

Annual Town Meeting — Town of the City of Galesburg
Township Hall — 121 West Tompkins Street
Galesburg, Illinois 61401
Tuesday, April 8, 2025
6:00 p.m.

The Annual Town Meeting of the Town of the City of Galesburg, County of Knox, State of Illinois, was called to order at the Township Offices, 121 West Tompkins Street, Galesburg, Illinois, by Kelli R. Bennewitz, Town Clerk, at 6:00 p.m. on April 8, 2025, being the second Tuesday of April.

Attendance: Kimberly Burkett, Laura Williams, Ronda Murphy, Rebecca Cabrera, Haylee Ledbetter, Kimberly Thierry, Stacy Schafer, Steve Cheesman, Bradley Hix, Dwight White, Peter Schwartzman, Dulcinea Tolliver, and Township Clerk Kelli Bennewitz.

The first item of business was to elect a Town Moderator.

Bradley Hix nominated Peter Schwartzman as Moderator, seconded by Kimberly Thierry. The Town Clerk asked for further nominations from the floor. There was none. Bradley Hix moved, seconded by Kimberly Thierry, that nominations be closed. The motion carried.

Peter Schwartzman was elected Town Moderator by unanimous vote.

Before entering upon the duties, Mr. Schwartzman signed the Oath of Office for the Moderator. The oath is on file with the Town Clerk.

The minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on Tuesday, April 9, 2024, were presented by Town Clerk Bennewitz. Kimberly Thierry moved, seconded by Dwight White, that the minutes be approved. The motion carried.

The Clerk presented notice of the meeting, proof of publication from the Galesburg Register Mail of the Town Meeting and posting of the notices at the Township Assessor's office, General Assistance office, Galesburg City Hall, City/Township Clerk's office, Knox County Courthouse, and the Knox County Assessment office.

Town Clerk Bennewitz presented the 2024 Supervisor's Annual Report as follows:

Town Fund

Balance January 1, 2024	\$763,468.17
Revenues	\$382,102.09
Expenditures	\$350,024.41
Balance December 31, 2024	\$795,545.85

General Assistance Fund

Balance January 1, 2024	\$627,461.71
Revenues	\$203,967.11

Expenditures	\$265,780.86
Balance December 31, 2024	\$565,647.96

IMRF Fund

Balance January 1, 2024	\$104,682.96
Revenues	\$ 33,679.36
Expenditures	\$ 40,619.59
Balance December 31, 2024	\$ 97,742.73

Liability Fund

Balance January 1, 2024	\$ 23,910.13
Revenues	\$ 7,924.62
Expenditures	\$ 9,844.57
Balance December 31, 2024	\$ 21,990.18

Social Security and Medicare Fund

Balance January 1, 2024	\$ 13,498.36
Revenues	\$ 33,679.36
Expenditures	\$ 42,578.85
Balance December 31, 2024	\$ 4,598.87

Audit Fund

Balance January 1, 2024	\$ 57,061.42
Revenues	\$ 20,636.65
Expenditures	\$ 19,000.00
Balance December 31, 2024	\$ 58,798.07

Dwight White moved, seconded by Peter Schwartzman, to approve the 2024 Supervisor's Annual Report as read and place it on file as part of the permanent record of the Annual Town Meeting. The motion carried.

The Clerk presented the audit report for the year ended December 31, 2023, as prepared by Phillips, Salmi + Associates, LLC. A motion was made by Steve Cheesman, seconded by Bradley Hix, to receive the audit report and place it on file as part of the Annual Town Meeting. The motion carried.

The Moderator asked for additional business.

Peter Schwartzman inquired about the higher expenses, by approximately \$60,000, than revenue for General Assistance. Kimberly Burkett stated that the office has seen a higher number of clients, and in fact the case load has doubled since last year. It was also noted that another expense is the water reconnect fee of \$55 charged by the City. Burkett noted that as of December 2024, General Assistance had paid approximately \$2,000 in late fees. Discussion was held on having a conversation with the City about waiving these fees for GA clients.

Kimberly Thierry reported that the Township had joined Hope Initiative, which offers food, drinks, and clothing for their clients. She also noted that there is a chance that the expanded Medicaid program, specifically the Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act, could be reversed or significantly altered. If this is the case, it is likely that a budget adjustment will need to be made. She also noted that Senator Halpin is not in favor of the bill.

Kelli Bennewitz and Laura Williams gave an update on SB 2504, SB 2217, and HB 2515. Bennewitz reported that SB 2217 would amend the Township Code to require that all townships with a population less than 5,000 be dissolved and consolidate with either an adjacent township or the county that contains the geographic boundaries of the dissolving township.

SB 2504 would amend the Property Tax Code to mandate that in counties with a population of less than 50,000, the offices of Township Assessor and Multi-Township Assessor be abolished at the end of their respective terms. The County Assessor in a county with a population of less than 50,000 would then assume all the rights, powers, duties, assets, property, liabilities, obligations, and responsibilities of the assessors within the county.

HB 2515 mandates that all townships with a population under 500 be dissolved within two years of the act's effective date. The township must transfer all real and personal property, assets, personnel, contractual obligations, and liabilities to the county. After the dissolution, the county would assume all rights and duties of the dissolved township, acting solely on behalf of the residents within that township's boundaries.

HB 2515 would also allow a county board to levy a property tax within the boundaries of the dissolved township for these assumed duties. Elected and appointed township officials would cease to hold office on the date of dissolution, no longer be compensated, and would have no legal recourse relating to the termination of their positions.

The consensus of those present agreed to add a Township resolution to the April 21, 2025, Township meeting in opposition of Township consolidation, specifically into County government.

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

Kelli R. Bennewitz, Town Clerk