



2323 SOUTH FOURTH STREET
DEKALB, IL 60115
MARCH 17, 2026
MINUTES BOARD of TRUSTEES

The DeKalb Township of DeKalb, Illinois convened for a regular meeting on March 17, 2026 at the township building in the conference room.

A. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Supervisor Hess called the meeting to order at 6:08 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, Trustee Katherine McLaughlin, and Trustee Greg Akers. Other in attendance included Highway Commissioner Craig Smith and Assessor Rich Dyer.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Trustee Katherine McLaughlin

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

A. Proclamation Recognizing the 25th Anniversary of Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Supervisor Hess read the proclamation and acknowledged the 45-year advocacy of Safe Passage and the 25th Anniversary of bringing awareness to Sexual Assault

a. Safe Passage – Human Services Funding Recipient.

Safe Passage is a Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Crisis Center. Presented by Rebecca Versluys, Executive Director. Safe Passage has been servicing the community for 45 years, and currently has approximately 50 employees, all with trauma informed training. They offer their clients a place of safety, advocacy, and hope. They provide training and awareness to the public in a wide variety of avenues. They currently can house 28 clients in very cramped quarters with little privacy. Christine Kalina, the Development Director, shared that they recently broke ground on a new \$7.5 million facility that will consolidate their operations as well as expand their services with an eye toward future growth and fiscal responsibility.

E. PUBLIC COMMENT None.

F. REPORTS

- a. **Supervisors Report:** Supervisor Hess reported they are seeking a grant to offset the addition of secured and ADA compliant doors that will offer additional security features. Early Voting has been offered to the community over the last two weeks with a good turnout. A pre-construction meeting has been held regarding Peace Park with the project scheduled to begin in April. Supervisor Hess met with multiple agencies at the police department to address the needs of homeless during cold spells. She recently attended a cemetery conference with valuable information gleaned. Prairie State Legal has been on site to offer legal assistance to the community with all sessions available booked. The Governor of the State of Illinois recently held a State of the State address and township dissolution plans were not mentioned during his presentation.
- b. **Clerks Report:** Clerk Protano shared a number of events happening soon. March 25, The Illinois Tollway will be here to offer a transponder swap, and the Illinois Treasurer department will be here to assist with ICASH applications. April 21, we launch the 250 Trees for Tomorrow initiative with the planting of trees at Elder Care Services. 250 trees will be planted to honor and acknowledge the 250th birthday of the USA. Applications for trees are available to the community and to township residents, who must plant their own tree and care for it. Trees will be distributed in the Spring and Fall and there is a wide variety available. The Senior Car Clinic is May 1; appointments are limited for the 25-point inspection. The next Shred Day is offered on May 16 with volunteers from Coldwell Banker Realty helping.
- c. **Highway Commissioner's Report:** High Commissioner Smith reported that they will be assisting with the upcoming tree planting initiatives. The Budget for fiscal year 26/27 will be available on the website. He reported that there was an accident during inclement weather between when a car failed to stop and hit one of the snow plow trucks. All Federal laws are being complied with. They have been moving into the new building and he reported on the lack of climate-controlled office, storage, and meeting space for his department. There is a potential new hire to replace the recently two vacant positions. He is anticipating the purchase of a used pickup truck in the new budget. A
- d. **Assessor's Report:** Assessor Dyer reported that the work books for assessment review have been received and they are waiting for a weather break to inspect properties. His chief deputy will be attending continuing education training.

e. **Trustees Reports:** None

G. Bill Paying

- a. **Approval of March bills to pay for Township in the amount of \$65,267.04 and for the Road District in the amount of \$169,429.30 and the February Audit Report for the Township \$88,477.35 and Road District for 121,899.10.**

MOTION: A motion to approve the March bills as listed was made by Trustee Bradlo and seconded by Trustee McLaughlin.

DISCUSSION: None

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

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

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

DISCUSSION: None

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

H. Old/ Unfinished Business – NONE

I. New Business

a. Motion for Advice and Consent for the Appointment of the Following Individual to Serve on the Committee on Youth:

i. Monique Shaw with a term expiring 12/31/2028

MOTION: A motion for Approval of the Appointment of Monique Shaw was made by Trustee Akers and seconded by Trustee McLaughlin.

DISCUSSION: Supervisor Hess shared information on Ms. Shaw and that the position was vacant because Dan Kenney had retired from the committee. A review of Ms. Shaw's history with the committee and qualifications was shared.

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

b. Discussion of Clerk Vacancy

DISCUSSION: Supervisor Hess shared that a press release had been made and that there is a Facebook posting announcing the recent resignation of Clerk Protano due to an impending move out of state. She and Clerk Protano are creating a list of duties and standard of operating procedures as pertinent to the DeKalb Township clerk duties to ensure that there is an understanding of duties, obligations, and responsibilities. Interested candidates will be invited to the May 19th board meeting for a mutual Q & A. The board will enter a closed session and will select a candidate and inform them that night of their decision. Clerk Protano will be available for assistance as needed.

c. Discussion of Building IGA with DeKalb Township and Road District

REVIEW: In 2023 a building committee was formed and an Inter Governmental Agreement (IGA) was created between the DeKalb Township and the Road District (RD). The RD is the owner of the land and building. The committee determined the occupancy uses by the 3 departments and an agreeable shared division of expenses was created. That IGA expired in May 2025 and a new IGA needs to be implemented. As Township services and activities have expanded, the building is being utilized differently and more frequently by the community, service agencies, and partners. The Road District has become more constrained with limited space for storage and office and meeting space that is also climate controlled. RD staff need space for meetings and training. The committee toured the facility and discussed how it is currently utilized. Inquiries have been made regarding additions and reconfigurations of the current building. The conclusion is that the most cost-effective solution is to relocate one department. The assessor's office has the most flexibility in relocating to an alternative location. There are concerns regarding expenses and being fiscally responsible with taxpayer funds as well as ensuring that the needs of the community are served. All officials are concerned with envisioning the growing needs of staff, officials, and the community into the future as programs and services are implemented either through increased requirements or need. Discussion will be ongoing.

(Trustee Akers left the meeting at 7:25 p.m.)

d. Approval of Annual Town Meeting Agenda for April 21, 2026

MOTION: A motion to approve the Annual Town Meeting Agenda for April 21, 2026 was made by Trustee Thurman and seconded by Trustee McLaughlin.

DISCUSSION: After discussion Supervisor Hess requested that agenda item number ten (10) be amended to read 'Resolution Authorizing the Township Board to Purchase Property and/or Lease Office Space for Township Purposes, including space for the Township Assessor's Office 60 ILCS 1/30-50'.

A motion to amend the agenda was made by Supervisor Hess and seconded by Trustee Thurman. No further discussion after the amendment was made.

VOTE: A vote to approve the amended agenda was carried by a 4-0 voice vote with AYES by all present: Hess; Bradlo; McLaughlin; and Thurman. Clerk Protano declared the agenda as amended for the Annual Town Meeting as passed.

e. Approval of Minutes of the Regular Board of Trustees Meeting of February 17, 2026

MOTION: A motion to approve the minutes was made by Trustee Thurman and seconded by Trustee Bradlo.

DISCUSSION: no discussion

4-0 JWP

VOTE: A vote to approve the minutes was carried by a 3-0 voice vote with AYES by all present: Hess; Bradlo; McLaughlin; and Thurman. Motion passed.

Supervisor Hess mentioned that Steve Bigolin had recently died, he was a local historian and provided lots of information on the cemeteries we oversee as well as offering a cemetery walk in 2022. His vast knowledge and passion will be missed.

J. Old Business

NONE

K. Other Business:

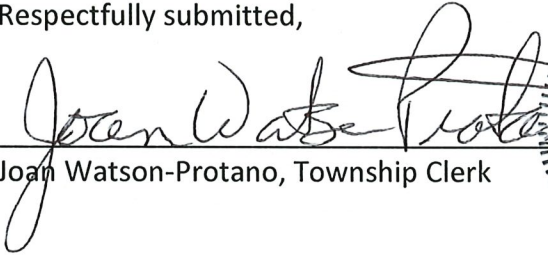
- a. Next Committee on Youth Meeting April 14, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.
- b. Next Regular Board of Trustees Meeting April 21, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.
- c. The Annual Town Meeting is scheduled for April 21, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

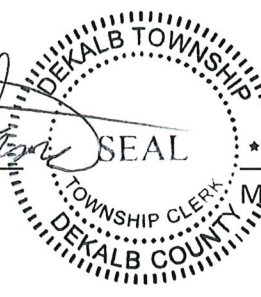
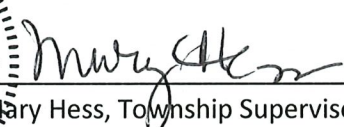
L. Adjournment

MOTION: A motion to adjourn was made by Trustee Thurman and seconded by Trustee McLaughlin.

VOTE: An affirmative voice vote ended the meeting at 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Joan Watson-Protano, Township Clerk

 
Mary Hess, Township Supervisor