

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Supervisor and Board of Trustees of Wheeling Township, for September 26, 2023 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 Patricia Kozicki, Trustee Joseph Murglin, Trustee Darrel Talken and Clerk Joanna Gauza.

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

Absent: None

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 AUGUST 22, 2023

Motion by Trustee Kozicki, seconded by Trustee Murglin, to approve the minutes of the August 22, 2023 Regular Board Meeting.

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

AUDIT

MOTION #2: AUDIT FOR TOWN FUND

Motion by Trustee Kozicki, seconded by Trustee Murglin, to approve batch #8/29/23, #8/31/23, #9/8/23, #9/15/23 and #9/26/23 against the Town Fund in the amount of \$353,629.86 to be paid.

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

MOTION #3: AUDIT FOR CEMETERY FUND

Motion by Trustee Kozicki, seconded by Trustee Murglin, to approve batch #8/29/23, #9/8/23 and #9/26/23 against the Cemetery Fund, in the amount of \$3,493.81 to be paid.

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

MOTION #4: AUDIT FOR ROAD MANAGEMENT FUND

Motion by Trustee Kozicki, seconded by Trustee Murglin, to approve batch #8/29/23, #9/8/23 and #9/26/23 against the Road Management Fund, in the amount of \$12,188.40 to be paid.

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

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD:

Arlen Gould: wants the board to wait until fall to place the mental health referendum on the ballot.

Lorri Grainawi: doesn't want the mental health referendum to be placed in the primary election.

Rosemary Walter: thanked the Township board for its appointments to the Mental Health Board. Mentioned that the community is confused about a new mental health tax levy referendum,

Attorney Florey: previously met with Arlen Gould and Lorri Grainawi explaining the court case regarding the mental health referendum. Both Arlen and Lorri wanted the referendum to be placed on the ballot as soon as possible. If the board voted to place the tax levy referendum on the ballot, some could see that as the board supporting the levy increase, but that is not what it means. By placing the levy referendum on the ballot, the board was letting the voters choose with all the transparency required by law. Without full transparency, a legal challenge could undo years of levies and create millions of dollars in liability. The first opportunity to have the referendum placed on the ballot is in the primary elections. Putting the referendum on the ballot would be consistent with the community desire. The sooner we place the tax levy referendum on the ballot, the less confusion we will have going forward. The tax levies if approved, can also go into effect sooner than later. The suggestion of passing a law to retroactively fix a law is generally not allowed by the courts when the fix is substantive. A taxpayer could argue that the referendum to raise taxes was not transparent. This would be a big risk for the Township and would advise against it. Almost every attorney that I have spoken with agrees with the analysis.

Trustee Hamilton: asked if the tax levy doesn't pass in the referendum, do we still have the Mental Health Board. The answer is yes. In fact, the tax levy could be proposed again in a future election if it loses in the spring.

Supervisor Penner: We have an obligation to be transparent. We are just adding transparency to the language of the Mental Health tax levy. We want everyone that votes on the tax levy referendum to see the change and the amount of the tax increase. We need to do this to protect against future legal challenges to any levy. Relying on a legislative fix as explained does not remove the risk of a legal challenge. Therefore, we recommend placing the tax levy referendum in the primary elections which will be held in spring.

Daryl Talken: If the tax levy fails in spring, the Mental Health Board still can recommend how to allocate funds to mental health agencies.

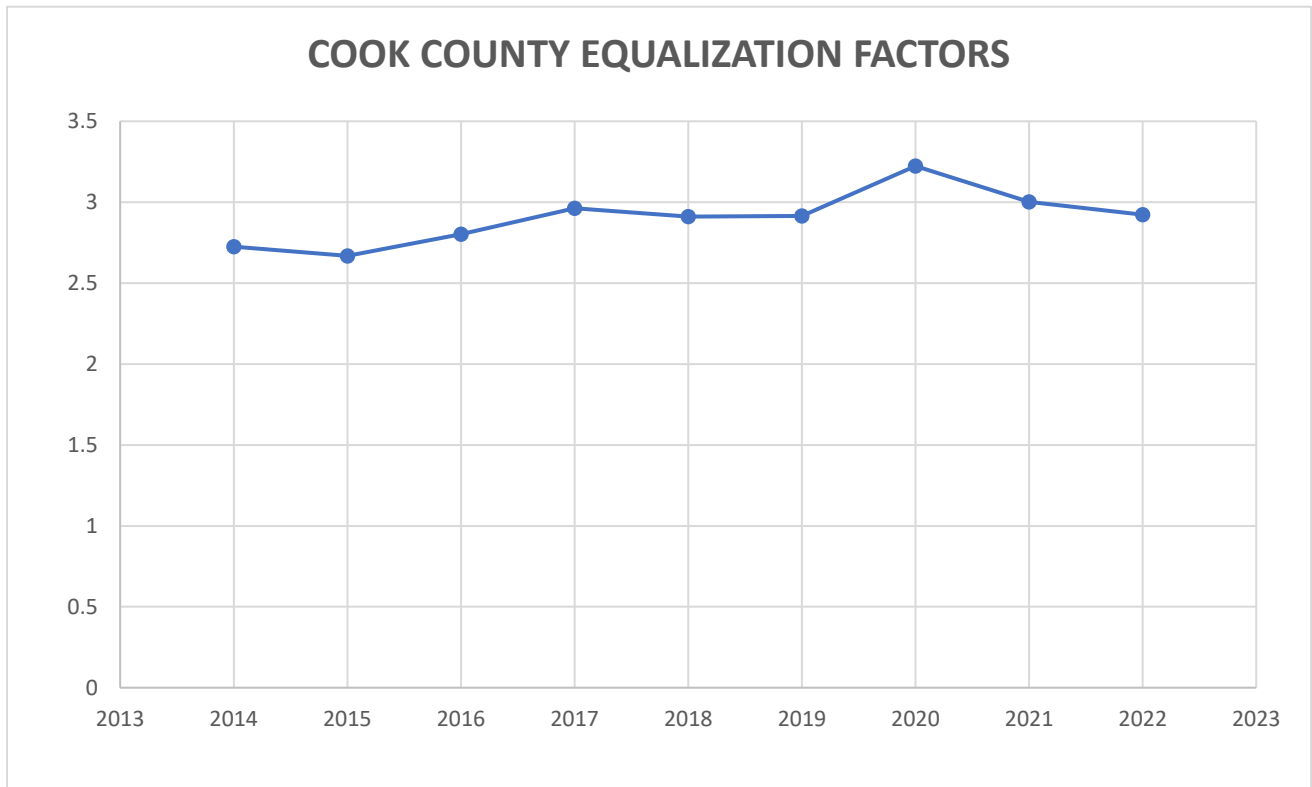
OFFICIALS' REPORT

ASSESSOR'S REPORT:

- TAX YEAR 2022
- The Board of Review concluded the appeal session for Wheeling Township and the County.
- Wheeling Township had 12,646 residential appeals; 5,924 appeals were not changed 47%. 6,722 appeals were reduced 53%
- The Illinois Department of Revenue released the multiplier which will be reflected on the second installment tax bills. The new multiplier is 2.9237, down slightly from the previous year.

COOK COUNTY EQUALIZER

2022	2.9237
2021	3.0027
2020	3.2234
2019	2.916
2018	2.9109
2017	2.9627
2016	2.8032
2015	2.6685
2014	2.7253



- OTHER ITEMS
- We will be holding a seminar for new homebuyers on Nov 2nd at the township office to introduce the real estate tax process.
- I have attached a report from the Treasurer which describes how the Illinois property tax process works.

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT: Administrator Stapleton reported:

- We are still short bus drivers. We have a couple of prospects for bus drivers. Hopefully, we can have a couple of drivers going through PACE training in October. The riders have been very patient with us, and they very much appreciate the service we provide.
- The newsletter should be delivered to the residents by the beginning of next week. Just a reminder, we included the Wheeling Township Community Mental Health Community Survey in the newsletter.
- LIHEAP begins for Seniors, Disabled, and families with children under the age of six years on October 2, 2023
- Medicare Part D open enrollment starts October 15, 2023.
- Holiday program registration is in process.
- Statistics for August 2023:
 - 1,902 rides - 825 non-medical, 1,077 Medical
 - 1,065 - meals delivered
 - 550 visits to the Food Pantry - 1,227 people fed

MOTION #5: RESOLUTION APPROVAL OF THE MENTAL HEALTH BOARD LEVY QUESTION

Motion by Supervisor Penner, seconded by Trustee Murglin to approve the Resolution of Mental Health Board Levy Question.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Penner, Murglin, Kozicki, Talken, Hamilton
NAYS: None.... Motion #5 Carried.

MOTION #6: APPROVAL TO INVEST IN COOK COUNTY INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT

Motion by Supervisor Penner, seconded by Trustee Murglin to approve to Invest in Cook County Intergovernmental Agreement.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Penner, Murglin, Kozicki, Talken, Hamilton
NAYS: None.... Motion #6 Carried.

MOTION #7: APPROVAL OF RESURFACING FOREST VIEW DRIVE, NORTHBROOK -AWARD OF CONTRACT TO CHICAGOLAND PAVING CONTRACTORS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$285,000

Motion by Trustee Murglin, seconded by Trustee Kozicki to approve of Resurfacing Forest View Drive, Northbrook – Award of Contract to Chicagoland Paving Contractors in the Amount of \$285,000.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Murglin, Kozicki, Talken, Hamilton, Penner
NAYS: None.... Motion #7 Carried.

MOTION #8: PROSPECT HEIGHTS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT TRUSTEE APPOINTMENT – LARS K. ANDERSON

Motion by Trustee Kozicki, seconded by Trustee Murglin to approve the Appointment of Prospect Heights Fire Protection District Trustee – Lars K. Anderson.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Kozicki, Murglin, Talken, Hamilton, Penner
NAYS: None.... Motion #8 Carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

2023 Levy Discussions: The Supervisor asked part of levies be allocated to do needs study for Mental Health Board. Also, we will consider budgeting for interns and wage increases because of inflation.

MOTION #9: ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Supervisor Penner, seconded by Trustee Kozicki to adjourn.

VOICE CALL VOTE: All Ayes.... Motion #9 Carried.

The meeting for Tuesday, September 26, 2023, was declared adjourned at 8:45 p.m. The next scheduled regular board meeting is set for Tuesday, October 24, 2023, at 8:00 p.m.

Joanna M. Gauza
Wheeling Township Clerk