

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Supervisor and Board of Trustees of Wheeling Township, for March 21, 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 8:05 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 FEBRUARY 28, 2023

Motion by Trustee Kozicki, seconded by Trustee Murglin, to approve the minutes of February 28, 2023 Regular Board Meeting.

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

AUDIT

MOTION #2: AUDIT FOR TOWN FUND

Motion by Trustee Kozicki, seconded by Trustee Murglin, to approve batch #3/1/23, #3/10/23, #3/20/23 and 3/21/23 against the Town Fund in the amount of \$87,440.60 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 #032123 against the Cemetery Fund, in the amount of \$938.50 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 #3/1/23 and #3/21/23 against the Road Management Fund, in the amount of \$1,342.32 to be paid.

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

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

None

OFFICIALS' REPORT

ASSESSOR: Assessor Jochum reported:

- TAX YEAR 2022
- Wheeling Township closed for Board of Review appeals on Friday March 18, after 30 days of appeals. We assisted in filing more than 760 appeals which is more than the 2019 appeal year which was the last triennial year. During the 120 hours of the appeals sessions, we handled 1,042 walk-in cases and we handled 1,030 cases by phone. By 4:45 on Friday the 17th we had transmitted all appeals to the Board of Review and completed all work related to these appeals. The staff did an outstanding job, diligently and patiently serving constituents. No additional outside resources were necessary.
- In addition to appeals, we also handled exemptions and certificates of error and senior freeze concerns. The freeze forms are still not out thereby causing significant distress to seniors anxious, to insure that they get the freeze.
- We conducted two outreach events; one with analysts from Commissioner Cardenas' office was held at this location. About 30 people attended. The Commissioner had 4 analysts in attendance and our Township staff and I participated. A second outreach was held with Commissioner Steele in attendance as well as about 12 analysts. The event was held at the Wheeling Village Hall and about 80 people attended. Julia Lipka and I also participated in the event.

- **INSERVICE TRAINING**
- Commissioner Steele provided the services of two Board of Review analysts who came to our office to learn about townships and enter appeals if necessary. We used this as an opportunity to do in-service training by having the analysts review a number of appeals and compare their analysis to the comparables we provided. This process and ensuing discussion allowed us to align ourselves with the Board of Review methodology and should enhance our service to constituents. We will attempt to repeat this process with analysts from the Assessor's office. We are very grateful to Commissioner Steele for this opportunity to partner with the Board of Review.
- **ATTACHMENTS**
- The most recent 2021 American Community Survey which breaks down our Township population by age was just issued. Wheeling Township is still the township with the highest senior population in Cook County.
- The Cook County Clerk has her tax report out for 2021. The entire report is on her website, but I have attached one graph which may be of interest. The graph shows the four largest taxing districts in Cook County.

CLERK'S REPORT: Clerk Gauza reminded the board that they should have received a Statement of Economic Interest ("SEI") by email and that the SEI must be filed by May 1, 2023.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: Administrator Stapleton reported:

- Just a reminder, the Annual Town Meeting is April 11, 2023, at 8 pm.
- The Cemetery Board met on March 14, 2023; we discussed the cemetery grounds and the need to repair some monuments. The Sons of the Union Veterans have asked if they could restore some Civil War Veterans' monuments. We have an issue with people drinking and throwing empty cans all over the cemetery. I will be speaking with the Arlington Heights Police regarding this matter.
- We need part-time bus drivers. Ridership is going up, and we are at the point where we have to turn down riders.
- We applied for a grant through Invest in Cook County for road safety improvement on Lee Street. The Township will know in August if we will receive the grant.
- Statistics for February 2023:
1,581 rides - 734 non-medical, 847 Medical
1,043 meals delivered
456 visits to the Food Pantry - 948 people fed

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION #5: APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA FOR THE ANNUAL WHEELING TOWNSHIP MEETING

Motion by Supervisor Penner, seconded by Trustee Kozicki to approve the Agenda for the Annual Town Meeting on April 11, 2023.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

Tentative 2023-2024 budget discussions. The budget approval will be next month. Supervisor Penner indicated that a 5% cost of living increase is being considered for employees. The budget also allocates monies for training for the Mental Health Board. Building maintenance and utilities costs are projected to rise about 20%. Capital costs include replacing the back doors and making the Assessor's and Supervisor's offices wheel chair accessible. The overall Township budget will increase 0% to 1%. General Assistance is experiencing increasing constituents applying for help and costs will probably rise. Eventually there will be about a 50% recapture of costs. The Highway department maintenance and repair costs are rising. A ¼ mile section will need to be replaced. The cemetery fund may consider creating an area for ashes.

MOTION #6: ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Supervisor Penner seconded by Trustee Kozicki to adjourn.

VOICE CALL VOTE: All Ayes....Motion #8 Carried.

The meeting for Tuesday, March 21, 2023, was declared adjourned at 8:20 p.m. The next scheduled regular board meeting is set for Tuesday, April 25, 2023, at 8:00 p.m.

Joanna M. Gauza
Wheeling Township Clerk