

**Office of the Town Clerk**  
**South Rock Island Township, Illinois**  
kjwhitley@sritownship.net

**November 24, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes - Approved**

**Call to Order/Roll Call** - The November 24, 2025, South Rock Island Township Board meeting was called to order at 4:03 PM by Supervisor Grace Shirk.

Elected Board Officials Present:

- Supervisor Grace Shirk, Clerk KJ Whitley, Trustees – Bill Sowards, Diana Hebbeln, Jonah Sallows-Hines, Chris Elsberg

**Remote Electronic Attendance (if necessary) – None**

**Approval of the Agenda** - **Sowards** moved, and **Elsberg** seconded, to approve the **November 24, 2025** South Rock Island Township Board meeting agenda. Voice vote. Motion carried.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes – Hebbeln** moved, and **Sallows-Hines** seconded, to approve the **October 27, 2025**, South Rock Island Township Board meeting minutes. Voice vote. Motion carried.

**Reports**

**Supervisor’s Report** – Presented by Shirk (Record)

**-Staff Insurance** – The Township will maintain essentially the same benefits and program but will switch the insurance carrier from Blue Cross Blue Shield to UnitedHealthcare. Insurance premiums have increased.

**-LULA Elevator** – The Limited Use/Limited Application (LULA) elevator passed inspection and has been logged with the Illinois State Fire Marshal.

**-TOI Assistance Increase** – General Assistance minimum payment amounts will increase to \$456.00, effective October 27, 2025. Assistance amounts are reviewed and adjusted annually, typically in October. The Township will begin utilizing the increased amount in December 2025.

**-Annual Audit Update** – Supervisor Shirk reported that she and the Township’s accountant have made multiple attempts by phone and email to obtain the final audit report from the auditor, without success, and have received no communication or report to date, although a billing statement was received. She advised that the Illinois State Comptroller will be imposing fines this year for late audit submissions and noted that South Rock Island Township will seek to be made whole should any fines be assessed due to the auditor’s delay in providing the final report.

**-Emergency Food Program Update** – Project NOW donated \$20,000 to the South Rock Island and Rock Island Townships for food assistance. South Rock Island Township ordered \$10,000 in food vouchers. Residents who provided adequate proof of residency were eligible to receive a \$100 voucher, redeemable at the Rock Island Hy-Vee by December 31, 2025. Demand was overwhelming, and all voucher slots were filled within 90 minutes. Residents who did not pick up vouchers within the allotted seven-day timeframe were removed from the list. Rock Island Township was scheduled to vote on its program at its November 24, 2025, monthly meeting. If Rock Island Township is able to distribute program funds, South Rock Island Township is willing to assist.

**Senior Food & Relief Program Dates & Requirements Updates** – The Board was provided with a copy of the updated program guidelines.

**Clerk’s Report** – **Presented by Whitley** – Clerk Whitley reported that the annual report has not been filed due to the pending final audit; an updated draft audit was approved October 1, 2025. She

requested approval of the October 1, 2025, and November 6, 2025, special meeting minutes be added to the December 22, 2025 agenda, reported receipt of one FOIA request, advised the tax levy will be recorded following Board approval, and thanked the Board for attendance at the TOI Annual Conference and related training.

**Assessor's Report – Presented by Shirk (Record)** – Supervisor Shirk reported that the assessor's office has received 596 senior freeze applications and advised of updated senior freeze income limits—2026: \$75,000; 2027: \$77,000; 2028: \$79,000. She reminded the Board that the Board of Review will hold two hearings at Friendship Manor and Hy-Vee and noted that the annual assessor meeting will be held January 7, 2026.

**General/Emergency Assistance Report (Record)** - The October 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 **October 2025** was presented and placed on record. The Township Board audited the October 2025 bills and claims, which were also placed on record. **Hebbeln** moved, and **Elsberg** seconded, to authorize payment of the Town Fund and Relief Fund bills and transfers in the amount of **\$100,194.66**. Roll call vote. 5-Ayes Elsberg, Shirk, Hebbeln, Sowards and Sallows-Hines. 0-Nays. Motion carried.

#### **Unfinished Business**

**Adoption of the 250th Anniversary Resolution** – Discussion was held at the September 2025 meeting; however, the Board did not complete formal action at that time. **Hebbeln** moved, and **Elsberg** seconded, to adopt the Resolution to Celebrate America's 250<sup>th</sup> Year. Voice vote. Motion carried.

#### **New Business**

**Approval of Tax Levy Ordinance at a 0% increase with Certificate of Tax Levy & Truth in Taxation Certificate of Compliance** - Supervisor Shirk advised that the levy will remain the same, \$460,750, as in prior years, with no increase since 2014. Elsberg moved, and Sallows-Hines seconded, to approve the Tax Levy Ordinance at a 0% increase, along with the Certificate of Tax Levy and Truth in Taxation Certificate (combined motion). The aggregate levy did not exceed a 5% increase over the prior year's extension; therefore, a notice and hearing were not required. Roll call vote: 5 Ayes – Elsberg, Shirk, Hebbeln, Sowards, and Sallows-Hines; 0 Nays. Motion carried.

#### **Approve to move \$10,000 to \$15,000 to the Emergency Food Program from the SNAP/**

**Furloughed monies** - After discussion, the Board agreed to move \$10,000 of the previously approved SNAP/Furlough Food Program funds to a new South Rock Island Township Emergency Food Program. Qualified households must show proof of income (SNAP, TANF, Illinois Medicaid/Illinois medical card), a photo ID, a piece of recent non-junk mail, and be a South Rock Island Township resident to receive a \$100 Hy-Vee grocery voucher, which must be used by January 31, 2026. Households that received funding in the November/December under the Project Now program are not eligible for this round. **Shirk** moved, and **Sallows-Hines** seconded, to adopt the program with the above guidelines. Roll call vote: 5 Ayes – Shirk, Elsberg, Hebbeln, Sowards, Sallows-Hines; 0 Nays. Motion carried. The Board will continue to

monitor the County's financial and food insecurity situation and review program guidelines and funding on a regular basis.

**Donations**

**AT&T Pioneers Club – Shoe Program** – Following discussion, **Hebbeln** moved, and **Sowards** seconded, to contribute \$1,000 to the AT&T Pioneers Club to purchase shoes for children in the Rock Island, Moline, and East Moline school districts. Roll call vote: 5 Ayes – Shirk, Elsberg, Hebbeln, Sowards, Sallows-Hines; 0 Nays. Motion carried.

**Youth Hope-Year end matching challenge**– Following discussion, **Sowards** moved, and **Elsberg** seconded, to contribute \$750 to Youth Hope to support programs for children and teens. Roll call vote: 5 Ayes – Shirk, Elsberg, Hebbeln, Sowards, Sallows-Hines; 0 Nays. Motion carried

**Public Comments**

No public comments were noted.

**Adjournment**

**Elsberg** moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:12 PM, and the motion was seconded by **Sowards**. Motion carried.

**Next Meeting**

The next South Rock Island Township Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 22, 2025, at 4:00 PM.

**THIS IS A CERTIFIED COPY OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING APPROVED BY THE SOUTH ROCK ISLAND TOWNSHIP BOARD ON DECEMBER 22, 2025.**

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**Township Clerk**