

Annual Cunningham Town Meeting will be the second Tuesday of April at 6:00 pm in the Urbana City Council Chambers, 400 S. Vine Street, Urbana, IL 61801

Please see the City of Urbana Meetings calendar for confirmation of date and time as well as the approved agenda: <https://www.urbanaininois.us/meetings/calendar>

Illinois Statutes (60 ILCS 1/30-5) require that Townships have an annual Township Meeting “for the transaction of the business of the township” and that they “shall be held on the second Tuesday of April in each year, after 6 p.m., at the place appointed for those meetings”. The code (60 ILCS 1/30-10, 15 also specifies the notice, agenda, and location requirements: “(a) Notice of the time and place of holding the annual and any special township meetings shall be given by the township clerk (or, in the clerk’s absence, the supervisor, assessor, or collector) by posting written or printed notices in 3 of the most public places in the township at least 15 days before the meeting and, if there is an English language newspaper published in the township, by at least one publication in that newspaper before the meeting. The notice shall set forth the agenda for the meeting. (b) Agenda. Not less than 15 days before the annual meeting, the township board shall adopt an agenda for the annual meeting. Any 15 or more registered voters in the township may request an agenda item for consideration by the electors at the annual meeting by giving written notice of a specific request to the township clerk no later than March 1 prior to the annual meeting. The agenda published by the township board shall include any such request made by voters if the request is relevant to powers granted to electors under the Township Code. (c) Additional agenda items. Any matter or proposal not set forth in the published agenda shall not be considered at the annual meeting other than advising that the matter may be considered at a special meeting of the electors at a later date.” Further, the place of the meeting is to “be some convenient place in the township fixed by the township board.” No annual or special Town Meeting may begin before 6:00 pm and there are provisions for moving an Annual Meeting should it fall on Passover.

Annual Financial Statement: There are various requirements for posting and reporting the Township Supervisor’s annual financial report. These are posted on the Township website within the City of Urbana’s website and are available at the Urbana City Clerk’s office at 400 S. Vine Street, Urbana. The Urbana City Clerk serves as the Town Clerk as Cunningham Township is coterminous with the City of Urbana. The Township Supervisor works with the Town Clerk to provide annual budgets and audited financial statements. These and other Cunningham Township materials are at: <https://www.urbanaininois.us/boards/cunningham-township-board>

The Township Clerk, if he or she is present, calls meetings to order after which the clerk calls for nominations for a Moderator and the electors present elect someone to serve. The Clerk will administer an Oath of Office. Note that the Township Clerk is the only township official acting in an official capacity at the Annual or special Town Meeting. All others, including elected officials, are present as electors and have an equal vote in each matter taken up for a vote. The powers of the electors are enumerated in Article 30 of the Statutes but an elector is a person registered to vote within the township no less than 28 days before the date of the annual meeting.

As Cunningham Township is coterminous with Urbana, many of the Township responsibilities, such as for roads, are the city’s. However, some of the powers of the electors include the following (taken from 60 ILCS 1/30 and 60 ILCS 1/245):

Sec. 30-30. Time of township meetings. The electors may fix the hour at which township meetings are held.

Sec. 30-41. Notwithstanding any provision of this Act to the contrary, the township board of trustees may make contracts relating to insurance. In no event shall the duration of the contract exceed the board term by more than one year. The township board of trustees shall include in the township's annual appropriation for each fiscal year an appropriation of a sum of money sufficient to pay the amount which, by the terms of the contract, is to become due and payable during the current fiscal year

Sec. 30-25. Exercise of corporate powers. The electors may take all necessary measures and give directions for the exercise of their corporate powers.

Sec. 30-42. The board of trustees may provide for the purchase of insurance, including coverage obtained from a risk management association, against any loss or liability of any officer, employee, or agent of the township resulting from the wrongful or negligent act of any officer, employee, or agent while discharging and engaged in his duties and functions and acting within the scope of his duties and functions as an officer, employee, or agent of the township. The insurance shall be carried with a company authorized by the Department of Insurance to write such coverage in Illinois.

Sec. 30-45. Property record system. The electors may expend monies for the preparation, establishment, and maintenance of a detailed property record system to provide information useful to assessment officials. The electors may enter into contracts with persons, firms, or corporations for the preparation and establishment of the record system. The record system shall be available to all assessing officials. The property record system shall include up-to-date and complete tax maps except where those maps are otherwise already available or ordered, ownership lists, valuation standards, and property record cards, including appraisals, for all or any part of the property in the township in accordance with reasonable rules and procedures prescribed by the Department of Revenue. The system and records shall not be considered to be assessments and shall not limit the powers and duties of assessing officials.

Sec. 30-50. Purchase and use of property. (a) The electors may make all orders for the purchase, sale, conveyance, regulation, or use of the township's corporate property...

Sec. 30-51. Competitive bidding exceptions. Contracts and purchases that by their nature are not adapted to award by competitive bidding, such as contracts for goods procured from another governmental agency and purchases of equipment previously owned by some entity other than the township itself, are not subject to the competitive bidding requirements of this Code.

Sec. 30-53. Surplus property. The majority of electors present at an annual or special town meeting may declare property of the township to be surplus for purposes of donating the property to a historical society or other not-for-profit corporation as provided in Section 80-75.

Sec. 30-60. Public graveyards. The electors may authorize the township board to appropriate monies, in excess of the sum provided in the Public Graveyards Act, for the purpose of putting any old, neglected graves and cemeteries in the township in a cleaner and more respectable condition.

Sec. 30-65. Graves of former armed forces members. The electors may provide for the decoration and maintenance of graves of persons who at any time served in the armed forces of the United States that are within the township.

Sec. 30-70. Court room and office space. The electors at any annual or special township meeting may set aside and maintain space in any township buildings or may obtain and maintain space in privately owned buildings for court room and office use by the circuit court of the county in which the township is located. The electors may supply all maintenance employees and supplies needed to maintain the court room and office space to assist the court in any way the court deems fit in conducting its business. The appearance and furnishings of the court rooms established under this Section shall meet reasonable minimum standards as prescribed by the Supreme Court of Illinois. The standards shall be substantially the same as those generally accepted in court rooms as to general furnishings, arrangement of bench, tables, and chairs, cleanliness, convenience to litigants, decorations, lighting, and other matters relating to the physical appearance of the court room.

Sec. 30-117. Special services; disaster relief. The corporate authorities of a township may, by ordinance, authorize the use of permanent road funds, general road and bridge funds, or town funds for the purpose of collecting, transporting, and disposing of brush and leaves generated from those properties that are contiguous to roads as defined by Section 2-103 of the Illinois Highway Code or located within the unincorporated areas of the township.

The electors may allow general road and bridge or town funds to also be used for the purpose of providing disaster relief and support services approved by the Township Board of Trustees at a regularly scheduled or special meeting.

Sec. 30-145. Mental health services. If a township is not included in a mental health district organized under the Community Mental Health Act, the electors may authorize the board of trustees to provide mental health services (including services for the alcoholic and the drug addicted, and for persons with intellectual disabilities) for residents of the township by disbursing existing funds if available by contracting with mental health agencies approved by the Department of Human Services, alcoholism treatment programs licensed by the Department of Public Health, and treatment facilities and other services for substance use disorders approved by the Department of Human Services. To be eligible to receive township funds, an agency, program, facility, or other service provider must have been in existence for more than one year and must serve the township area.

Sec. 30-180. Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund. The electors may authorize the supervisor to file an application for the township and all other bodies politic established by or subject to the control of the electors to participate in the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund under the Illinois Pension Code.

Sec. 30-185. Transfer of money to city or village. In townships wholly within the limits of an incorporated city or village, the electors may transfer any money in the treasury of the township to the treasury of the city or village. The money shall be used by the city or village in its corporate capacity for (i) constructing or repairing roads, bridges, approaches, or causeways over which it has control, supervision, and jurisdiction, or (ii) planting and cultivating trees along the streets and highways in the city and township. The electors may give full power and authority to expend any money in the city or village treasury that it has to the credit of the township for any of the purposes designated in this Section as decided by the electors or by the township board.

Sec. 30-190. Rules; fines. The electors may make all by-laws, rules, and regulations deemed necessary to carry into effect the powers granted in this Article 30 and may impose fines deemed proper, except

when a fine or penalty is already allowed by law. No offense shall be classified in excess of a petty offense.

Sec. 30-195. Use of penalties collected. The electors may apply all penalties, when collected, in the manner deemed most to the interest of the township.

Sec. 30-200. Limitation in certain townships. In townships in which there are incorporated cities or villages, the boundaries of which are co-extensive with the limits of the township, and in townships that lie wholly within the limits of an incorporated city or village, the electors shall not exercise the several powers contained in Sections 30-80, 30-85, 30-90, 30-95, 30-100, 30-105, 30-110, 30-115, 30-120, and 30-135, and the powers and provisions of all cities and villages under their organic law are not repealed by any provision of this Article.

Sec. 30-205. Advisory referenda. Any group of registered voters may request an advisory question of public policy for consideration by the electors at the annual meeting by giving written notice of the specific advisory question to the township clerk in the same manner as required for an agenda item under subsection (b) of Section 30-10. The agenda published by the township board shall include any such advisory question if the request is timely filed. By a vote of the majority of electors present at a town meeting, the electors may authorize that an advisory question of public policy, for which notice has been given as required by this Section, be placed on the ballot at the next regularly scheduled election in the township. The township board shall certify the question to the proper election officials, who shall submit the question in accordance with the general election law.

Sec. 245-5. Resolution at township meeting for transfer among township funds.

(a) The legal voters of a township at an annual township meeting or at a special township meeting called for that purpose may, by written resolution by a majority vote of the legal voters present and voting on the resolution, transfer from one or more township funds to any other township fund or funds, or to the general road and bridge fund, or to any fund raised by taxation or bonds upon all the property in the township for roads and bridges, the surplus of any fund or funds over and above an amount necessary to meet township charges and expenses until the time of receiving revenue levied at the next annual township meeting. The fund or funds ordered transferred shall be transferred and paid into the other fund or funds and shall be paid out on proper orders of officers authorized by law to expend the fund or funds.

(b) A resolution adopted under this Section shall specify the estimated amount of the proper and necessary charges and expenses of the township against the fund or funds until the time of the receipt of revenue after the next annual township meeting and the particular amount of surplus of the township fund or funds to be paid over, shall designate the particular fund or funds to be transferred to and paid into, and shall be submitted to the township meeting in writing or reduced to writing before any vote is taken on it.

(c) Whenever it is desired to submit the resolution at a special township meeting, a special township meeting may be called when the supervisor, together with at least 25 voters of the township, file with the township clerk a written petition stating the purpose for which the special township meeting is to be called. Upon the filing of the petition, the township clerk shall give notice of the special township meeting in the same manner and for the same length of time as notice is required to be given of the

annual township meeting. The notice shall state the object of the special meeting. The special meeting shall be held at the place of the last annual township meeting.