

WEST DEERFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

State of Illinois
Lake County
Township of West Deerfield

DATE: October 16, 2018

The regular monthly meeting of the West Deerfield Township Board of Trustees was called to order by Township Supervisor Alyson Feiger at 7:00 p.m. at the West Deerfield Township Center, 601 Deerfield Rd., Deerfield, Illinois.

Roll call was taken by Clerk Kristen Scott. Present were Trustees Ron Levitsky, Ron Schwartz, Kaye Kharasch, and Supervisor Feiger. Trustee Paras Parekh attended via phone conference.

Assessor Tom Healy was also present. Margie Fischer, Senior Advocate at Deerfield's Patty Turner Center, was present at the Board's request.

MINUTES

Trustee Levitsky motioned to approve the minutes from the September 20, 2018 Board meeting with one addition, and was seconded by Trustee Schwartz. There being no further discussion, a voice vote was taken. All were in favor and the minutes were approved as amended.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

Supervisor Feiger read a letter from Township Officials of Illinois stating that the West Deerfield Township historical brochure, written by Trustee Levitsky, had won a "Mighty Message" communications award, and shared a cake of congratulations with the Board and visitors.

OLD BUSINESS

A. For discussion and potential action: Establish Tax Levy Ordinance for 2018

Supervisor Feiger reiterated her suggestion to freeze the Levy figures for year ahead. Trustee Schwartz noted that he would support this action, but believes a consequence of not increasing the levy even marginally may be a reduced budget and decreased Township services down the road. Further discussion followed. Supervisor Feiger motioned to adopt the Levy for 2018, collectable in 2019, at 946,937 (889,955, Town Fund; 56,982, IMRF), and was seconded by Trustee Parekh. After further discussion, Clerk Scott took roll call: Trustees Levitsky (aye), Schwartz (aye), Parekh (aye), Kharasch (aye), and Supervisor Feiger (aye). All being in favor the motion was approved.

NEW BUSINESS

A. For discussion and potential action: Approve Accessibility Committee Recommendations

The Board reviewed a summary of the committee's October 9 meeting and its recommendations for two grant requests submitted in the third quarter (attached.) After brief discussion, Trustee Levitsky motioned to accept the committee's recommendations and fund one grant in the full amount of \$1,000. Supervisor Feiger seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, Clerk Scott took roll call:

Trustees Levitsky (aye), Schwartz (aye), Parekh (aye), Kharasch (aye), and Supervisor Feiger (aye). All being in favor the motion was approved.

B. For discussion and potential action: Proposal for Assessor's Office move to second floor of Township Center

Assessor Tom Healy detailed his to plan a move to the second floor for better security. Following extensive questions from the Board, Trustee Schwartz motioned to reopen the question of security enhancement, with the knowledge that the Assessor is requesting a more secured environment; and that the security of the entire building be reevaluated on an expedited basis. Trustee Levitsky seconded the motion. Further discussion ensued, followed by Clerk Scott taking roll call: Trustees Levitsky (aye), Schwartz (aye), Parekh (aye), Kharasch (aye), and Supervisor Feiger (aye). All being in favor the motion was approved.

Trustee Parekh exited the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Trustee Kharasch further motioned that every department in the Township building enact a policy and set of practices on how staff should react when threatened. Trustee Levitsky seconded the motion. Following discussion, including Trustee Schwartz's position that the Assessor's Office is an independent entity, and such a directive would complicate the Assessor's security efforts, Clerk Scott took roll call: Trustee Levitsky (aye), Schwartz (nay) Trustee Kharasch (aye), and Supervisor Feiger (aye). The majority being in favor the motion was approved.

C. For discussion and potential action: Senior Advocate Report

Margie Fischer, Senior Advocate at the Patty Turner Center, provided an overview of her interactions with seniors during the past month, and some detail on how she engages with clients. Supervisor Feiger and the Board asked a variety of questions, and Ms. Fischer left several pieces of Patty Turner Center literature for the Board's review.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Supervisor Feiger apprised the Board of various issues including a) the upcoming Township Halloween party for special needs children, led by Clerk Scott, on Oct. 27, 11 am – 1 pm; b) Early Voting for the General Election would be held at the Township Oct. 22 – Nov. 3; c) the Township newsletter would be mailed in the next two weeks; d) Dr. Jerry Zachar's grief support group would begin November 8; e) case worker Lupe Somerville will process over 100 LIHEAP applications on behalf of Township residents; f) despite a low-turnout due to weather, Deerfield's Historic Jubilee celebration was a success; g) the November Patty Turner Center "Friday with Friends" event will by a pre-Thanksgiving meal on Thursday, Nov. 15; h) the Holiday Wish program is underway; and i) Lake Forest Middle School students will conduct a food pantry project in the next few weeks; j) Deerfield's Baskin Robbins store closed and the owner donated many items to the Pantry; k) Pantry coordinator Jill Rosen made a presentation to First Presbyterian Church nursery schoolers, incentivizing students to donate particular food items; l) the Shred and Share event hosted by Sen. Julie Morrison netted several bags of donated food for the Pantry; and m) Supervisor Feiger congratulated Trustee Schwartz as the new president of the Deerfield Optimist Club.

OPEN DISCUSSION OF THE BOARD

Trustee Levitsky asked when the Community Service Grant application would be available to the community; Supervisor Feiger replied that it would be on the website in several weeks. He also noted that West Deerfield Township members were responsible for procuring the upcoming Rotary Club speaker, a representative of Horse Feathers Therapeutic Riding Center. Further, Trustee Levitsky asked Assessor Healy for an update on the lawsuit local assessors are filing against the Lake County assessor over how property can be assessed in non-quadrennial years. Trustee Schwartz noted that the Optimist Club of Deerfield-Bannockburn-Riverwoods had hosted District 109 Superintendent Anthony McConnell as their guest that day.

AUDIT AND APPROVAL OF BILLS

Following brief discussion, Trustee Levitsky motioned to approve the bills as presented, and was seconded by Trustee Kharasch. Clerk Scott took roll call: Trustees Kharasch (aye), Levitsky (aye), Schwartz (aye), and Supervisor Feiger (aye). All being in favor the bills were approved.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Trustee Schwartz motioned to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Kharasch seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken; all were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m. The next regular Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, November 20, 2018, at 7 p.m., at the West Deerfield Township Center, 601 Deerfield Road, Deerfield, Illinois.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Scott
West Deerfield Township Clerk