

**MINUTES  
BOARD MEETING OF NEW TRIER TOWNSHIP**

**State of Illinois**

**County of Cook**

**Township of New Trier**

**The Board of New Trier met at the Township Hall on February 9, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.**

**Present:** Patricia B. Cantor, Supervisor  
Jerome Hoynes, Clerk  
Paddie Brennen, Trustee  
Geri Kahnweiler, Trustee  
Alan Goldberg, Trustee  
JoAnn Shrier Gordon, Assessor  
Diane Tye, Director of Administration and Finance  
Brian Leverenz, Community Services Administrator  
Sandra Forrester, Deputy Clerk

**Also Present:** Richard Cowen, Attorney  
Angelo Scozia, Special Projects Committee  
David Nickel, Agency Oversight Committee  
Joe Feldman, Citizen  
Sanford Cantor, Citizen

**Absent:** Stefan Mozer, Trustee  
Joe Fell, Collector

**Supervisor Patricia Cantor, acting as Chair, and Jerome Hoynes, acting as Clerk, transacted the following business:**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Supervisor Cantor called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m. Following a roll call of the Board, Supervisor Cantor declared a quorum to be present.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Supervisor Cantor led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

**APPROVE JANUARY 13, 2010 MINUTES:**

Trustee Goldberg moved and Trustee Brennen seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2010 Board of Trustees Meeting. The motion passed on a voice vote.

**PRESENTATIONS OF AGENCY RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Supervisor Cantor stated the Board will be using the recommendations of the Special Projects, Oversight and Money Follows the Person Committees to help make its decisions on agency funding for FY 2010-2011.

- A.** Angelo Scozia of the Special Project Committee reported on that committee's review of four funding requests and presented the committee's recommendations for each agency:
1. *North Shore Village*, a new agency, requested \$3,000. Since the agency currently serves only Evanston and Wilmette residents, and only those who can pay fees, and there is possible duplication of North Shore Senior Center and other agency services, the committee recommended no funding at this time but will continue to monitor this agency for future consideration.
  2. *Interfaith Housing/Foreclosure Counseling Program* requested \$12,000. Trustee Kahnweiler remarked that the agency has some government funding and has 2 full-time and 1 ½ staff positions. They want to add another half-time staff position. Mr. Scozia noted the process of counseling residents facing foreclosure is lengthy. Currently, a minimal number of people are served, and outcomes are not certain. Acknowledging the need in this area, however, the committee recommended a modest level of funding at \$4,000.

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3. *Career Resource Center* requested \$8,000. This agency has provided a high level of services, including professional career counseling, mentoring technology resources and proven outcomes for its clients (80% of clients served are now working). Noting that the agency's clients have included 67 Township residents facing unemployment, the committee recommended full funding of \$8,000.
4. *Erika's Lighthouse* requested \$15,000. The agency has high visibility and is a recognized, effective prevention program with a dedicated director and board. Since it is in a very good financial position with high reserves, the committee recommended funding \$8,000.

Supervisor Cantor thanked Mr. Scozia for his report, and Mr. Scozia left the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

Bill Cole, New Trier Citizens' League representative, joined the meeting at 7:37 p.m.

- B.** David Nickel of the Agency Oversight Committee stated that this committee had reviewed 20 agencies managing 28 different programs. Agency requests totaled \$715,000. The budget (in rounded figures) assigned to this committee was \$624,000. Because *Interfaith Housing* did not request funding at this time, the committee's adjusted budget base was then \$621,000. The Board's recommended 5% increase readjusted this base to \$652,000 (an approximate \$31,000 increase). Mr. Nickel proposed a new budget of \$646,000 (an increase of \$25,000, just over 4%, with \$1500 not allocated). The committee established four broad categories of the community's most significant needs. Senior Services and Crisis Intervention and Prevention Services were considered high priority needs, and together were awarded approximately 59% of the budget increase.
1. *North Shore Senior Center* (NSSC) and *Senior Action Services* (SASY) were granted their full requests. Both agencies are facing State funding challenges, licensure issues and increased State mandates to do more with less and increased need for services. The committee recommended not increasing funding to *Meals at Home*, which had requested an increase to offset food costs, however, due to the agency's high level of reserves and the fact its food costs were already covered by fees.
  2. *Crisis Intervention and Prevention Services* received \$9,000, which represents funding increases to *Haven's* programs and Substance Abuse and Treatment programs of *Peer Services* – but not to the *Peer Services Prevention* program, which unfortunately cannot demonstrate prevention outcomes. The YWCA was funded at a level considered consistent with community need.
  3. Individual and Family Counseling and Emotional Well-being were awarded \$4,000 (16% of the committee's budget increase). In this category are three *Family Service* Agencies, which are not dependent on State funding and their United Way funding is often uncertain. All three agencies have similar outcomes, work well together and are well-respected in the community. Two of these agencies are financially sound; however the *Wilmette Family Services* is less well-off, and the committee decided an increase there was warranted. Also in this category is the State-funded *Children's Advocacy Center* (CAC). Although serving a small number of Township residents, the committee did grant a modest increase.
  4. The committee did not increase funding for four of the five youth Drop-in Centers. The Jr. High programs have good attendance but are in a better position to charge fees for services – especially those serving as after-school child care. Of the high school drop-in centers, only Wilmette received a slight increase. Except for Wilmette's *Warming House*, attendance at these centers is flat. The high school youth centers continue to be perceived mainly for kids out of the New Trier “mainstream” and there is considerable duplication in these services. The committee has tried to encourage these centers to cooperate to establish more mutual involvement and create supplementation rather than duplication of their programs. The *Glencoe Services drop-in center* for young adults with disabilities (post high school to upper 20's) is flourishing under new leadership and direction. Because this program serves the entire Township, and its membership is increasing, the committee granted its request of \$4,000.

5. Other Services is a catch-all category which includes *LINKS*, *Volunteer Center* and the *Open Studio Project*. The committee granted *LINKS*' request of a \$1500 increase. The *Volunteer Center*, which continues to expand its services and is managing increased volunteer referrals, did not request an increase. The *Open Studio Project* request for an increase was not granted because, although the program serves high risk clients, the committee saw it essentially as an artists' studio and, with no therapeutic professionals on staff, it was very difficult to quantify outcomes in this area.

\$1500 not awarded went back to the Board for best use of funds.

In response to Supervisor Cantor's query of how this new Oversight Committee had worked, Mr. Nickel remarked that given the limited amount of time, priorities and deadlines had to be set, and he believed the structure worked well. He suggested maintaining this plan for two years before evaluating its effectiveness. Trustee Kahnweiler suggested that since committee members spent much time on this process, and it seems the same amount of funding is allocated every year, the Board should think about funding select agencies for a two-year period and thereby reduce the work involved. With this and other creative approaches, she noted the Board could be regarded more as a partner than just a funder.

Supervisor Cantor thanked Mr. Nickel for an excellent report, and he left the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

**C.** Brian Leverenz, Community Services Administrator, presented the Money Follows the Person (M.F.P.) Committee report of Chuen Tam, who was unable to attend this meeting. Allocations to the *Center for Enriched Living* (CEL) and *Lambs Farm* did not receive a funding increase because CEL did not ask for an increase, and the level of service to Township residents by both agencies was either flat or decreasing. The committee will suggest that *The Institute for Therapy through the Arts* agency (which did not ask for a funding increase) offer a sliding fee scale and market to lower income clients. *Glenkirk*, *Josselyn* and *WilPower* agencies, each of which serves a substantial number of Township residents, received the allocations they requested. A slight reduction in funding to *SHORE* reflected its low level of service to Township clients. After much discussion involving difficulty evaluating *JJ's List* website use, few reviews and minimal review reference to disability issues, as well as low level of service to Township residents, the committee did not recommend a funding increase for *JJ's List*. *Our Place* received \$36,000. The committee will make final recommendations at its March meeting, and proceed with discussion of MFP implementation. Trustee Goldberg, MFP Trustee Liaison, noted that the committee did a great amount of work. He also stressed that fact that both *JJ's List* and *Our Place* are locally originated efforts. At our next Committee of the Whole meeting he intends to clear up some misconceptions concerning *JJ's List* and will present a letter from a MFP committee member who has strong feelings about the contributions of *JJ's List* and how it allows participants to go beyond the website to helping achieve its goal of community mainstreaming. Trustee Goldberg asked to officially go "on the record" stating that he has no financial relationship with *JJ's List* nor does he serve on their board.

**D.** The Disabilities Committee has tentatively scheduled an event for May 25, 2010 to promote disability awareness among local businesses. Work in progress involves effective agenda creation and speaker recruitment.

Supervisor Cantor thanked Administrator Leverenz for this report, and Administrator Leverenz left the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Supervisor Cantor moved the *Public Comments* agenda item to the beginning of the agenda enabling any resident to have his/her remarks heard earlier (three minutes each). Therefore, Mr. Joe Feldman did address the Board. Mr. Feldman expressed his disappointment with the township's leadership, stating that he has had unsatisfactory experiences, claiming to have received defensive responses in his communications with Supervisor Cantor. He suggested that the trustees and supervisor should set the example of being welcoming and cordial as they encourage citizen participation in township affairs. Mr. Feldman referenced a letter from Terry Pastika, Executive Director of the Citizen Advocacy Center (CAC), to the Supervisor and Trustees, advising the township to make certain procedural changes.

Supervisor Cantor disagreed with Mr. Feldman's characterization of the history of their communications and proceeded to address the concerns outlined in the CAC letter line-by-line; identifying various ways the township has worked to effectively improve its website, communications and Ethics Commission. Township Attorney Richard Cowen advised the board about the rights and involvement of citizens at public board meetings under the Open Meetings Act.

Trustee Goldberg moved and Trustee Kahnweiler seconded the motion to issue a formal written response letter to the Citizen Advocacy Center written by Communications Director Karen Spillers and reviewed by Attorney Richard Cowen. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Attorney Cowen left the meeting at 8:59 p.m.

Supervisor Cantor adjourned the meeting calling for a short meeting break at 9:00 p.m.

Supervisor Cantor resumed the meeting at 9:12 p.m.

**AGENCY ALLOCATION APPROVAL:**

Supervisor Cantor tabled Board review and approval of agency allocations for discussion at February 23, 2010 meeting of the *Committee of the Whole*.

**FY 2010-2011 EMPLOYEE SALARY APPROVAL:**

Supervisor Cantor presented the board with a two proposed rate-levels for salary increases. She also suggested an increase in hours for our Communications Director Karen Spillers. Supervisor Cantor complimented the devotion and hard work of the township staff noting that they are very deserving of a salary increase this year.

Assessor Shrier Gordon called the Board's attention to Deputy Assessor Lois Cross' long service to Township residents, her expertise and knowledge of area real estate as well as her professionalism in handling the increased demands of the Assessor's office. Assessor Shrier Gordon feels that the Deputy Assessor's salary is too low in relation to other township employees, and therefore strongly recommended a 4% raise for Deputy Assessor Cross.

Trustee Goldberg moved and Trustee Kahnweiler seconded the motion to increase Township employee salaries by 3%, with the exception of an increase for Lois Cross of 4%. The motion passed on a roll call vote.

3 Aye 1 Nay 1 Absent  
Supervisor Cantor voted Nay.

Trustee Goldberg moved and Trustee Kahnweiler seconded the motion to increase two part-time employees' Barbara and Jaroslaw Hebda salaries by 3.4% (50 cents). The motion passed on a roll call vote.

4 Aye 0 Nay 1 Absent

Assessor Shrier Gordon and Bill Cole, New Trier Citizens' League representative, left the meeting at 9:48 p.m.

**CLERK'S REPORT:**

The Clerk's Report was deferred to the March 9, 2010 Board meeting, at which time the report will include detailed information on planning for the 2010 Annual Town Meeting.

**FY 2010-2011 LINE ITEM TRANSFER APPROVAL:**

Administrator Tye detailed Budget changes made at the January 12, 2010 Board meeting, highlighting line item adjustments in the Town Fund and General Assistance Fund.

A. In the Town Fund, **\$42,100** was transferred from P.O.T.S. to the following line items:

	<u>Increased by</u>	<u>Revised Total</u>
Before/After School Daycare	\$ 3,100	\$18,100
Dial-a-Ride	22,000	37,000
Annual Town Meeting	1,000	6,000
Officials/Staff Expenses	8,000	33,000
Communications	5,000	22,000
Contract Hire	<u>3,000</u>	38,000
	<b><u>\$42,100</u></b>	

B. In the General Assistance Fund, a total of **\$34,000** was transferred from Outpatient Services (\$9,000) and Hospitalization (\$25,000) to the following line items:

	<u>Increased by</u>	<u>Revised Total</u>
Home Relief	\$17,000	\$62,000
Emergency Assistance (EA)	6,000	16,000
Pantry	<u>11,000</u>	13,500
	<b><u>\$34,000</u></b>	

Trustee Goldberg moved and Trustee Brennen seconded the motion to approve all FY 2010-2011 line item transfers as proposed by Administrator Tye. The motion passed on a roll call vote.

4 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstain

**TRUSTEE LIAISON REPORTS:**

2010-2011 Trustee Committee Assignments: Agreed that Trustees will remain with same committees.

**CONSENT AGENDA – STAFF REPORTS:**

- A. Community Services Administrator – Brian Leverenz
- B. Social Services Administrator – Jeanne Rosser
- C. Township Social Worker – Art Sontag

Trustee Brennen moved and Trustee Kahnweiler seconded the motion to accept the Consent Agenda staff reports as presented. The motion passed on a voice vote.

**PROJECTS OF TOWNSHIP SIGNIFICANCE (P.O.T.S.) DISCUSSION:**

Supervisor Cantor tabled the P.O.T.S. discussion to the next *Committee of the Whole* meeting on February 23, 2010.

**SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:**

Supervisor Cantor informed the board of the success and response to the Community Grants Program. Trustees were urged to register for new township education sessions announced in the *TOI Township Perspective* magazine. She also mentioned that Administrators Rosser and Leverenz attended the annual meeting of the *Rebuilding Together* group on February 4, 2010. This organization recently completed the Township pantry renovation.

**APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:**

Trustee Goldberg moved and Trustee Brennen seconded the motion to approve January 2010 Payroll checks numbered #4940 through #4963, totaling \$23,515.24. The motion passed on a roll call vote.

4 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstain

Trustee Goldberg moved and Trustee Kahnweiler seconded the motion to approve Town Fund checks dated January 12 through February 9, 2010, numbered 16809 through 16871, with the exception of voided checks #16863 and #16869, for a total of \$53,241.20. The motion passed on a roll call vote.

4 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstain

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Trustee Kahnweiler moved and Trustee Brennen seconded the motion to adjourn, and Supervisor Cantor adjourned the meeting at 10:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Jerome Hoynes, Township Clerk