



TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES February 14, 2023

Alan J. Goldberg Conference and Community Room
Township of New Trier, County of Cook, State of Illinois

PRESENT: Gail Schnitzer Eisenberg, *Supervisor*
Jerome Hoynes, *Clerk*
Katherine Casale MacNally, *Trustee*
Stefan Mozer, *Trustee*
Elliott Robbins, *Trustee*
Danielle Zinn Ruben, *Trustee*
Jan Churchwell, *Assessor (via Zoom)*
Lorrecia Hopkins, *Township Administrator & Deputy Clerk*
Brian Leverenz, *Community Services Administrator*
Julie Koenigsberger, *Outreach & Communications Director*
Steven Anderson, *Community Partnerships Coordinator*

ALSO PRESENT: Michelle Rosenthal – *Director of Glencoe Youth Services*
Amy Koplów – *Board President of The Warming House Youth Center*
Sheila Dolkart – *Board Member of the Winnetka Youth Organization*
Yevgeny Frolov – *Board Member of the Winnetka Youth Organization*
Mary Lawlor, *League of Women Voters*
James Howard, *Governmental Accounting, Inc. (via Zoom)*

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Supervisor Gail Schnitzer Eisenberg called the Meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Following a roll call of attendees, Township Clerk Jerome Hoynes announced that a quorum for conducting official business had been established. Clerk duties were handed off to Deputy Clerk Hopkins and Clerk Hoynes left the meeting. Supervisor Eisenberg then led the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

APPROVAL OF TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES

Deputy Clerk Hopkins presented a draft copy of the Meeting Minutes for Board approval: Trustee Casale MacNally moved and Trustee Robbins seconded approval of the **January 10, 2023, Township Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes**; motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

CLERK'S REPORT

Supervisor Eisenberg mentioned that plans are underway for the Annual Town meeting. There are 3 possible venues are under consideration and we are waiting to confirm a space. The agenda will be approved at the next meeting. There was a Clerk's meeting that Outreach and Communications Director Koenigsberger attended in Clerk Hoynes' absence.

TABLE ITEMS ON AGENDA

Supervisor Eisenberg asked the Board to table two Agenda items, the "Financial Report" and the "Verification of Claims" to be addressed later in the meeting.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

- Attended League of Women Voter's living room conversation
- Attended MLK Day of Service event and it was a great event
- Attended NSSC Annual Meeting
- Attended workshop at NTT with BOR Commissioner and Assessor Churchwell. It was standing room only
- Attended TOI on Personnel Policies
- Attended Chamber of Commerce lunch; learning what non-profits in the community are doing and collected items for the food pantry
- We had a great staff holiday party at Little Honeycomb
- We have engaged with Sawyer Falduto and will be signing contracts
- Taught Parliamentary Procedure for League of Women Voters
- Update for One Winnetka – The streetscape will be starting this summer and not One Winnetka
- The new sustainability coordinator has been hired. We will be engaging her to help with our solar project.
- Community Support Grants will be going out this week
- Statement of Economic Interest is due on May 1st, 2023. There have been no changes to the process.
- Keep a look out for newest Township legislation. HB1066-Childcare being added to Open Meetings Act. Supervisor Eisenberg and other local supervisors are pushing legislation that will give us more flexibility with our General Assistance fund.
- This is the 15th anniversary of NIU's mass shooting and the 5th anniversary of Parkland's mass shooting.

ASSESSOR'S REPORT- ASSESSOR JAN CHURCHWELL

Assessor Churchwell summarized that appeals for 2022 have been concluded. Nearly 40 people attended the tax event online as well as having a full room here at the Township. An e-blast was sent out on January 25th to residents saying that it was the last day to file. BOR staff was phenomenal. The first tax bills for 2022 have been online since the end of last year. Deadline for payment is April 3rd. Discussion ensued regarding Assessor's budget. Trustee Mozer asked about requested medical reimbursement. Assessor Churchwell is planning for worst case scenario for paying for Deputy Assessor Shifflett's medical insurance. Discussion between Assessor Churchwell, Trustee Robbins and Supervisor Eisenberg ensued. Deputy Assessor Shifflett joined the discussion and mentioned that he believed there was a verbal agreement with the former administrator regarding his health insurance. In July 2022, the Township changed insurance and Deputy Assessor Shifflett did not want to leave the previous Local Government Health Plan insurance. Supervisor Eisenberg explained she had asked for a contract. Discussion further ensued regarding the Deputy Assessor's insurance and contract with the Township. Supervisor Eisenberg said that we are past the date that the Assessor's budget is due statutorily. More discussion ensued between Deputy Assessor Shifflett and Trustee Robbins. An audience member made a public comment regarding Medicare Supplement F which charges nominal fees. More discussion ensued and Supervisor Eisenberg recommended that Deputy Assessor Shifflett seek legal counsel regarding the tax treatment of the insurance issue. There could be a separate EIN, but that benefit approval needs to come from Assessor Churchwell. Supervisor Eisenberg and Assessor Churchwell had discussion regarding salary for the Deputy Assessor. A budget will be presented next month and the Assessor's budget will be presented there as well. Trustee Ruben asked about budget amendment. Township Administrator Hopkins explained how the Township covers current employees on Medicare's supplements.

COMMITTEE LIASON REPORT

Mental Health Funding and Oversight Committee: Trustee Casale MacNally had no report

Life-Stages Funding Committee: Trustee Ruben had no report

Disability Support Funding and Oversight Committee: Trustee Mozer had no report.

Peer Jury: Trustee Robbins sent out 9 letters to 9 different schools trying to work on how Peer Jury can help them. Case load is down. We may start working with Loyola to eliminate police involvement. Meeting will happen with Glencoe Junior High. Phone calls will be placed to schools that have not responded yet. Brian Leverenz would like to discuss more restorative justice alternatives with the jurors as our sentences may seem too harsh. Discussion ensued between Community Services Administrator Brian Leverenz, Supervisor Eisenberg and Trustee Robbins.

FINANCIAL REPORT

James Howard of Governmental Accounting, Inc. gave the financial report for the month of January 2023. Property tax money has started coming in from the County. More tax money is to come in February. Mr. Howard gave the percentages of expenditures and revenues and we are trending well with our budget.

Trustee Mozer asked about the extra income and Mr. Howard will give an answer next meeting on what is in the account. Mr. Howard continued to break down the revenues and expenditures of the Township.

We will be starting our investment with Sawyer Falduto.
Supervisor Eisenberg explained that a lot is going on financially in the next few weeks.
Trustee Robbins asked a question regarding one of our vendors.

VERIFICATION OF CLAIMS

Trustee Mozer moved, and Trustee Casale MacNally seconded a motion for verification of claims dated January 1 to January 31, 2023; passed by roll call vote:

5 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstain

GA FUND LINE-ITEM TRANSFER

We had a lot more Emergency Assistance clients this year than expected.
Supervisor Eisenberg moved to do a GA Line-Item transfer of 10%; seconded by Trustee Casale MacNally; passed by roll call vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sheila Dolkart from Winnetka Youth Organization spoke regarding the WYO. They are working on getting numbers up in order to be able to get funded by local churches. There has been a flood and there are no records that can be obtained at this time due to the flood. Numbers are improving. Less funds have come from the park district over the pandemic. She continued to discuss the program.

Michelle Rosenthal from Glencoe Youth services reported that programming is going very well. Numbers are up as well as events. She is trying to organize events around the other agencies in the Township.

Amy Koplrow from Warming House spoke about partnership with another agency in the area to combine resources and reduce administrative costs. It has been difficult finding another executive director. Warming House needs continued support to be able to fund a full-time administrative position.

Yevgeny Frolov from the Winnetka Youth Organization explained that without funding the WYO will not survive. The Park District is funding WYO less. He asked the Board to consider that the Winnetka Community House charges a fee and that they have a different model than the non-profit agencies.

FY2024 AGENCY ALLOCATIONS

Supervisor Eisenberg requested a motion to adopt the agency allocations as referenced in Community Services Administrator Brian Leverenz's agency allocation handout (last column). Motion was moved by Trustee Casale MacNally and seconded by Trustee Robbins.

Trustee Robbins stated that the agency committees have done a great job presenting their funding recommendations. Trustee Mozer provided his feedback regarding the funding guidelines as they pertain to the funding guidelines and Glencoe Jr. High Project only serving Glencoe Junior High children. Trustee Ruben gave feedback saying that she understands both sides. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding Glencoe Jr. High project.

Supervisor Eisenberg moved to amend the motion and remove funding from Warming House with a caveat that if the agency is to obtain a full-time employee, the committee can make a recommendation regarding funding. The funds would be put into the POTS fund. Trustee Casale MacNally seconded the motion. Trustee Robbins discussed that he has an issue with the amendment as Warming House needs the funds in order to obtain a full-time employee. Community Services Administrator Brian Leverenz suggested making a decision regarding Warming House at the March board meeting.

Ayes 2 Nays 3
Motion Failed

Trustee Casale MacNally spoke regarding being a liaison on the Mental Health Committee. A large portion of time was regarding allocation based on how many community members were served. She raised concerns about the current number of community members served by the youth agencies in comparison with the tax dollars being allocated to them. She is concerned about giving tens of thousands of dollars to agencies that are not serving the youth of the community.

Trustee Casale MacNally motioned, and Supervisor Eisenberg seconded a motion to sit the \$47,000 to the side and not be voted on during the current meeting. Trustee Robbins mentioned that this motion was the same as the previous motion brought by Supervisor Eisenberg and let the agencies know that they need to get their numbers up and show us weekly attendance.

Ayes 2 Nays 3
Motion Failed

Supervisor Eisenberg asked if there is discussion of the significant decrease for PEER Services. She thanked Community Services Administrator Brian Leverenz for his institutional knowledge.

Supervisor Eisenberg called a vote to approve committee recommendations for agency allocations. Trustee Robbins, Trustee Mozer and Trustee Ruben approved. Trustee Casale MacNally and Supervisor Eisenberg did not.

Ayes 3 Nays 2
Motion Passes.

FY 2024 Salaries

Supervisor Eisenberg recommended the following salaries for FY2024:

- No changes to elected official's salaries
- Food Pantry Director - \$40,000 (GA) / Restorative Justice Coordinator - \$10,000 (Town Fund) at 30 hours per week
- General Assistance Director - \$66,787 (GA) / \$19,349 (Town Fund)
- Township Administrator / Deputy Clerk - \$70,000
- Community Partnerships Coordinator - \$60,000
- Outreach and Communications Director - \$60,000

Assessor Churchwell wanted to make a 10% salary increase for Deputy Assessor Shifflett and decrease the medical reimbursement line item in the tentative Assessor budget.

Trustee Robbins asked if the employees would appreciate salaries based on the employee reviews. Supervisor Eisenberg moved and Trustee Robbins seconded an amendment to the General Assistance Director percentage of increase.

Trustee Casale MacNally moved to accept the proposal of salaries as presented by Supervisor Eisenberg. Approved via roll call vote.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF STAFF REPORTS

- A. Township Administrator- Lorrecia Hopkins
-We are hosting IATA meeting on 3/8
-Please do your Cybersecurity training
- B. Community Services Administrator- Brian Leverenz
- C. General Assistance Administrator- Jeanne Rosser
240 Community Support grants / \$1,400.00 grant
- D. Outreach and Communications Director- Julie Koenigsberger
-Women's Club of Wilmette volunteer event happening on 2/16.
- E. Community Partnerships Coordinator- Steven Anderson
-Trustee Casale MacNally recommended a social media blast regarding passports and Spring Break.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

No continuing business items were discussed at the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Trustee Robbins believes that Supervisor Eisenberg's salary is low. Supervisor Eisenberg explained that she is part time and Niles and Northfield Township have full time supervisors. Trustee Mozer gave feedback on elected officials salaries. Discussion ensued.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Trustee Casale MacNally moved to adjourn; motion passed by unanimous voice vote. Supervisor Eisenberg adjourned the meeting at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorrecia Hopkins / Deputy Clerk