

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Supervisor and Board of Trustees of Wheeling Township, for June 25, 2024 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 8:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Clerk Gauza called the roll and the following members were present, Supervisor Kathy Penner, Trustee Jeanne Hamilton, Trustee Joseph Murglin, Trustee Darrel Talken and Clerk Joanna Gauza.

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

Absent: Trustee Patricia Kozicki and Wheeling Township Attorney Kenneth Florey.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Supervisor Penner led those assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION #1: APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING ON May 28, 2024

Motion by Trustee Murglin, seconded by Trustee Hamilton, to approve the minutes of the May 28, 2024 Regular Board Meeting, with a change on page 2, under Citizens to be Heard, Shannon Silverman, change 'Minutes to Meeting'.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Murglin, Hamilton, Talken, Penner
NAYS: None.... Motion #1 Carried.

AUDIT

MOTION #2: AUDIT FOR CEMETERY FUND

Motion by Trustee Talken, seconded by Trustee Murglin, to approve batch #062524 against the Cemetery Fund, in the amount of \$2,424.04 to be paid.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Talken, Murglin, Hamilton, Penner
NAYS: None.... Motion #2 Carried.

MOTION #3: AUDIT FOR ROAD MANAGEMENT FUND

Motion by Trustee Talken, seconded by Trustee Murglin, to approve batch #6/7/24, and #6/4/24 against the Road Management Fund, in the amount of \$485,980.56 to be paid.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Talken, Murglin, Hamilton, Penner
NAYS: None.... Motion #3 Carried.

MOTION #4: AUDIT FOR TOWN FUND

Motion by Trustee Talken, seconded by Trustee Murglin, to approve batch #6/7/24, #6/20/24, #6/24/24, and #6/25/24 against the Town Fund in the amount of \$185,260.48 to be paid.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Talken, Murglin, Hamilton, Penner
NAYS: None.... Motion #4 Carried.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Arlen Gould: Ask to speak at end.

Kathy Scortino: A mental health counselor asked what right do we have to ignore the voters and ignore the need for services.

Janice Phares: We must stop ignoring the referendum.

Susie Piasecki: She is recovering from anxiety and mental disorder. Mental illness is a physical disorder. We need funding for mental health treatment.

Aaron Wagner: He is huge advocate of mental health and was diagnosed APHD anxiety in grammar school. Thanks to treatment was able to overcome his condition.

Lorri Grainawi: She asked to fund the mental health board. She heard that lawsuit could bankrupt the Wheeling Township but does not believe it. Funding is needed now.

Mary Hahn: District 214 is looking for help with mental health. A study of gun violence indicates need for mental health treatment. Voters are watching.

Sandy Bourseau: She thinks the Township does a great job maintaining the cemetery. She is not proud of Wheeling Township and hopes we find a way to fund mental health.

John Geier: Glad to receive Township newsletter that lists all the social services provided to residents. Did not see increasing for mental health services.

Hugh Brady: Co-President of Housing Taskforce and on local NAMI board. Not acceptable not funding more for mental health.

Jenice Dirkes: She stated that mental health impacts our community and wants transparency and wants to know how board voted.

Gabriel Nagy: Struggling in 2020 to concentrate. Since start of pandemic there is disengagement by kids from society.

Amy Somary: Husband received great help from Township with property tax appeals. The Township does a great job with food pantry and many social services. Disappointed with how we handled mental health board. She understands this will mean a large increase in Township assessed line item.

Arlen Gould: Wall Street Journal article discussed the national need for more mental health services for students. This is a good board and Kathy has a good heart. Your legal counsel has told you not to fund this initiative for legal reasons though people support it. Acknowledges board doing some services but need is so great.

OFFICIALS' REPORT

ASSESSOR: Assessor Jochum reported:

- Tax bills will be mailed July 1st due in August. Tax bills are currently online at CookCountyTreasurer.com.
- 2023 SENIOR FREEZE ISSUE: The Cook County Assessor has advised all townships that senior freeze exemptions processed on April 24 DID NOT properly record hence those seniors may not have the freeze reflected on their bill.
- In Wheeling Township a minimum of 200 properties were impacted, totaling a \$300,000 overcharge which may need to be paid to the County. Assessor Jochum has given the board a list of properties involved to provide an understanding of the level of personal impact upon taxpayers.
- Assessor's office took the following steps to mitigate the problem for taxpayers;
- A letter was sent to those we knew were affected explaining what may happen and how we can assist.
- In some cases, we contacted taxpayers by phone who we knew did not use electronic media or answer their phones.
- Assessor's office provided an order of impact list, which Assessor Jochum have also distributed to the board and let the County for assistance as they correct the problem.
- The county is working to correct the bills before the paper bills are sent out, thus far almost 50% of the Wheeling issues which we know of have been corrected. It should be noted that we do not know the total number of taxpayers affected.

- Our office is fielding calls and will assist with Certificates of Error as may be necessary.
- TAX YEAR 2024
- We are anticipating the Cook County Assessor to be open for appeals in mid-August. Currently we are accepting pre-files for the Assessor, to date we have over 300 pre-files for which we have begun to identify comparables.
- PERMITS
- There appears to be a lack of understanding of the tax impact of permits in some municipalities and we are considering a seminar for local building officials.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: Administrator Stapleton reported:

- The Portwine Resurfacing Project was completed today.
- Needs Assessment Update:
Dr. Bailey gave an update to the Mental Health Board on June 12th.
- Secretary Dixon presented the Annual Report for the Mental Health Group at the Mental Health Board Meeting. Secretary Dixon requested that the Wheeling Township Board receives a copy. The report is at your spot.
- The newsletters went out the week of June 17th.
- A reminder that the Township will be hosting the Cook County Permit Workshop on July 20th from 9 am to Noon.
- Statistics for May 2024:
 - 1,828 rides - 814 non-medical, 1,014 Medical
 - 1,043 - meals delivered
 - 564 - visits to the Food Pantry - 1,205 people, 496 seniors, 263 children

MOTION #5: ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Supervisor Penner seconded by Trustee Murglin to adjourn.

VOICE CALL VOTE: All Ayes.... Motion #5 Carried.

The meeting for Tuesday, June 25, 2024, was declared adjourned at 8:45 p.m. The next scheduled regular board meeting is set for Tuesday, July 23, 2024, at 8:00 p.m.

Joanna M. Gauza
Wheeling Township Clerk