

MINUTES OF THE DORR TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
August 12, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.
Dorr Township Office
1039 Lake Ave, Woodstock, IL 60098

Present: Supervisor Susan Brokaw; Clerk Brenda Stack; Assessor Tammy Benitez; Highway Commissioner John Fuller; Trustee Jon Sheahan; Trustee Ernie Hagenow; Trustee Jim Brink, Trustee Pat Keefe.

Public present: See Sign-In Sheet

Meeting called to order by Supervisor Susan Brokaw at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance recited.

1. Roll Call of Board Members present as listed above.
2. Public Comments: None
3. Approval of Minutes

Clerk Brenda Stack advises Trustee Hagenow provided spelling for vendor under 4. Approval of Claims - Ricci should be Rieke.

Motion by Trustee Jon Sheahan to approve the Minutes of the July 8, 2025 Board meeting, with spelling correction. Motion seconded by Trustee Ernie Hagenow. Motion approved unanimously.

4. Approval of Claims for July 9, 2025 to August 12, 2025:

TF	\$ 62,494.10	GA	\$ 2,593.33
DRD	\$ 10,942.75	PHR	\$205,187.28

Motion by Trustee Jon Sheahan to approve the claims for the period July 9, 2025 to August 12, 2025. Motion seconded by Trustee Ernie Hagenow.

Supervisor Brokaw asks for any questions or comments with no response. **Board polled; motion approved unanimously.**

General Assistance case report and Salvation Army report provided prior to Board meeting via email for review.

5. Senior Activities Report

SOAR Township Update August 12, 2024 handout provided for review prior to meeting via email. Laura Wassinger, Director of Programming for SOAR@Dorr, provides handout with copy of newspaper article on a participant of the program from the Woodstock Independent, as well as an additional copy of the SOAR Township Update August 12, 2024 document. Laura Wassinger advises participation levels are going up, expect more than 1,000 people to come through in August. Overview of handout - brief review of July Recap, July Programming, Services. Newspaper article provided briefly discussed, as well as continued support by The Woodstock Independent. City of Woodstock to conduct a walkability study; suggested presentation here at SOAR@Dorr which would consist of a brief presentation and break out into small groups. City Scene (City of Woodstock publication) is our only advertising SOAR@Dorr has ever done, consisting of a full page in the City Scene provided to us for free by the City of Woodstock. Now Laura Cullotta (former trustee here at Dorr Township) is employed by the City of Woodstock, and they are advising it will now cost us. Met with City Manager Roscoe Stelford; they will allow us a half-page free of charge. September is National Senior Center Month; Laura advising she is thinking of asking the Mayor of Woodstock for a proclamation for SOAR@Dorr. Facebook is growing. Laura Wassinger advises of participant Anthony Celentano's qualifications and participation regarding the walkability study; City of Woodstock invited him to join the committee for this study. Anthony Celentano advises the projects Woodstock High School kids have completed, painted sidewalk over by high school; also, he advises that one of the ladies that comes to SOAR@Dorr for exercise was a transportation specialist, who can help on this project; old folks still have some "game", and are a great resource to be used, if asked.

6. Road District Building Project

a. Open House

Highway Commissioner John Fuller advises the new buildings are done, and they are slowing moving in and getting organized. Supervisor Sue Brokaw advises she has not gotten all of the bills for payout; asks about Open House; we could move our regular meeting out there. It is determined September is too soon; still needs work. Possibly October meeting? Chamber Open House with ribbon cutting ceremony could be considered. Concern is expressed, as when we last did so there was no attendance. Will put together something for October meeting out at the Highway Department. Clerk will post Notice of change of meeting place, as required.

7. Legislative Reports - None

Supervisor Sue Brokaw advises she attended a meeting last week in Rock Island where it was discussed that with all of the new people recently elected, the threat of consolidation or elimination of townships is not going to go away. Townships will need to continue to work on this issue.

8. Reports

Supervisor: Supervisor Brokaw advises she met with Woodstock City Manager Roscoe Stelford regarding SOAR@Dorr activities in the City Scene publication. Made good points for not changing; we do offer the programs to the City of Woodstock. Access point for SOAR@Dorr - signage was added to the front door directing attendees to the side door for entry to SOAR@Dorr. The McHenry County Clerk inspected the premises here today for compliance as polling place. Next training session by TOI is on September 19th from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Rockford. Still providing information to the auditors - ongoing since the end of May. Payroll and QuickBooks brief review and explanation of assistance we are receiving. Supervisor Brokaw will have a Zoom meeting next week regarding training her and Amy moving forward. Supervisor Brokaw advises copies of Soar Volunteer Action Alliance Minutes of July 23, 2025 and Minutes of Meeting with Sue Brokaw dated 7/31/25 provided to Board members prior to meeting, along with SOAR Township Update August 12, 2025 previously mentioned. Clerk Brenda Stack voices concern regarding the propriety of SOAR@Dorr forming a "Steering Committee" and Action Alliance regarding the facility and expected vacancy created when the Food Pantry leaves the building, particularly when the Dorr Township Board has not discussed or addressed this situation at any length as of yet; there may be other uses better suited to the space. Clerk Stack advises she has been very supportive of the program, and recognizes that it has continually grown and improved since its inception. It is recognized that SOAR@Dorr has been very transparent in its intention, and has continued to keep the Board updated at several recent Board meetings regarding this issue. Clerk Brenda Stack also points out that these Minutes provided include information indicating that SOAR@Dorr has asked Board Trustee Jon Sheahan to join their committee/Alliance, as well as Board Trustee Ernie Hagenow, further noting that in those Minutes it states that Trustee Hagenow is hesitant to join their committee, with an explanation as to their position and intention. Clerk Stack again advises she appreciates the program and their enthusiasm, but states

this program is overseen by the Board of Trustees and therefore the Board should be directing or forming any committee dealing with this situation. Clerk Brenda Stack further advises that she happily gave up her office when Laura started here, and again when she was asked to vacate her second office when Lynda Rohe came on board, then moving her "office" to the conference room. It became apparent after occupying space in the conference room that this perhaps was not the best area for the Clerk to conduct business and store official records and documents. The SOAR@Dorr employees then took over a storage area, and Clerk Stack was able to move back to the office previously used by Lynda Rohe, with materials still remaining in that office from the SOAR program. Laura Wassinger and Anthony Celentano both state that they are merely providing information and doing the "legwork", and have kept Supervisor Sue Brokaw informed and included. Clerk Stack states that it looks like they have "put the cart before the horse". Supervisor Sue Brokaw states that there is planning and work that needs to get done along the way; abiding by the Open Meetings Act is a concern. Laura Wassinger briefly provides explanation of Adelle Mickelson (participant at SOAR@Dorr and member of their committee), increase in participation serving purpose as designed, further advising that the idea for starting committee was to help identify what people here are looking for. Grant received from the McHenry County Community Foundation discussed; for work on expansion. Amount received is \$14,214.00. Concern of the Board and the Board's purpose in this matter continues to be discussed. Laura Wassinger indicates that since her hiring on August 3, 2021, she has continued to increase participation and create a successful program here. Supervisor Brokaw advises that conversations have been had because the Food Pantry is moving. The Food Pantry is not leaving until May of 2026; we have some time. Lynda Rohe, Director of Social Services and Education, advises she has concern about grant writing, as that must be done well in advance. Samantha Avila asks about grant of \$14,000.00 - what do you use that for? Supervisor Brokaw advises that the Community Foundation 2025 Betterment of Woodstock grant can be used for capital campaign, securing space for expansion of SOAR@Dorr. There is no time limit on use of the funds, and no reporting on how the funds are used. Supervisor Sue Brokaw advises we don't have the money in our budget to do this. Trustee Ernie Hagenow asks where the space is that the Food Pantry is located. Supervisor Brokaw advises the space can be viewed when the pantry is open, or she would be happy to assist in accompanying anyone who is interested in viewing the space. Discussion continues - Laura Wassinger states we need to do a survey for suggestions and ideas. Long Range Planning - are we expecting to have enough space here?

Page 5 - 08/12/2025

Availability of space for other groups. Supervisor Brokaw advises we don't turn everyone who asks to use the space away. This needs to be a Future Agenda item for discussion - Building and Planning -

future expansion. Supervisor Sue Brokaw advises she is not in agreement with the Mission Statement (to be approved) included in the SOAR Volunteer Action Alliance Minutes and the Minutes of Meeting with Sue Brokaw 7/31/25, as stated: "To facilitate the growth opportunities of SOAR; determine (assist in determining) the best utilization of the facility for current and future programs."

Assessor: Residential Sales July 14, 2025 through August 11, 2025 handout provided via email prior to meeting. Assessor Tammy Benitez advises assessments were published in The Woodstock Independent on July 9, 2025. On Friday, August 8, 2025, the time to appeal was closed. We had approximately 72 calls, emails and walk-ins over those 30 days. More than half of those were individuals checking the status of their exemptions. As of August 12, 2025, we have three (3) appeals. This is not a final number. Talked to County Assessor; about 35-40 anticipated. The County still needs to log appeals that may have come in the last week. Hearings may be the end of September, possibly sooner.

Regarding previous SOAR@Dorr discussion, Assessor Benitez advises the Township Assessors used to meet here (each township takes turns), but can't meet here now because there is no space. This included about 17 people meeting during the day.

Highway Commissioner: Highway Commissioner John Fuller advises this month did a few culverts - roads and driveways; gearing up for paving; some trees came down; training in Peoria for staff; cleared brush around fences; shop work; organized grounds out at highway department. Mowing, stumps, continuing to organize the new buildings. Boom mower couple times a week. Trustee Ernie Hagenow asks if the department has any use for pallet packing? Good price. Highway Commissioner Fuller advises maybe. Trustee Hagenow provides some specifications. Highway Commissioner Fuller advises we can look into that. Trustee Hagenow will send him information. Supervisor Sue Brokaw states we can also hold an Open House on a Sunday and offer a Touch-A-Truck event. Highway Commissioner Fuller advises they can also Touch-A-Truck at a regular Tuesday meeting.

Clerk: No report

Trustees: No report.

Page 6 - 08/12/2025

9. Executive Session - None

10. New Business - None

11.Future Agenda Items

a. Future Expansion

Supervisor Sue Brokaw reminds Board members that any communication, such as emails, make sure to respond individually and not reply all, to avoid violations of the Open Meetings Act.

Levy coming up in October

12.Motion to adjourn

Motion by Supervisor Sue Brokaw to adjourn. Motion seconded by Trustee Jim Brink. Motion approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Next Board meeting Tuesday, September 9, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

Submitted by Brenda Stack, Dorr Township Clerk

CIVILITY PLEDGE:

In the interest of civility, I pledge to promote civility by listening, being respectful of others, acknowledging that we are all striving to support and improve our community, and understanding that we each may have different ideas for achieving that objective.