman; Akers; and Bradlo. Clerk Protano declared the expenditures authorized.

b. **Receive, File and Approve Treasurer's January Budget Reports**

MOTION: A motion to Receive, File and Approve the Treasurer's January Budget Reports was made by Trustee Thurman and seconded by Trustee Bradlo.

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: A roll call vote of those present was taken with AYES by: Supervisor Hess, Trustees; Bradlo; Akers; and Thurman. Clerk Protano declared the expenditures authorized.

H. Old/ Unfinished Business – NONE

I. New Business

a. **Accept Bid for the Construction of Peace Park (Oakwood Cemetery Columbarium Park Improvements.**

MOTION: A motion for Approval was made by Trustee Thurman and seconded by Trustee Bradlo.

DISCUSSION: Supervisor Hess shared that the bids had been reviewed at the last meeting with formal acceptance at today's meeting. O'Brien Civil Works submitted a bid in the contract amount of \$172,834.70. They were the lowest bidder. A portion of the project is being funded by the Peace Park Fund which was been created by donations and the cemetery capital fund. The engineering firm, Fehr Graham will oversee the project and has created the contract, it is being reviewed by our attorney. Supervisor Hess has requested that Highway Commissioner Smith attend the pre-construction meeting as support. The Road District has begun the necessary clearing of trees and debris which reduces expenses. The goal is to break ground in April. No further discussion.

VOTE: A roll call vote of those present was taken with AYES by: Trustees Akers; Bradlo; Thurman; and Supervisor Hess. Clerk Protano declared the motion to accept the bid by O'Brien Civil Works be accepted and authorized.

b. Reschedule April 21, 2026 Board Meeting to April 14, 2026

REVIEW: Supervisor Hess shared that Illinois Township code requires the annual town meeting is to be held the second Tuesday of April. Currently the board meets the third Tuesday of April. However, Highway Commissioner Smith noted that the second Tuesday falls during Passover, therefore the meeting can legally take place the following week. In addition, April 15th is Township Lobby Day in Springfield. Supervisor Hess suggested that no action be taken and the motion to change the date of the meeting.

MOTION: A motion was made by Trustee Thruman that the April meeting be held as scheduled on April 21, 2026. Supervisor Hess seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote by all present. The April meeting will be held on the 21st.

c. Approval of Minutes of the Regular Board of Trustees Meeting of January 20, 2026

MOTION: A motion to approve the revised minutes distributed by Clerk Protano was made by Supervisor Hess and seconded by Trustee Bradlo.

DISCUSSION: A brief discussion was held.

VOTE: A vote to approve the minutes was carried by a 4-0 voice vote with AYES by all present: Hess; Bradlo; Akers; and Thurman. Motion passed.

J. Old Business

NONE

K. Executive Session: Supervisor Hess requested a motion that the board enter executive session to discuss Litigation as permitted by 5 ICLS (120/2) (c)11)

MOTION: A motion to enter executive session was made by Trustee Akers and seconded by Trustee Bradlo.

Supervisor Hess recessed the regular meeting at 6:58 p.m.

Return to Regular Session:

Supervisor Hess reconvened the regular meeting at 7:07 p.m.

Roll Call: Clerk Joan Watson-Protano called the roll, and the following members of the Board of Trustees were present: Trustee Greg Akers; Trustee Nancy Bradlo; Trustee Dale Thurman, and Supervisor Mary Hess. The meeting was officially reconvened.

L. Other Business:

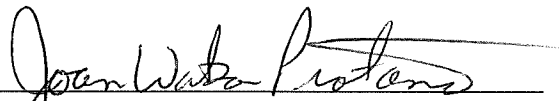
- a. Next Committee on Youth Meeting March 10, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.
- b. Next Regular Board of Trustees Meeting March 17, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

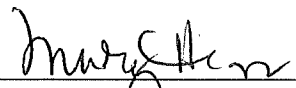
M. Adjournment

MOTION: A motion to adjourn was made by Trustee Akers and seconded by Trustee Bradlo.

VOTE: An affirmative voice vote ended the meeting at 7:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Joan Watson-Protano, Township Clerk


Mary Hess, Township Supervisor

