

**Wheeling Township**  
**Annual Town Meeting**  
**Tuesday, April 9, 2024**

**CALL TO ORDER** The 172nd Annual Township meeting, held on Tuesday, April 9, 2024, 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** Clerk Gauza led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. She then introduced the Wheeling Township Officials.

**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, Wheeling Township Officials Reports, and Wheeling Township Annual Reports, including the Financial Reports for 2023-2024, were available in the back of the room.

**ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT** Because of State 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 stated that Wheeling Township Attorney Kenneth Florey will take over the next part of the meeting. Attorney Florey asked for nominations from the floor, to elect a moderator. A motion was made by Jeanne Hamilton, seconded by Joe Murglin, to nominate Susan Hayes as moderator. Attorney Florey then asked “Are there any other nominations for moderator?” Hearing none, motion was voted upon and carried unanimously.

**Citizens to be Heard:**

Ken Jochum stated this year Illinois has the highest tax rate in the nation. By the end of a 30-year mortgage, a homeowner will pay as much in property taxes as for their mortgage. Cook County property taxes rose to \$17.6 billion. In the Northwest suburbs, taxes jumped 15.7%, the highest increase in over 30 years. The Wheeling Township Assessor’s office has focused on helping taxpayers, including assisting some 11,800 residents with tax appeals and exemptions, and saving taxpayers millions of dollars in taxes.

John Hoeger stated that moved to the Township 3 ½ years ago from Chicago and is amazed how well the Township government works and how courteous everyone is.

John Picchiotti stated that Township government is essential and it helped many residents during the height of COVID including through the food pantry. The township transportation services allow citizens to live a full life. He is glad that the Township has a fiscally prudent board that respects taxpayers hard earned monies while helping residents.

Jeanne Hamilton stated she is appreciative of the Township and its staff for all that they do and she is also thankful for Supervisor Kathy Penner. She has neighbors and a disabled son that can rely on services being available.

Joanne Schultz just stated she agreed with what was already said.

John Saletta just wanted to echo comments already made.

Fred Vogt stated that he is happy to pay property taxes for the services that he gets in this community. He is concerned that Township cannot increase mental health services. He thinks that Township needs to get a plan to move forward.

Kathy Motto stated she worked in Leyden Township in mental health. The 708 board referendum was passed and the Illinois legislature acted. I am told we will need another referendum to levy taxes which is wrong because referendums depend on turnout and many factors.

Lorri Grainawi appreciates what Township has done like the food pantry. She knows the senior citizen and disability buses are used a lot. Her interest is mainly with mental health and she is disappointed that the 708 board not funded more service. She understands there are legal concerns. While there are many social services, more are needed. DuPage County just opened a mental health center.

Sue Walton shared excerpts from prayer practice and called on leaders be humble and serve.

Suzanne Nice thanked all who serve on the board and sacrifice time to serve the community. In looking at old tax bills, although she wished taxes were lower, she still voted for mental health board. She worked in mental health for 40 years and retired as a school psychologist. She supports raising tax dollars for mental health services. Mental health services help families. She understands the board needs to ask questions and act as stewards of our money.

Arlen Gould stated over years has defended Townships and Wheeling Township because Townships fill a need locally that cannot be done by counties. He stated that the township is missing the bet on the biggest need of all--additional mental health services. DuPage County is building a major new health center with an emphasis on mental health services. The police chief of Arlington Heights has discussed the need for mental health services. The biggest driver of taxes is local schools and not the Township

Sandy Bourseau stated that we have wasted all this time over the legal issues and what the legislature did. The Township Board should just give the 708 board the money and just get started.

Janice Phares stated that in 2022 the township voters passed a referendum to create a 708 board. March 2023, the 708 board had a meeting with non-profits discussing the issues and their

programs. In the following year she lost her child and then her brother and mother died. She wanted no more delays.

## **RESOLUTIONS:**

**RESOLUTIONS were presented at this time.** Moderator Hayes asked for presentation of three resolutions.

**RESOLUTION 2024-01 SETTING THE TIME OF THE NEXT ANNUAL TOWN MEETING** A resolution was read by Tom Gauza 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 9th day of April, 2024, that the time of the next Annual Town Meeting shall be held on the second Tuesday of April, 2025, at 8:00 p.m., at a place to be designated by the Wheeling Township Board of Trustees.” John Pizchotti seconded the motion.

A motion was made to amend the start time of the next Town Meeting to 7 pm. The motion was seconded. The vote was 22-20 against the motion to amend. Thus, the motion to amend the start time from 8:00 pm to 7:00 pm failed.

**MOTION TO PASS RESOLUTION 2024-01** for the date and time of the 2025 Annual Township meeting as read was approved with one dissenting vote.

The next resolution brought before the electors for approval was for the Township to provide social services.

**RESOLUTION 2024-02 TO FUND SOCIAL SERVICES:** A resolution was read by Patricia Kozicki stating: “Whereas, the electors assembled at this Year 2024 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 2024-2025 fiscal year.”

The resolution includes funding for mental health services.

MOTION TO PASS RESOLUTION 2024-02 A motion was made by Patricia Kozicki and seconded by John Saletta to adopt Resolution 2024-02 as read. Motion carried unanimously.

Moderator Hayes then asked for a resolution to be brought before the electors authorizing the board to purchase liability insurance.

**RESOLUTION 2024-03 TO AUTHORIZE PURCHASE OF LIABILITY INSURANCE** A resolution was read by Jeanne Hamilton 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.”

Attorney Florey answered two questions. First, Illinois law requires tort liability insurance for employees and officials of the Township. Second, the insurance policies do not cover liability from any tax rate objection for the mental health referendum.

**MOTION TO PASS RESOLUTION 2024-03** A motion was made by Jeanne, Hamilton seconded by Joe Murglin to adopt Resolution 2024-03. Motion carried unanimously.

Moderator Hayes asked if there was any other business to present. Being none, she asked for a motion to adjourn.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN** A motion was made by Kathy Penner and seconded by Joe Murglin to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. Moderator Hayes thanked everyone for coming and adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Upon adjournment, a reception followed.