

2024 Special Town Meeting

November 12, 2024

Kendall Township 9925B Route 47

State of Illinois

County of Kendall

Town of Kendall

At the 2024 Special Town Meeting, held in said Town and County in the State of Illinois at the Kendall Township Hall on November 12, 2024 the meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by township clerk Steve Grebner. There was one guest (Paul Parise from IMRF) and 17 voters in attendance (see attachment "A") including the following officers of Kendall Township:

Supervisor, Steve Gengler, Highway Commissioner Doug Westphal, Clerk Steve Grebner, Trustees, Carolyn Pottinger, Don Hirsch, Doug Thanepohn and assessor Cathy Scalise.

Clerk Grebner thanked all of the electors present for taking the time to attend and participate. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Clerk Grebner and motion for approval of the agenda was taken. A motion was made to set the Moderator's salary at \$75. Motion was made Scott Harmon and seconded by Doug Thanepohn. Roll of attendees was taken and passed unanimously. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Doug Westphal to nominate Ron (Jake) Cooper as the moderator. It was seconded by Steve Gengler. No other nominations were made and a motion to close the nominations was made by Don Hirsch and seconded by Doug Thanepohn. Vocal vote was taken and passed unanimously. Motion carried.

The call for the vote in favor of Nomination of Ron (Jake) Cooper was made and show of hands was unanimous in favor. Motion carried.

Moderator was sworn in by Clerk Grebner and proceeded to run the remainder of the meeting.

As per agenda, the only order of business was to discuss and take action on whether Kendall Township would join the IMRF (Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund). Clerk Grebner as recognized by the Moderator to give a little background regarding the approval of the study that occurred at the April Annual Meeting, and both the results and required steps to proceed. At that time Clerk Grebner introduced Paul Parise from IMRF who was able to give some background on the history and solvency of the IMRF and answer questions that arose from the electors.

Questions included the relationship of the IMRF to other state pensions that are currently underfunded – and Paul stated that the IMRF is not affiliated with those and is nearly 100% funded at this time.

Question posed by Don Hirsch, was is the cost to the township if we stop having employees? To summarize the answer it was there will be some level of involvement and payment ongoing by the township, but if the person in the role leaves and is not vested (10 years to vest) and takes their contributions away the liability goes away as well. The IMRF keeps the Employer contribution and depending upon actuarial studies, there may need to be some continuation of payment but that will all be dependent upon that particular situation.

Doug Thanepohn gave background on previous efforts to secure the financial study and the reasons why they failed and wanted Paul to explain the differences between Tier 1 and Tier 2. Paul proceeded to share the differences (vesting time, retirement age, no guaranteed cost of living increases in Tier 2 etc.) He also stated that in our initial rate quoted by IMRF board (we are in Tier 2 with a 1000 hour threshold) is embedded the lesser of 5 years or 20% of employed years

and that is the most back time the EMPLOYER (township) will be responsible for. The EMPLOYEE however can purchase more back years to increase their size of their pension. He stated for Employees, there are ways to use other IRA/401k etc funds to pay for that and YOU can have multiple pensions in the State of IL.

The question of employees vs Elected Officials did come up and for employees if they choose to participate, they are in it for the duration of their employment (as long as they meet the 1000 hour minimum threshold). For Elected officials, it is done by "role" so each new Highway Commissioner (for example) can choose to participate or not. He highly recommended that elected SALARIED officials keep a log of their hours to ensure they do or do not meet the 1000 hour threshold.

Question was raised about "Who selected the participants for the study?" Clerk Grebner answered that question, as the Payroll was reviewed and it was identified that the only people that would qualify at the 1000 hour level would be the Office Administrator, the Assessor and the Highway Commissioner. It was at this time Clerk Grebner discussed the growth of our township, the changing demographic and the increased expectation of services and availability of the officials and support staff – thus the reason for the study and this vote. Clerk Grebner did share that the results of the study were very positive as we had to provide financials for the township back 3 years. The Assessor then stated that while the IMRF does allow for a specific tax levy to be done to pay for IMRF Contribution, there is no intent to do so and we have sufficient funds in our township to support this at this time.

It was at this time Moderator Cooper asked for any more questions and public comment. Upon hearing none, He introduced Supervisor Gengler to report and initiate action of voting on required ordinance. Clerk Grebner read the specific ordinance required to be approved by the electors to authorize Kendall Township to join IMRF (see attachment "B"). Moderator Cooper asked if anyone had any questions on the content and upon hearing none, he opened the floor for a motion to approve said Ordinance as read. Motion was made by Doug Thanepohn and Seconded by Carolyn Pottinger. It was decided we would have a secret ballot and ballots were distributed to all electors in attendance. Clerk Grebner collected the ballots and Moderator Cooper and Clerk Grebner tallied the votes in clear view of the electors. The results were: 14 in favor, 2 opposed and 1 abstained. Moderator Cooper declared Motion carried.

Clerk Grebner said that after this vote the township officers would secure all proper documents required by the IMRF and submit prior to deadline so this could start on January 1, 2025.

Moderator Cooper said there was no other information forthcoming and the next meetings of township would be Zoning and Planning meeting on Monday November 18<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM to discuss potential Solar Farm on Ament Road, and the Regular Monthly Township Meeting on Tuesday November 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM. Both will be held at the township building.

Moderator entertained motion to adjourn and motion was made by Don Hirsch and seconded by Carter Westphal. All in favor "aye". Motion carried unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Steve Grebner, Kendall Township Clerk