

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

**February 23, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes - Approved**

**Call to Order/Roll Call** - The February 23, 2026, South Rock Island Township Board meeting was called to order at 4:01 PM by Acting Supervisor Bill Sowards.

**Elected Officials Present:**

- Supervisor Grace Shirk (remote), Clerk KJ Whitley, Trustees – Bill Sowards, Diana Hebbeln, Jonah Sallows-Hines, Assessor Nichole Parker

**Elected Officials Absent:**

- Trustee Chris Elsberg (attended remotely; not counted as present under OMA)

**Others Present:**

- Stacie Young, SRIT Chief Deputy Assessor
- Wendy MacDonald, SRIT Deputy Assessor
- Katie Miller, Lead Case Manager/Administrative Officer
- Tara Tollenaer, Caseworker
- Melissa Swenson

**Remote Electronic Attendance (if necessary)** – A motion was made by **Hebbeln** and seconded by **Sallows-Hines** 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 Sallows-Hines, Hebbeln, and Sowards. 0-Nays Motion carried.

**Approval of the Agenda** - **Hebbeln** moved, and **Sallows-Hines** seconded, to approve the **February 23, 2026** South Rock Island Township agenda. Roll call vote. 4-Ayes Sallows-Hines, Shirk, Hebbeln, and Sowards. 0-Nays. Motion carried.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes** – **Hebbeln** moved, and **Sallows-Hines** seconded, to approve the **January 26, 2026** South Rock Island Township Board meeting minutes. Roll call vote. 4-Ayes Sallows-Hines, Shirk, Hebbeln, and Sowards. 0-Nays. Motion carried.

**Reports**

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

- Announced recipients for the 2026 SRI Township Awards:
  - Rick Miers (Individual), Ted’s Boatarama (Business of the Year) and Luke CooleyAwards will be presented at the Annual Town Meeting on April 14, 2026.
- Provided updates on community events, including a planned celebration for the 250th Anniversary of America. Event to be held **July 2, 2026**, at 11:00 AM at Moline Township, 620 18th Street, Moline, IL.

**Clerk’s Report – Presented by Whitley (Record)**

- Reported receipt of two FOIA requests related to financial information.
- Noted that Statements of Economic Interest were requested prematurely; Rock Island County will issue official requests soon.
- Shared updates regarding the township website (minutes):

- After discussions with Augustana College (website manager), original electronic Word and Excel documents are required to meet ADA Title II web accessibility standards moving forward. Copies of documents are not ADA compliant.

**Assessor's Report – Presented by Parker (Record)**

- Provided updates on the Senior Freeze program:
  - 14,500 applications with updated income limits were mailed to seniors in Rock Island County.

**Recess**

**Hebbeln** moved, seconded by **Swallows-Hines**, to recess for five minutes. Roll call: 4 Ayes Swallows-Hines, Shirk, Hebbeln, Sowards, 0 Nays; motion carried. The meeting recessed at 4:20 p.m. and reconvened at 4:25 p.m. to determine whether the subject matter under discussion required a closed session.

**General/Emergency Assistance Report (Record)** - The **January 25, 2026 Client/Public/Senior Citizen Report** was provided with the agenda.

**Treasurer's Report and Authorization and Transfers of Town Fund and Relief Fund Bills – (Record)** - The Treasurer's Report for **January 2026** was presented and placed on record. The Township Board audited the **January 2026** bills and claims, which were also placed on record. **Hebbeln** moved, and **Sallows-Hines** seconded, to authorize payment of the Town Fund and Relief Fund bills and transfers in the amount of **\$53,791.76**. Roll call vote. 4-Ayes Sallows-Hines, Shirk, Hebbeln, and Sowards. 0-Nays. Motion carried.

**New Business**

**Tentatively approve and placed on display the 2026/2027 Township Budget for final approval at March Meeting (Record)** – Sowards moved, seconded by Shirk, to **tentatively approve and place the 2026/2027 Township Budget on display for public review prior to final approval at the March meeting**. Roll call vote. 4-Ayes Shirk, Sallows-Hines, Hebbeln, and Sowards, 0-Nays. Motion carried.

**Approval for Community Shred Day on April 15, 9:30 am– 11:30am out of Community Development with The Arc- \$470** – Shirk moved, seconded by **Hebbeln**, to approve **Community Shred Day on April 15, 2026, from 9:30–11:30 a.m., and to pay The Arc \$470** for the initial shred fee covering the first 2,000 pounds. Roll call vote. 4-Ayes Shirk, Sallows-Hines, Hebbeln, and Sowards, 0-Nays. Motion carried.

**Approval of the Annual Town Meeting Agenda on 4/14/26 (Record)** – **Hebbeln** moved and **Sallows-Hines** seconded to approve the proposed **Annual Town Meeting Agenda n for April 14, 2026**. Roll call vote. 4-Ayes Shirk, Sallows-Hines, Hebbeln, and Sowards, 0-Nays. Motion carried.

**Approval of 2026/2027 Intergovernmental Agreement for General & Emergency Assistance – Drury Township, Buffalo Prairie Township, Rural Township, Preemption Township, Edgington Township** – **Hebbeln** moved and **Sowards** seconded to approve the **2026/2027 Intergovernmental Agreements with Drury Township, Buffalo Prairie Township, Rural Township, Preemption Township, Edgington Township** for General and Emergency Assistance. Roll call vote. 4-Ayes Shirk, Sallows-Hines, Hebbeln, and Sowards, 0-Nays. Motion carried.

**Donations**

**Rock Island Girls Softball League- \$400** – Following general discussion, **Hebbeln** moved, and **Sallows-Hines** seconded, to sponsor the **Rock Island Girls Softball League** in the amount of **\$400**. Roll call vote. 4-Ayes Shirk, Sallows-Hines, Hebbeln, and Sowards. 0-Nays. Motion carried.

**Milan Harvest Festival** - Following general discussion, **Shirk** moved, and **Sallows-Hines** seconded, to sponsor the **Milan Harvest Festival** event in the amount of **\$1,000**. Roll call vote. 4-Ayes Shirk, Sallows-Hines, Hebbeln, and Sowards. 0-Nays. Motion carried.

**Public Comments**

**Young, MacDonald, Shirk, Parker, Sowards, Elsberg, Hebbeln, and Whitley** provided comments and engaged in discussion regarding staff compensation as part of the proposed **2026–2027 Township Budget**.

**Adjournment**

**Shirk** moved to adjourn the meeting at **5:55 pm** and the motion was seconded by **Hebbeln**. Roll call vote. 4-Ayes Shirk, Sallows-Hines, Hebbeln, and Sowards. 0-Nays. Motion carried.

**Next Meeting**

The next South Rock Island Township Board meeting is scheduled for Monday ,March 30, 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 MARCH 30, 2026.**

Seal—>

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Township Clerk**

**3.30.26**

Date