

Wheeling Township
Annual Town Meeting
Tuesday, April 10, 2018

CALL TO ORDER The 168th Annual Township meeting, held on Tuesday, April 10, 2018, 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 The Boys Scouts of St. 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 10, 2018 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 the change in the 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 Tom Gauza, seconded by Brian Medley, 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, 2018. 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, notarization of documents, and the sale of vehicle stickers to unincorporated Wheeling Township residents. She further explained how the Clerk's Office provides information to the public on elections and the vehicle stickers for unincorporated areas of Cook County.

She thanked staff members Linda Hallett and Bonnie Niedert for their assistance throughout the year. She especially thanked Administrator and Deputy Clerk Jo Stellato for her many outstanding years of service to Wheeling Township.

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. Cook County is the only County of a 102 counties in Illinois that assesses taxes. Consequently, 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. Cook County closed its Rolling Meadows Office and without the Township office, seniors and others would have to travel downtown to solve their issues and file documents. Assessor Sadler noted that the Township is in the second year of the triennial assessment. Generally, persons seeking help falls, but this year the number rose. Visitors went from 5662 to 5877 or a 4% increase and telephone inquiries increased by 7%. Assessor Sadler indicated that probably more people are

appealing their assessments as property taxes rise. It used to be about 10% of residents would appeal, but now it probably is at least 15% if not higher. In addition, it is easier to appeal because you can appeal online. Some good news is that exemptions are increasing. The homeowners' exemption is increasing from \$7,000 to \$10,000 and senior exemption is increasing from \$5000 to \$8000. Each exemption increase is worth about \$300, but the equalizer has neither come out nor the tax rate. Therefore, it is likely residents will not see much of the savings from the increase in the exemptions. The Assessor's Office is making some staff changes. Chief Deputy Assessor Mary Sebastian is retiring and Deputy Assessor Julie Lipka will become the Chief Deputy Assessor. Replacing Julie as Deputy Assessor will be Kim Bliff.

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 heartfelt and a special thanks to Administrator Stellato for all her assistance throughout the years. Supervisor Penner referred the audience to the Annual Report of One anonymous donor contributed \$10,000 to the food pantry. or information about the services the Township provides. She then highlighted a few areas. First the food pantry functions solely on contributions and volunteers. No tax dollars are used. Volunteers worked over 4000 hours in the past year and there were 5333 visits to the food pantry that resulted in 11,912 people being fed. Supervisor Penner also highlighted the transportation department for serving seniors and disabled individuals. In the past fiscal year, the department provided 25,325 rides. In addition, Supervisor Penner indicated that the elimination of the highway department has been smooth. No services have been reduced and there has been a financial savings. The Township is working with Homeland security to remove six flood prone homes and with Cook County Commissioner Greg Goslin to declare a home an abandoned home. She also noted that in the last year the township awarded \$712,000 to 25 programs to serve the disabled, seniors, and to provide services such as mental health, substance abuse counseling, youth services, emergency housing and other social services to Township residents.

Supervisor Penner then introduced Township staff and attendees from the Social service agencies that received grants from the Township. She then recognized and honor donors.

Honor Donors Supervisor Penner first recognized the Christian Church of Arlington Heights, Pastor Allie Lundblad. In the early 1990's the Christian Church began an effort to help those suffering from natural disasters and expanded to assisting the Township food pantry. Since 2010, the Church has made 55 donations of food to the food pantry. In addition, the Church has donated Easter baskets. Supervisor Penner presented the award to the Christian Church representatives.

Supervisor Penner next recognized the Southminister Presbyterian Church, Pastor David Carlson. Since 2015, the Congregation has donated food 51 times to the food pantry. The

Congregation has also completed repair work in the homes of low income families. The Congregation also volunteers for Meals on Wheels. Supervisor Penner presented the award to the Congregation's representatives.

Supervisor Penner then recognized the Buffalo Grove/Hersey/Wheeling High Schools Stampede Hockey Club. The Club won the 2018 State High School Championship this year. In the last 7 years the club has donated \$6749 and countless pounds of food to the food pantry. Their hard work and dedication has helped to feed their neighbors. Supervisor Penner then presented the award to the Club representatives.

Supervisor Penner next recognized Julie Wright and Jack DeCarlo, the Secretary of State Rules of the Road program. The program helps seniors prepare to take the State drivers license. Julie and Jack have taught the program for decades. Julie who is retiring this year has taught the program for 28 years. She also assists with the AARP tax program. Jack has taught the class for 17 years and volunteers in the community. Supervisor Penner then presented the awards to Julie Wright and Jack DeCarlo.

Supervisor Penner next recognized Slim Petrie, AARP Safe Driving Class instructor. Slim taught the class at Wheeling Township. In fact two years Slim was the busiest Safe Driving instructor in the State of Illinois. Supervisor Penner thanked Slim for making the community a safer place and presented him the award.

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 by Brian Medley of Buffalo Grove 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 10th day of April, 2018, that the time of the next Annual Town Meeting shall be held on the second Tuesday of April, 2019, at 8:00 p.m., at a place to be designated by the Wheeling Township Board of Trustees."

MOTION TO PASS RESOLUTION 2017-01 A motion was made by Brian Medley and seconded by Tom Gauza, 410 East Sunset Drive, Arlington Heights , to adopt Resolution 2018-04, 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 by stating: “Whereas, the electors assembled at this Year 2018 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 2018-2019 fiscal year.”

MOTION TO PASS RESOLUTION 2018-05 A motion was made by Jeff Battinus of Buffalo Grove and seconded by Tom Gauza to adopt Resolution 2018-05 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 by Tom Gauza, 410 E. Sunset Drive, Arlington Heights, 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 2018-06 A motion was made by Tom Gauza, 410 E. Sunset Drive, Arlington Heights, and seconded by Brain Medley to adopt Resolution 2018-06. Motion carried unanimously.

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 Dan Patlak and seconded to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. Moderator Jochum thanked everyone for coming and adjourned the meeting at 8:37 p.m.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joanna M. Gauza', written over a horizontal line.

Joanna M. Gauza

Wheeling Township Clerk