

WHEELING TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD MINUTES OF  
OCTOBER 2, 2024

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Mental Health Board Meeting of Wheeling Township, for October 2, 2024 was held in the Paula Ulreich Meeting Room, in the Township of Wheeling, 1616 North Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights, Illinois. President Susan Hayes called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Secretary Bill Dixon called the roll and the following members were present, Bill Dixon, Jeanne Hamilton, John Lubbe, Jim Ruffatto, JoAnne Schultz, Jack Vrett & Susan Hayes.

Absent: None

Also, in attendance: Wheeling Township Attorney Kenneth Florey, and Wheeling Township Director of Finance and Administration Regina Stapleton.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

President Susan Hayes led those assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION #1: APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE WHEELING TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2024.**

Motion by Jim Ruffatto, seconded by JoAnne Schultz, to approve the September 11, 2024 Wheeling Township Community Mental Health Board Meeting minutes.

VOICE CALL VOTE: ALL AYES...

NAYS: None....Motion #1 Carried.

**CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

Dan Patlak, a resident of Wheeling, opposed the tax increase to fund Mental Health not because he didn't think there was a need for it but because he believes tiny government like a Township should not take on the responsibility through an increased property tax. He asked the referendum organizers prior to placing it on the ballot if they had lobbied local, federal, state, or county representatives, they had not. He stated that property owners in Illinois have the second-highest taxes in the nation. He learned the language was illegal and the Township could not levy. The Board voted to put a correctly worded referendum back on the ballot so the voters could make a fully informed decision about paying more property taxes. He then stated that legislators passed a bill to fix the

WHEELING TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD MINUTES OF  
OCTOBER 2, 2024

language more or less giving the referendum organizers a pass. He also stated state legislators passed a law to remove tax caps on Mental Health Boards which could allow future boards to increase our taxes by 8.6 million and beyond as the value of property continues to increase. He hopes members of the Board and the public will take notice.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Needs Assessment Discussion- Here are some of the things discussed.

- Increase funding for IDD & Substance Usage
- Language accessibility issues & how to manage
- No mention of Township case management
- No mention of funding for more housing
- Tuition reimbursement
- Add more funding to agencies to hire more employees-need measurables
- Hire a grant writer & assistant for Regina Stapleton
- Insurance-% of coverage, waitlist & staffing issues

Goals for 1 & 3 year plans-Some things that were discussed

- Plans for funding
- Ways to increase transportation services (contracting with Uber & Lyft)
- Work on specific goals
- Community Engagement-Mental Health Fair

**BOARD COMMENTS**

John Lubbe suggested the board put together some questions to ask the agencies at the funding hearings.

Jim Ruffatto asked attorney Ken Florey if the correct wording for the referendum was finalized. Ken Florey stated no decision has been made.

Bill Dixon asked attorney Ken Florey if the Wheeling Township Board was going to take an initiative to get the referendum on the ballot. Ken Florey stated it has not been decided yet.

WHEELING TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD MINUTES OF  
OCTOBER 2, 2024

**MOTION # 2 ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by JoAnne Schultz, seconded by Jack Vrett.

VOICE CALL VOTE: All Ayes...

NAYES: None...Motion #2 carried

The meeting for Wednesday, October 2, 2024, was declared adjourned at 8:22 pm. The next scheduled Community Mental Health Board Meeting is set for Wednesday, October 9, 2024, at 8:15 pm.