

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Supervisor and Board of Trustees of Wheeling Township, for January 27, 2026 was held in the Paula Ulreich Meeting Room, in the Township of Wheeling, 1616 North Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights, Illinois. Supervisor Zeller Brauer called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Clerk Gauza called the roll and the following members were present, Supervisor Maria Zeller Brauer, Trustee John Geier, Trustee Lorri Grainawi, Trustee Austin Mejdrich, Trustee Sheri Williams and Clerk Joanna Gauza.

Also in attendance: Wheeling Township Assessor Ken Jochum, Wheeling Township Attorney Ross Secler, and Wheeling Township Director of Finance and Administration Regina Stapleton.

Absent: None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Supervisor Zeller Brauer led those assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Tom Devitt, a Wheeling resident, expressed his concern regarding immigration enforcement and the rise of mental health.

MOTION #1: APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING ON DECEMBER 9, 2025

Motion by Trustee Geier, seconded by Trustee Mejdrich, to approve the minutes of December 9, 2025 Regular Board Meeting.

VOICE CALL VOTE: All Ayes.... Motion #1 Carried.

AUDIT

MOTION #2: AUDIT FOR CEMETERY FUND

Motion by Trustee Grainawi, seconded by Trustee Williams, to approve batch #12726 against the Cemetery Fund, in the amount of \$1,635.00 to be paid.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Grainawi, Williams, Geier, Mejdrich, Zeller Brauer
NAYS: None.... Motion #2 Carried.

MOTION #3: AUDIT FOR ROAD MANAGEMENT FUND

Motion by Trustee Grainawi, seconded by Trustee Mejdrieh, to approve batch #12/26/25, #12/31/25, #1/2/26 and #1/27/26 against the Road Management Fund, in the amount of \$13,988.42 to be paid.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Grainawi, Mejdrieh, Geier, Williams, Zeller Brauer
NAYS: None.... Motion #3 Carried.

MOTION #4: AUDIT FOR TOWN FUND

Motion by Trustee Grainawi, seconded by Trustee Williams, to approve batch #12/26/25, #12/31/25, #1/2/26, #1/9/26, #1/23/26, #1/26/26 and #1/27/26 against the Town Fund in the amount of \$325,763.29 to be paid.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Grainawi, Williams, Mejdrieh, Geier, Zeller Brauer
NAYS: None.... Motion #4 Carried.

REPORTS

SUPERVISOR: Supervisor Zeller Brauer reported:

- Met with Ariel from Hands Off Wheeling to discuss ways we can partner to help provide resources to immigrant residents of Wheeling on December 18.
- Held a tour of the Township Food Pantry for a major donor on December 29.
- Attending the Metropolitan Township Association (MTA) Association meeting on January 14.
- Met with staff at St. Simon's Episcopal Church to discuss partnerships and ways to serve our community on January 14.
- Attended the NAMI Town Hall with Trustees Grainawi, Geier, and Williams on January 14.
- We received 1,300 pounds of food and personal supplies from the Cook County Sheriff's Department on January 16.
- Participated in a radio interview on WCPT AM with Cook County Commissioner, Scott Britton on January 18.
- Met with Supervisors from Niles, Maine, Northfield and New Trier Townships on January 22.
- Gave a tour to members of the AHML Library to thank them for their book donation to our Adopt-A-Family program on January 26. VAH Trustee Greg Zyck was also in attendance.
- Starting in February, the Cook County Veterans Assistance Commission will resume monthly office hours at the Township. They will be here the third Friday of each month from 9 am to 4pm.
- Visits to the Food Pantry are up: average monthly visits up from 550 to 600.

WHEELING TOWNSHIP MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING JANUARY 27, 2026

- Wednesday night Food Pantry visits are starting to fill up. We are now looking at securing volunteers and staff for Saturday morning visits.
- After speaking with representatives from Hands Off Wheeling and Wheeling Rapid Response, the Township is implementing virtual food pantry appointments and deliveries to qualified residents who are unable to come to the Township.
- Regina and I will be meeting with an architect next week to discuss plans to make needed improvements to the building.

CLERK: Clerk Gauza reported:

- On December 11th, I attended Clerks' Dinner Meeting hosted by Leyden Township.
- On December 13th, I volunteered at Wheeling Township Food Pantry.
- I updated Statement of Economic Interest Filers List for anyone that is required to file with Cook County Clerk's Office. We will be receiving an email sometimes in March and the deadline to file is May 1, 2026.
- The Tax Levies were filed and approved with Cook County on December 21.
- Finally, on January 16th we received 118 Voter Registrations from League of Women's Voters.

ASSESSOR: Assessor Jochum reported:

- TAX YEAR 2026
- Wheeling Township is awaiting the result letters from the Board of Review now that the appeals period has ended.
- The Cook County Assessor says that exemption letters will be sent in late February early March. Senior Freeze and some other exemptions will need to be renewed or applied for.
- The first tax bill is to be paid in April and is 55% of the previous year's (2024) tax bill.
- PERMITS
- We have completed the permit process for 2025 evaluating a total of 5,188 permits up from 4,610 in 2024. Total permit value for 2025 is \$336,364,010 up from \$217,828,292 in 2024. This represents an increase of \$118,535,718 year over year.
- OTHER ACTIVITY
- The Assessors from Elk Grove, Barrington, Palatine and Wheeling Townships are collaborating on a series of seminars to explain how property taxes are established and what the taxpayers can do to mitigate their tax burden.
- The first of these seminars will be held at Elk Grove Township in February to be followed by a March seminar at Wheeling Township.

MENTAL HEALTH BOARD: Trustee Grainawi reported:

- Welcomed new Board Member, Jaime Clark, BBA, LBA.
- Approved the FY2026-27 Final Budget.

- Determined optimal communication channels for public contact with Board Members.
- Approved Applicant notification for FY2026-27 funding decisions and establishment of steps to promote efficient Funding Agreement processing.
- Working with Legal Counsel on Funding Agreement revisions for FY2026-27.
- Approved change to the April Meeting date from April 8 to April 22, 2026.

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT: Administrator Stapleton reported:

- Administrator Stapleton thanked the schools, businesses, and residents of Wheeling Township for their generosity and donations of monetary and food items. Without their support, we could not help as many people as we do.
- As of November, the Food Pantry now has a Wishlist on Amazon.
- On January 7, Supervisor Zeller Brauer, Mental Health Board Manager Karin Frisk, and Administrator Stapleton met via Zoom with Achieve It. They are a strategic planning software company. This would be a great tool to have.
- We are going live with Ecolane on Wednesday, January 28! Lynndah and the Transportation Department have been hard at work entering addresses, updating client records, and attending multiple trainings, so we are prepared to go live! We are very excited. Just a reminder: nothing goes off perfectly; we will need to refine or expand times in the coming weeks. If residents reach out to you, please refer them to Lynndah or Administrator Stapleton.
- The General Assistance Department processed 151 LIHEAP applications in
- December.
- We are working on the Winter/Spring Newsletter. Administrator Stapleton is hoping to have it out by the end of February.
- Stats for December 2025:
 - 1,801 rides - 938 non-medical, 863 Medical, (Disabled 274 rides)
 - 1045 - meals delivered
 - 612 - visits to the Food Pantry - 1,303 people, 353 Children, and 526 Seniors

NEW BUSINESS:

DISCUSSION – PUBLIC ACT 104-0438

Attorney Secler explained to the board that Public Act 104-0438 became effective as of January 1, 2026. The Act revises FOIA, The Records Act and The Open Meetings Act. Townships can now do Open Meeting Act training. Townships may not hold meetings on Election Day. In regards to FOIA, posting on the Township website required information is sufficient—does not have to be on bulletin boards. Townships can now require FOIA requests to be in the body of an email and not as a link or attachment (cybersecurity). The Township can request proof that a real person is making the FOIA request--not an automated program or bot. In addition, you do not need to provide junk mail in response to a FOIA request nor keep junk mail as an official record.

MOTION #5: APPROVAL OF 2026-2027 BUDGET CALENDAR

Motion by Trustee Williams, seconded by Trustee Geier to approve the 2026-2027 Budget Calendar.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Williams, Geier, Mejdrich, Grainawi, Zeller Brauer
NAYS: None.... Motion #5 Carried.

MOTION #6: APPROVAL OF IRS 2026 MILEAGE RATE CHANGE.

Motion by Trustee Grainawi, seconded by Trustee Mejdrich to approve the IRS 2026 Mileage Rate Change.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Grainawi, Mejdrich, Williams, Geier, Zeller Brauer
NAYS: None.... Motion #6 Carried.

MOTION #7: APPROVAL OF 2025-2026 AUDIT ENGAGEMENT LETTER

Motion by Trustee Mejdrich, seconded by Trustee Williams to approve the 2025-2026 Audit Engagement Letter.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Mejdrich, Williams, Geier, Grainawi, Zeller Brauer
NAYS: None.... Motion #7 Carried.

MOTION #8: APPROVAL OF 2026 TRIP AND TRANSIT GRANT AND SERVICE AGREEMENT

Motion by Trustee Grainawi, seconded by Trustee Geier to approve the 2026 Trip and Transit Grant and Service Agreement.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Grainawi, Geier, Williams, Mejdrich, Zeller Brauer
NAYS: None.... Motion #8 Carried.

DISCUSSION AND COMMENTS FROM TRUSTEES:

Trustee Williams: Attended a presentation regarding the Food Pantry and discussed increased use of Food Pantries and changes in SNAP benefits.

MOTION #9: APPROVAL TO OPEN THE CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION REGARDING EMPLOYMENT MATTERS

Motion by Trustee Geier, seconded by Trustee Williams to approve to Open the Closed Executive Session Regarding Employment Matters.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Geier, Williams, Grainawi, Mejdrich, Zeller Brauer
NAYS: None.... Motion #9 Carried.

MOTION #10: APPROVAL TO END THE CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION REGARDING EMPLOYMENT MATTERS

ROLL CALL: Geier, Williams, Grainawi, Mejdrich, Zeller Brauer
VOICE CALL VOTE: All Ayes.... Motion #10 Carried.

MOTION #11: ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Supervisor Zeller Brauer seconded by Trustee Grainawi to adjourn.

VOICE CALL VOTE: All Ayes.... Motion #11 Carried.

The meeting for Tuesday, January 27, 2026, was declared adjourned at 8:30 p.m. The next scheduled regular board meeting is set for Tuesday, February 24, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

Joanna M. Gauza
Wheeling Township Clerk