

WEST DEERFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

State of Illinois
Lake County
Township of West Deerfield

DATE: March 18, 2020

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. The meeting was conducted via teleconference due to Coronavirus concerns, and in accordance with Gov. J. B. Pritzker's Executive Order (COVID-19 EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 5) issued March 16, 2020, regarding provisional Open Meeting Act suspensions. Supervisor Feiger and Clerk Kristen Scott attended at the West Deerfield Township Center, 601 Deerfield Road, Deerfield, Illinois.

Roll call was taken by Clerk Scott. Present were Trustees Kaye Kharasch, Ron Levitsky, Ron Schwartz, Paras Parekh, and Supervisor Feiger.

Township Assessor Tom Healy was also present. David Fitzgerald-Sullivan joined the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

MINUTES

Trustee Levitsky moved to approve the minutes of the February 18, 2020 Board Meeting as presented, and was seconded by Supervisor Feiger. There being no discussion, a voice vote was taken. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

OLD BUSINESS

A. For discussion and potential action: Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for 2020-21
Supervisor Feiger proposed holding a special meeting to discuss the Budget, as issues relating to the COVID-19 pandemic had superseded most other concerns in recent weeks.

NEW BUSINESS

A. For discussion and potential action: Approve Community Service Agency committee funding recommendations

David Fitzgerald-Sullivan, Village of Deerfield's Management Analyst and committee chair, joined the meeting via phone, and provided a summary of the recommendations (attached). The Board asked a number of questions, and thanked Mr. Fitzgerald-Sullivan for his leadership of the committee. After further discussion, Trustee Levitsky motioned to approve the committee's recommendations with the exception of funding for Farmworker and Landscaper Advocacy Project, and was seconded by Supervisor Feiger. There being no further discussion, Clerk Scott took roll call: Trustee Kharasch (aye), Trustee Levitsky (aye), Trustee Parekh (aye), Trustee Schwartz (aye), and Supervisor Feiger (aye). All being in favor the motion was approved. Supervisor Feiger then moved to approve funding in the amount of \$1,000 to the Farmworker and Landscaper Advocacy Project and was seconded by Trustee Kharasch. There being no further discussion,

Clerk Scott took roll call: Trustee Kharasch (aye), Trustee Levitsky (abstain), Trustee Parekh (aye), Trustee Schwartz (aye), and Supervisor Feiger (aye).

B. For discussion and potential action: Approve Agenda for Annual Town Meeting April 14, 2020

Supervisor Feiger moved to approve the agenda for the Annual Meeting as prepared by Clerk Scott (attached) as required by statute. There being no discussion a voice vote was taken; all were in favor and the agenda was approved.

C. For discussion and potential action: COVID-19 preparedness

Supervisor Feiger detailed for the Board the actions taken to protect residents and staff, and the various adjustments staff have made to accommodate residents' needs, including food pantry clients, seniors, and General and Emergency Assistance applicants. As of Monday, March 16, the Township building was closed to the public, including volunteers, but critical services were continuing. She has fielded dozens of calls from community members as well as other municipalities and school districts within the Township, seeking assistance or offering to help, and she is coordinating services with neighboring governmental bodies. She was disappointed that case worker Lupe Summerville, who has served the Township one day a week through an intergovernmental agreement with Moraine Township since 2017, had been abruptly called back to Moraine full-time by its supervisor, Anne Flanigan Bassi, for the duration of the coronavirus crisis. Supervisor Feiger will handle all case work moving forward.

In response to the economic impact of the virus on West Deerfield Township residents, Supervisor Feiger moved to transfer \$3,716 from the General Assistance line item to the Deerfield Community Emergency fund, to be used exclusively for pandemic-related needs; and use \$1,000 from the Emergency Preparedness line item to purchase food and necessary household items for residents. She was seconded by Trustee Kharasch. Following further discussion, Clerk Scott took roll call: Trustee Kharasch (aye), Trustee Levitsky (aye), Trustee Parekh (aye), Trustee Schwartz (aye), and Supervisor Feiger (aye). All being in favor the motion was approved.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

At Supervisor Feiger's request, Clerk Scott reported that early voting traffic was heavy, especially as coronavirus concerns escalated during the second voting week. She will research audio and/or video communication platforms should such action be necessary for the next Board meeting, and the Annual Town meeting scheduled for April 14.

ASSESSOR'S REPORT

Assessor Healy updated the Board on recent activity in his office, noting that one phase of the appeal process has passed, and that he and his staff are assisting residents in applying for the Senior Homestead Exemption. They are communicating with residents via phone and email during this period.

OPEN DISCUSSION OF THE BOARD

None.

AUDIT AND APPROVAL OF BILLS

Following brief discussion, Supervisor Feiger motioned to approve the bills as presented, and was seconded by Trustee Kharasch. There being no further discussion, Clerk Scott took roll call: Trustee Kharasch (aye), Trustee Levitsky (aye), Trustee Schwartz (aye), Trustee Parekh (aye), and Supervisor Feiger (aye). All being in favor the motion was approved.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Trustee Schwartz motioned to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Supervisor Feiger. A voice vote was taken; all were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m. The next regular Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 14, immediately following the Annual Town Meeting and Public Hearing on the Budget, beginning at 7 p.m., at the West Deerfield Township Center, 601 Deerfield Road, Deerfield, Illinois, subject to change should Coronavirus concerns require an alternate mode of meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Scott
West Deerfield Township Clerk