

Office of the Town Clerk
South Rock Island Township, Illinois
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January 26, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes - Approved

Call to Order/Roll Call - The January 26, 2026, South Rock Island Township Board meeting was called to order at 4:02 PM by Acting Supervisor Bill Sowards.

Elected Board Officials Present:

- Supervisor Grace Shirk (remote), Clerk KJ Whitley, Trustees – Bill Sowards, Diana Hebbeln, Chris Elsberg

Elected Board Officials Absent:

- Trustee Jonah Sallows-Hines

Other Elected Officials Present:

- Assessor Nichole Parker

Others Present:

- Stacie Young, SRIT Chief Deputy Assessor
- Wendy MacDonald, SRIT Deputy Assessor
- RIMILL Baseball/Softball Representatives

Remote Electronic Attendance (if necessary) – A motion was made by **Hebbeln** and seconded by **Elsberg** to allow the remote attendance of Supervisor Shirk due to a family illness emergency, as permitted under the Illinois Open Meetings Act. Roll call vote. 3-Ayes Elsberg, Hebbeln, and Sowards. 0-Nays Motion carried.

Approval of the Agenda - **Elsberg** moved, and **Hebbeln** seconded, to approve the **January 26, 2026** South Rock Island Township agenda. Roll call vote. 4-Ayes Elsberg, Shirk, Hebbeln, and Sowards. 0-Nays. Motion carried.

Approval of Meeting Minutes – **Elsberg** moved, and **Hebbeln** seconded, to approve the **December 22, 2025** South Rock Island Township Special Board meeting minutes. Roll call vote. 4-Ayes Elsberg, Shirk, Hebbeln, and Sowards. 0-Nays. Motion carried.

Public Comments/Guest

Representatives Rachael, Ray, and Julian were present to answer questions following last month's donation request to the Board for a 2026 SRIT sponsorship. They discussed the distinction between Rock Island/Milan Little League (RIMILL) and the Rock Island Parks softball program, clarifying that the organizations operate separately.

They advised that approximately 40% of participating children receive scholarships, and no interested child is turned away due to an inability to pay. Fifty-two kids in SRIT have received scholarships. The representatives were seeking a Board determined donation amount. **Hebbeln** and **Elsberg** noted that a **\$1,500 Home Run (category)** sponsorship had been approved last month, and the representatives were asked to attend the meeting to provide clarification and additional information regarding their program.

Young and **MacDonald** discussed and presented a Compensation Review Proposal(Record) to the SRIT Board. They advised that their current compensation does not align with their tenure and experience. They expressed a desire to discuss how to bridge that gap.

They reviewed the present structure and discussed options for addressing compensation adjustments. It was noted that the Assessor determines and oversees staff compensation, but the SRIT Board approves the budget. Discussion included the possibility of increasing the assessor salary line in the budget to support fair and equitable compensation for staff.

Reports

Supervisor's Report – Presented by Shirk (Record)

Updates on upcoming community events and Township initiatives included:

- **SRIT Food Voucher Program** – Twenty additional vouchers were distributed in the month of January at \$100 each.
- **Emergency Assistance Shelter for the Homeless** – SRIT can support up to 10 rooms. Valid identification is required to receive assistance.
- **SRI Township Award Nominations** – This is the last call for nominations. To date, one business nomination and one individual nomination have been received.
- **Girls Softball** – After general discussion, the Board gave the supervisor guidance to move forward with supporting a \$400 donation to this program and asked it be placed on the next agenda for a formal vote.

Clerk's Report – Presented by Whitley (Record) - Clerk Whitley reported that no new FOIA requests had been received. She inquired about receipt of the final (complete) copy of the most recent audit for her records. She also advised that the Certification Tax Levy Ordinance and Certification of Compliance with the Truth in Taxation Act were filed with the Rock Island County Clerk on December 23, 2025. The SRIT Board approved the tax levy at its December 22, 2025 meeting.

Assessor's Report – Presented by Parker (Record) - Assessor **Parker** Assessor Parker provided the following updates:

Board of Review Update – Three hearings were noted:

- **City Limits** – No evidence was submitted and no representative appeared at the scheduled hearing.
- **Hy-Vee** – Decision upheld.
- **Friendship Manor** – No decision has been received at this time.

General/Emergency Assistance Report (Record) - The **December 2025 Client/Public/Senior Citizen Report** was provided with the agenda.

Treasurer's Report and Authorization and Transfers of Town Fund and Relief Fund Bills - The Treasurer's Report for December 2025 was presented and placed on record. The Township Board audited the December 2025 bills and claims, which were also placed on record. **Elsberg** moved, and **Hebbeln** seconded, to authorize payment of the Town Fund and Relief Fund bills and transfers in the amount of **\$53,726.24**. Roll call vote. 4-Ayes Elsberg, Shirk, Hebbeln, and Sowards. 0-Nays. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business

2026 Rock Island/Milan Little League Baseball & Softball Sponsorship - It was noted that this item appeared on the January 2026 agenda in error, as it was previously discussed and approved at the December 2025 meeting. At that meeting **Hebbeln** moved, and **Sallows-Hines** seconded, to sponsor the

Home Run (category), \$1,500, RIMLL baseball team. Roll call vote. 5-Ayes Shirk, Elsberg, Hebbeln, Sowards and Sallows-Hines. 0-Nays. Motion carried.

New Business

Presentation of Assessor's Budget (Record) – Assessor Parker In the **Personnel** category, proposed increases include adjustments to salaries and health insurance. The **Contractual Services** category reflects proposed increases for copier/computer software and postage. The **Commodities** category includes proposed increases for office supplies and contingencies. The **Capital Outlay/Building** category reflects a proposed increase in the equipment line item. The 2025–2026 Assessor budget totals **\$125,450**. The proposed 2026–2027 Assessor budget totals **\$139,600**.

Trustees offered recommendations regarding the proposed Assessor's budget, with particular focus on salary-related concerns. Discussion centered on making compensation adjustments more reasonable to address imbalances and exploring a structured review process to evaluate and ensure equitable pay.

Approval of 2026/2027 Intergovernmental Agreement for General and Emergency Assistance – Bowling and Andalusia Townships - **Shirk** moved and **Elsberg** seconded to approve the 2026/2027 Intergovernmental Agreements with Bowling Township and Andalusia Township for General and Emergency Assistance. Roll call vote. 4-Ayes Shirk, Elsberg, Hebbeln, and Sowards, 0-Nays. Motion carried.

Donations

Battle of the Buckets Rock Island Park District (\$750) – Following general discussion, **Elsberg** moved, and **Shirk** seconded, to sponsor the **Battle of the Buckets** event hosted by the Rock Island Park District in the amount of \$750. The sponsorship supports a one-day basketball shooting competition for children and adults with special disabilities. Roll call vote. 4-Ayes Shirk, Elsberg, Hebbeln, and Sowards. 0-Nays. Motion carried.

Public Comments

Please see comments above.

Adjournment

Elsberg moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:47 pm and the motion was seconded by **Hebbeln**. Roll call vote. 4-Ayes Shirk, Elsberg, Hebbeln, and Sowards. 0-Nays. Motion carried.

Next Meeting

The next South Rock Island Township Board meeting is scheduled for Monday ,February 23, 2026, at 4:00 PM.

THIS IS A CERTIFIED COPY OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING APPROVED BY THE SOUTH ROCK ISLAND TOWNSHIP BOARD ON FEBRUARY 23, 2026.

Seal—>

Township Clerk

2.23.26

Date