

Special Meeting  
Charleston Township Board  
March 12, 2009

CALL TO ORDER:

The Supervisor called the joint meeting of the Charleston Township Board and the City of Galesburg Council to order at 2:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS:

Roll was called and members present were: Bell, Schug, Samson, Balkema and Kramer. The City of Galesburg Clerk called roll for the Council. All were present except Ken Kissinger. Also in attendance: Fire Chief Garry Henson, Deputy Fire Chief Kevin Roomsburg, Fire Board member Chuck Kasson, and Fire Board Secretary/Treasurer Ken Thoroughman.

BUSINESS:

Fire Chief Garry Henson explained that the purpose of applying for grant money available as part of the stimulus package through FEMA was to build a new fire station. He detailed the process and suggested that the application process would probably begin around June 1<sup>st</sup>. The process would be competitive, and the applications would be reviewed by volunteers from fire departments around the country. Grants would probably be awarded by September 30. He explained that there must be a cost benefit based on the size of the community. He said that he was looking into property on the corner of East Michigan and McCollum. The Blank property on M-96 was also mentioned as a possible site. He stipulated that he would apply for a \$500,000 grant for an 8,000 square foot building that would include a larger training room, a possible bunk room, a kitchen and two bathrooms.

Some questions included the possibility of unexpected costs and costs not covered by the grant. Fire Chief Henson said that those things are always possible. He also said that he was working on free architectural services. Clerk Debbie Miner asked if there would be any additional operational costs such as insurance, utilities, snowplowing and lawn maintenance. Garry responded that he intended to build a "green" building and snowplowing and lawn maintenance would probably be handled by volunteers. The City of Galesburg Council approved the grant application in a roll call vote.

Balkema/Schug **moved to proceed with the application for grant money through FEMA for a new fire station.** Roll Call Vote: Balkema – Y; Kramer – Y; Bell – Y; Schug – Y; and Samson –N.  
CARRIED

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

Samson/Balkema moved to adjourn at 3:30 p.m. CARRIED

Linda Kramer, Clerk

