

Wheeling Township
Annual Town Meeting
Tuesday, April 9, 2019

CALL TO ORDER The 169th Annual Township meeting, held on Tuesday, April 9, 2019, at the Wheeling Township Hall, Paula Ulreich Meeting Room, 1616 North Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights, Illinois, was called to order by Clerk Joanna Gauza at 8:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Boys Scouts posted the colors and Clerk Gauza led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. She then introduced the color guard and thanked the Boys Scouts for their service.

READING OF THE OFFICIAL PUBLIC NOTICE Clerk Gauza read the Public Notice which stated that notice is hereby given to Wheeling Township in the County of Cook and State of Illinois, that the Annual Town meeting of said Township will take place on Tuesday, April 9, 2019 at the hour of 8:00 p.m., at the Wheeling Township Paula Ulreich Meeting Room, 1616 North Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights, Illinois; with a Call to Order; the Pledge of Allegiance; Election of a Moderator; Passing Resolutions for the Time of the next Annual Town Meeting, Senior Citizen Services, and to Authorize the Township Board to Purchase Liability Insurance; Officials' Reports; and adjournment. The Public Notice was posted in two locations, in the newspaper, and on Wheeling Township's Website.

MEETING PROCEDURES Clerk Gauza asked the audience if Wheeling Township residents had signed the "Voters Affidavit" and if guests had signed in on the official "Guest List". Upon signing in, each Wheeling Township resident received an official blue card to use when voting on any issue brought up at the meeting. It was also pointed out that agendas and Wheeling Township Annual Reports, including the Financial Report, are available in the back of the room.

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT Because of State law, the Clerk did not have to read the Wheeling Township Annual Report. A hard copy of the Annual Township Financial Statement as part of the Annual Township Report was available for each elector to review.

NOMINATION OF A MODERATOR Clerk Gauza asked for nominations from the floor, to elect a moderator. A motion was made by Brian Medley, seconded by Patty Kozicki, to nominate Ken Jochum as moderator. Clerk Gauza asked, "Are there any other nominations for moderator?" Hearing none, motion was voted upon and carried unanimously.

Ken Jochum was then sworn in as moderator by Clerk Gauza.

The first order of business was Official's Reports:

OFFICIALS' REPORTS The Supervisor, Clerk, and Assessor presented their annual reports. Each elected official outlined the highlights for the fiscal year ending February 28, 2019. Moderator Jochum introduced Joanna Gauza to give the Clerk's report.

CLERK Clerk Gauza highlighted services provided by the Clerk's Office, including, voter registration, FOIA responses, and notarization of documents. She explained that the Cook County Department of Revenue would no longer have Townships sell vehicle stickers to unincorporated Wheeling Township residents. Instead, residents of unincorporated Wheeling Township as all residents of unincorporated areas in Cook County would now pay a wheel tax at the Department of Revenue, online, by mail, or at certain currency exchanges. She further explained how the Clerk's Office provides information to the public on elections.

She thanked staff members Linda Hallett and Bonnie Niedert for their assistance throughout the year. She especially thanked Administrator and Deputy Clerk Regina Stapleton for her outstanding service to Wheeling Township residents.

Next, Moderator Ken Jochum introduced Assessor Jerry Sadler to give the Assessor's report.

ASSESSOR Assessor Sadler noted that the Wheeling Township Assessor like all assessors in Cook County does not assess property taxes; rather Cook County assesses the taxes. The Wheeling Township Assessor's office focuses on helping residents understand their rights and to appeal property tax assessments that are inaccurate. The Township Assessor's pays special attention to senior citizens and helps seniors file for their senior freeze and exemptions. Assessor Sadler noted that Wheeling Township is in the third year of the triennial assessment. Generally, the number of persons seeking help fall in the third year and there has been about a 10% decline in visitors seeking help this year. However, telephone inquiries remained the same. Assessor Sadler also indicated that taxpayer email requests have doubled over last year. He expects the email traffic to continue to increase even more in the coming years. Assessor Sadler then introduced the Assessor's office staff and thanked them for their service throughout the year. He noted that Wheeling Township will be re-assessed this year and last time the Township was re-assessed in 2016, we saw the assessments increase 16% and he expects the re-assessments may be as large this year. Any re-assessments will not be reflected until the 2020 second installment property tax bill. The notices of re-assessments are scheduled to go out July 7. Norwood Township that just had its re-assessment completed and saw property evaluations

increase 25%. However, in 2016, although evaluations increased 16% in Wheeling Township, the tax rates decreased 10% so the final tax was substantially less than the increased evaluation. Unfortunately, Assessor Sadler does expect property taxes to increase because of the Cook County triennial reassessment.

Next, Moderator Ken Jochum introduced Supervisor Kathy Penner to give the Supervisor's report.

SUPERVISOR Supervisor Penner welcomed everyone in the audience and expressed her appreciation for their attendance this evening. She then expressed a heartfelt and special thanks to Administrator Stapleton for all her assistance throughout the year. Supervisor Penner referred the audience to the Annual Report for information about all that was accomplished the past year. Supervisor Penner then highlighted two achievements. First, the Township completed an expansion of the food pantry. Generous donors and volunteers helped make the expansion possible. All the food was donated and all the persons who work in the food pantry are volunteers. She thanked them for their service to the community. Second, Supervisor expressed her gratitude to the staff for helping those who lost their homes from the Prospect Heights fire. The General Assistance and Township staffs worked to provide emergency assistance to the displaced residents. The Township assisted 18 families affected by this terrible fire.

Supervisor Penner with Administrator Regina Stapleton then introduced Township staff and attendees from the Social service agencies that received grants from the Township. Julie Villarreal, the Director of General Assistance, introduced her staff and thanked them for their efforts. Lynndah Easterwood, Director of Senior and Disability Services, recognized the bus drivers that provided over 23,000 rides in the last year to seniors and individuals with disabilities. She also thanked the meals on wheels volunteers and those that work on energy assistance, CHIP and other programs serving seniors.

Supervisor Penner then recognized honor donors and volunteers.

Honor Donors Supervisor Penner first recognized Indian Trails Public Library District Brian Shepard, Executive Director, and Susan Dennison, Communications & Development Manager. The Indian Trails Public Library has been a strong supporter of the General Assistance Department's multiple donation programs for many years. Since 2011, the library has donated food, school supplies and produce grown from their community garden 25 times! In the past 3 years, Indian Trails has donated hundreds of boxes of books to our Christmas Program, including books in other languages to make it easier for parents to read to their children. The library staff has participated in the Adopt A Family Program for the last 4 years, bringing the joy of the season to needy families. Earlier this year, their annual "Food for Fines" drive yielded 10 carts full of food to help stock the pantry shelves. Indian Trails Public Library District exemplifies the definition of Neighbors Helping Neighbors.

Supervisor Penner next recognized Saint Paul Lutheran Church Pastor Kris Whitby and Assistant Pastor Bo Graham. St. Paul Lutheran Church has been a continuous supporter of the Wheeling Township Food Pantry. Several times each year the congregation fulfills their mission of

“Growing as Family” by collecting food for those in need in our community. Since 2016, St. Paul Lutheran has also been providing Easter Baskets filled with treats, stuffed animals and books for children whose families would otherwise be unable to afford this springtime surprise. St. Paul Lutheran Church is putting their faith into action by being Neighbors Helping Neighbors.

Supervisor Penner next recognized the Wheeling High School Boys Basketball Teams and Michael O’Keeffe, Head Coach. In December 2018, Coach O’Keeffe reached out to ask if there was something his basketball team could do to help the community. As luck would have it, the Wheeling Township Food Pantry was nearing the end of the renovations to expand its size. During two early, cold mornings in January, Coach O’Keeffe brought his teams to move hundreds of heavy boxes of food from different parts of the building back into the food pantry. What may have seemed like light work to strong teenager alleviated what would have been weeks of back breaking labor for our food pantry crew, which is almost exclusively comprised of senior citizens. More importantly, the team donating its time allowed for the new shelves to be stocked much more quickly, giving food pantry recipients access to the largest variety of products available. The Wheeling High School Boys Basketball teams are Neighbors Helping Neighbors.

Supervisor Penner then recognized Debbie Cline with an Outstanding Volunteer Award. Debbie feels that the joy she receives while serving as the Meals on Wheels Church Coordinator is two-fold. Not only does she enjoy working with the volunteers from Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church, but she also looks forward to delivering meals herself to our home-bound seniors. For the last eight years, Debbie has done an exceptional job recruiting and scheduling Meals on Wheels church volunteers who deliver meals. Debbie feels that there is no greater gift than to help and serve others. We are honored to present Debbie with an Outstanding Volunteer Award.

Supervisor Penner then recognized Jim and Bonnie Harbke with an Outstanding Volunteer Award. Jim and Bonnie have served as Meals on Wheels volunteers for over 6 years and truly enjoy serving those in need. Initially participating as volunteers for their church, they expanded their volunteer experience by also serving as Wheeling Township substitute drivers. They are the types of volunteers that are ready to spring into action at a moment’s notice to deliver a Meals on Wheels route. What they like most about volunteering for Meals on Wheels is seeing how grateful the recipients are and the friendships that they have formed with many of the clients. We are honored to present Jim and Bonnie Harbke with an Outstanding Volunteer Award.

Supervisor Penner then recognized Chuck O’Malley and Bill Myers with Outstanding Volunteer Awards. The words “taxes” and “the IRS” usually make all of us cringe every spring. Not so for Chuck O’Malley and Bill Myers! For 11 years and 7 years, respectively, they’ve rushed headlong into tax season with enthusiasm and the patience of Job, tackling crazy tax questions, back taxes, extensions and the many “nervous” individuals who come in for help. They do it, every Friday, for several months, with compassion, humor and kindness. As the Site Coordinator and Assistant Site Coordinator for Wheeling Township’s AARP Tax-Aide program, Chuck and Bill bring years of financial experience with them. From setting up the many computers, training, quality control, and actually filing residents’ taxes, we asked why they choose to volunteer their time this way. Said Chuck: “I’ve been given a lot, and it’s a natural fit as a trained CPA to help people with something that makes a real difference to them.” Bill, with his background in

Financial Analysis, says “as a numbers guy, this seemed like one of the better ways for me to volunteer and help others.” Wheeling Township couldn’t be luckier to have these two gentleman – in addition to the 15 or so tax preparers who also lend their expertise – making a huge difference to the Township’s many residents. They will file approximately 400 residents’ taxes this tax season! We are honored to present Outstanding Volunteer Awards to Chuck and Bill.

Public Comments

None.

RESOLUTIONS were presented at this time. Moderator Jochum then asked for presentation of three resolutions.

SET THE TIME OF THE NEXT ANNUAL TOWN MEETING A resolution was read to set the time for the next annual town meeting, as follows: “It is hereby resolved and ordered by the electors present at the Annual Town Meeting of Wheeling Township held this 9th day of April, 2019, that the time of the next Annual Town Meeting shall be held on the second Tuesday of April, 2020, at 8:00 p.m., at a place to be designated by the Wheeling Township Board of Trustees.”

MOTION TO PASS RESOLUTION 2019-02 A motion was made by Ken Jochum and seconded by Brain Medley, to adopt Resolution 2019-02, as read. Motion carried unanimously.

The next resolution brought before the electors for approval was for the Township to provide social services.

SOCIAL SERVICES A resolution was read stating: “Whereas, the electors assembled at this Year 2019 Annual Town Meeting of Wheeling Township believe it is in the best interest of the Township and its residents that the Township contract with for-profit, not-for-profit or non-sectarian organizations to provide services for children, teens, seniors, disabled and low-income families. Now therefore, be it hereby resolved, by the electors present at this Annual Town Meeting of Wheeling Township that the Wheeling Township Board of Trustees is authorized to contract with for-profit, not-for-profit, or non-sectarian organizations to provide funds for services for children, teens, seniors, disabled and low-income families during the 2019-2020 fiscal year.”

MOTION TO PASS RESOLUTION 2018-03 A motion was made by Ken Jochum and seconded by Brian Medley to adopt Resolution 2018-03 as read. Motion carried unanimously.

Moderator Jochum then asked for a resolution to be brought before the electors authorizing the board to purchase liability insurance.

LIABILITY INSURANCE A resolution was read which stated: “Whereas, the electors are empowered under 60 ILCS 1/30-42, as amended, to provide for the purchase of insurance, any loss or liability of any officer, employee or agent of the Township resulting from any wrongful or negligent act of any such officer, employee or agent while discharging against or engaging in his duties and functions and acting within the scope of his duties and functions as an officer, employee or agent of the Township; and whereas, it is in the best interests of the Township to provide for such insurance; it is, therefore, resolved by the electors assembled at an Annual Meeting as follows:

1. That the Township Board is authorized to purchase insurance against any loss or liability of any officer, employee or agent of the Township resulting from the wrongful or negligent act of any such officer, employee or agent while discharging or engaging in his duties and functions as an officer, employee or agent of the Township.
2. That the term “insurance” herein shall include traditional insurance policies and programs as well as any self-administered insurance funds, risk management associations, risk retention groups, which are in the nature of insurance and provide for the protection anticipated herein.
3. That this resolution shall not be construed to limit any of the Township Board’s powers under 745 ILS 10/9-101, et seq.
4. That this resolution shall remain in full force and effect unless and until modified amended or repealed at a subsequent Annual or Special Meeting of electors.”

MOTION TO PASS RESOLUTION 2019-04 A motion was made by Brain Medley, and seconded by Tom Gauza to adopt Resolution 2019-04. Motion carried unanimously.

Moderator Jochum then asked the agencies funded by Wheeling Township to stand up and introduce themselves. He then thanked them for their efforts and service to Wheeling Township residents.

Moderator Jochum asked if there was any other business to present. Being none, he asked for a motion to adjourn.

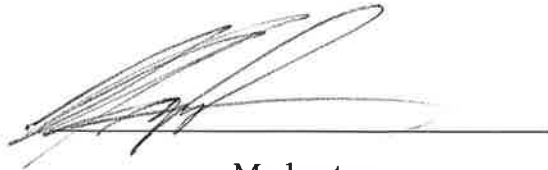
MOTION TO ADJOURN A motion was made by Tom Gauza and seconded to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. Moderator Jochum thanked everyone for coming and adjourned the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Upon adjournment, a reception followed, including cake and coffee.

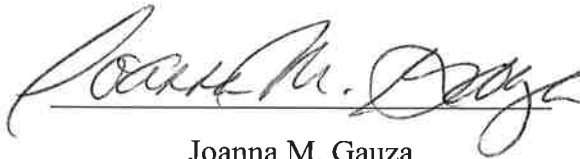
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joanna M. Gauza". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and 'G'.

Joanna M. Gauza

Wheeling Township Clerk

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping, sweeping strokes, positioned above a horizontal line.

Moderator

A handwritten signature in black ink, written in a cursive style, positioned above a horizontal line.

Joanna M. Gauza

Wheeling Township Clerk