

CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Supervisor and Board of Trustees of Wheeling Township, for November 20, 2017 was held in the Paula Ulreich Meeting Room, in the Township of Wheeling, 1616 North Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights, Illinois. Supervisor Penner called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Clerk Gauza called the roll and the following members were present: Supervisor Penner, Trustee Jeffrey Battinus, Trustee Ruth O'Connell, Trustee JoAnne Schultz, and Clerk Joanna Gauza.

Also in attendance: Wheeling Township Attorney Kenneth Florey, Wheeling Township Director of Finance and Administration Josephine Stellato, and Accounting Assistant Helga Genders.

Absent: Trustee Brian Medley.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Supervisor Penner led those assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

None.

OLD BUSINESS

2017 LEVY DISCUSSIONS. Years ago, the Township reserves were some two and half times yearly expenditures raising concerns the reserves were larger than permitted. Over the last four years, the Township board annually lowered the levies or kept the levies the same. As a result, the levies have been substantially reduced without reducing services. These efforts also reduced the reserves. After four years of reducing levies, the Township reserves are now between 1.5 years to 10 months, depending on the fund. Going forward, the Township can keep the reserves basically the same by keeping the levies consistent with the Consumer Price Index ("CPI"). In addition, current court cases indicate it is now become acceptable to keep reserves two and half times the expenditures. Compared to other Townships, Wheeling Township is in financially good position. Palatine Township is following the lead of Wheeling Township by lowering the levy for their General Assistance fund 15% as Wheeling did in 2016. Every other neighboring Township levies are going up or remaining flat. Therefore, if Wheeling maintains levies the same with a CPI, Wheeling will be similar to the other Townships. The one concern is the estimated Wheeling Township Road Management Fund

reserves will be about 10 months. Using the three year look back for the 2017 levy would bring in additional funds. The Township has learned that although it believed most major work was nearing completion, unexpected costs have arisen. A sinkhole caused by a collapsed underground old pipe created an additional cost of about \$25,000. There are potential other sinkhole issues and road re-surfacing needs. Last year the Road Fund levy was lowered 20%.

The Board reviewed projections for the Town, General Assistance, and Road Management Funds going forward with flat revenues, no levy increase with CPI, and a 5% levy increase. No matter what the Board chooses, Town Fund will be under 1.5 times yearly expenditures, General Assistance Fund will be about 1 year expenditures and Road District Fund will be under 1 year expenditures.

Arlington Heights has a TIF district whose assessed value has been frozen for 23 years. When the TIF ends, the property can be assessed. The property is the shopping center from Garibaldi's to the Dollar store. The increased value of this TIF district property being added to the tax rolls means that by keeping the levy consistent with CPI, this property will pay a portion of the levy helping lower the taxes on individual taxpayers.

The board needs to approve tentative levies this evening, hold a public hearing, and approve the levies by December 12. The board agreed to keep levies the same with CPI for General Assistance and Town Fund. The Road levy of 5% more would generate about \$10,000 additional funds compared to levying the CPI. The motor fuel tax from Cook County will probably give the Township some \$10,900 to be used by the Road Fund. Combined, these actions will raise the Road Management Fund reserve to about 12 months. A three year look back would yield about \$42,500 more for the Road Management Fund. Even with a 5% increase in the levy, the Road Management Fund still will be less than in 2015-16 because of prior Board reductions of the levy. Therefore, the Board determined the levy for the Road District would be \$719,380.

MOTION #1: APPROVE GENERAL ASSISTANCE LEVY of \$399,718

Motion by Supervisor Penner, seconded by Trustee Battinus to approve General assistance Levy of \$399,718.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Penner, Battinus, O'Connell, Schultz
NAYS: None....Motion #1 Carried.

MOTION #2: APPROVE TOWN FUND LEVY of \$2,048,560

Motion by Supervisor Penner, seconded by Trustee Battinus to approve Town Fund Levy of \$2,048,560.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Penner, Battinus, O'Connell, Schultz
NAYS: None....Motion #2 Carried.

MOTION #3: APPROVE ROAD DISTRICT FUND OF \$719,380

Motion by Supervisor Penner, seconded by Trustee Battinus to approve Road District Fund Levy of \$719,380.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Penner, Battinus, O'Connell, Schultz
NAYS: None....Motion #3 Carried.

MOTION #4: ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Supervisor Penner, seconded by Trustee O'Connell, to adjourn.

VOICE CALL VOTE: All Ayes....Motion #4 Carried.

The Special meeting for Monday, November 20, 2017, was declared adjourned at 7:05 p.m. The next regular scheduled board meeting is set for Tuesday, November 28, 2017, at 8:00 p.m.

Joanna M. Gauza
Wheeling Township Clerk

