



TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES AUGUST 8, 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* (via Zoom)
Stefan Mozer, *Trustee*
Elliott Robbins, *Trustee*
Danielle Zinn Ruben, *Trustee*
Lorrecia Hopkins, *Township Administrator & Deputy Clerk*
Melanie Berman, *Outreach & Communications Director*

ABSENT: Jan Churchwell, *Assessor*

ALSO PRESENT: James Howard, *Governmental Accounting, Inc.* (via Zoom)
Mary Lawlor, *League of Women Voters* (via Zoom)

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Following a roll call of attendees, Township Clerk Jerome Hoynes announced that a quorum for conducting official business had been established. Trustee Casele MacNally appeared remotely but pursuant to remote participation policy. Supervisor Gail Schnitzer Eisenberg called the Meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and then led the reciting of the *Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America*.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Supervisor Eisenberg presented the following announcements and activities:

- Participated in the TIFF funding review talks for the rejuvenation of Kenilworth and was assured that a discussion of affordable housing in the development would be considered.
- Funding checks were distributed at the Agency Lunch in July; it was a wonderful opportunity for the agencies to think of ways to collaborate.
- A meeting was held between NAMI North Suburban and New Trier Township High School to discuss how we handle mental health and restorative justice issues to best care for our young people.
- Attended a meeting of the Libraries in New Trier Township to discuss being a collection site for our Food Pantry.
- Meeting with representatives of Christ Church in Winnetka to discuss their wonderful support of our Food Pantry.

- “Power of Attorney Clinic” held at the township by the North Shore Legal Aid Clinic.
- Attended the TOCC Spring Conference with Trustee Ruben and Cleek Hoynes.
- Township officials participated in both the Winnetka and Glencoe 4th of July Parades.
- Summer Intern Madeline is doing an excellent job; she created a fabulous *Barbie on-line Reel* to support Bernie’s Book Bank. Welcome New Communications Director Melanie Berman: she comes to us with public policy experience and an outstanding professional background.
- Due to the Elm Street streetscape construction project, we are making special arrangements for the food pantry as the road work continues.
- Discussed food donation efforts and expanded participation from various potential local food donation sources.
- Meeting for NARC-ANON held here to address the tragedy of drug overdoses.
- Townships of Illinois (TOI) will host a Q & A to discuss the various roles and responsibilities of township officials.

APPROVAL OF TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES

Clerk Hoynes expressed his appreciation to Deputy Clerk Lorrecia Hopkins for preparing the Minutes as he was recovering from a stroke and was proud to tell the Board that he prepared the May and June Minutes. He then presented two draft copies of the Meeting Minutes for Board approval:

- Trustee Robbins moved and Trustee Ruben seconded approval of the **May 9, 2023, Township Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes**; motion passed by unanimous voice vote.
- Trustee Robbins moved and Trustee Mozer seconded approval of the **June 13, 2022, Township Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes**; motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Supervisor Eisenberg then discussed the issue of the approval of the Executive Session Minutes, reiterating that discretion must be maintained and reminded Board members that while the Board is approving these Minutes, they will not be published or released as all other regular Board of Trustees Meetings Minutes are handled. Trustee Robbins moved and Trustee Mozer seconded approval but not release to the public (or posting on the website) of the **January and March 2022, Township Board of Trustees Executive Session Minutes**; motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

CLERK’S REPORT

Clerk Hoynes informed the Board that he is back in action with the Township officials of Cook County (TOCC) and will now serve as the TOCC Board Secretary. The Clerk’ will now be a Notary Public and is excited to help residents with any documents that they need to have notarized. He also echoed the Board’s enthusiastic welcome to our new Communications Director Melanie Berman and is looking forward to collaborating with her to plan next year’s Annual Town Meeting. Clerk Hoynes also Glenbrook Board that this

June he officially retired from a 33-year Social Studies teaching career at Glenbrook North High School & the Glenbrook Evening High School.

FINANCIAL REPORT

James Howard of *Governmental Accounting, Inc.* joining the Board meeting via *Zoom*, providing a comprehensive financial report during his presentation this evening. He offered a detailed review of the various aspects of accounts and expenditures in the financial report with the Board members; discussion ensued.

VERIFICATION OF CLAIMS

Trustee Mozer moved, and Trustee Robbins seconded, a motion for verification of claims dated from June 1, 2023, through July 31, 2023; passed by roll call vote:

4 Aye 0 Nay 1 Abstain (Trustee Casele MacNally)

The Board addressed an additional claim concerning the expenses of the Assessor's Office; discussion ensued. This item will appear on next month's verification of claims list.

ASSESSOR'S REPORT

Assessor Churchwell was absent from the meeting and therefore had no report.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were offered at the meeting.

COMMITTEE LIASON ASSIGNMENTS

- A. The Mental Health Funding and Oversight Committee will now have Trustee Ruben as liaison.
- B. The Life-Stages Funding and Oversight Committee will now have Trustee Mozer as liaison.
- C. The Disability Support Funding and Oversight Committee will now have Trustee Robbins as liaison.
- D. The Strategic Planning Project will be spear-headed by Trustee Casele MacNally.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF STAFF REPORTS

- A. Township Administrator- Lorrecia Hopkins
- B. Food Pantry Manager and Restorative Justice Coordinator- Brian Leverenz
- C. General Assistance Director- Jeanne Rosser
- D. Outreach & Communications Director- Julie Koenigsberger
- E. Community Partnerships Coordinator- Steven Anderson

Supervisor Eisenberg complimented Coordinator of Community Partnerships Steven Anderson for providing a more detailed report this month as the Board had requested at the last meeting.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

Trustee Casele MacNally provided a thorough report about the efforts to support the Monarch Butterflies Pledge that the Township Board had previously approved; discussion ensued.

NEW BUSINESS

Supervisor Eisenberg brought forth a revised Inter-governmental Agreement to the board to support our financial share to help pay for the Environmental Consultant; discussion ensued. Already the consultant assisted the township with recommendations for the solar panels to be installed on our building's rooftop; both Administrator Hopkins and Trustee Casele McNally asserted that the township has already benefitted greatly from the consultant's expertise.

Supervisor Eisenberg moved, and Trustee Robbins seconded, a motion for approval of the revised Inter-governmental Agreement; passed by roll call vote:

4 Aye 0 Nay 1 Abstain (Trustee Casele MacNally)

State law has changed to address wider electronic participation of board members. Trustee Casele MacNally moved, and Trustee Mozer seconded, a motion for approval of the revised Inter-governmental Agreement; passed by roll call vote:

4 Aye 0 Nay 1 Abstain (Trustee Casele MacNally)

Trustee Casele MacNally moved, and Trustee Mozer seconded, a motion for approval of the revised Electronic Participation Policy for the Township Board; passed by unanimous voice vote:

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Trustee Casale MacNally moved and Trustee Mozer seconded adjournment; motion passed by unanimous voice vote. Supervisor Eisenberg adjourned the meeting at 8:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerome Hoynes, Clerk