

WEST DEERFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

State of Illinois
Lake County
Township of West Deerfield

DATE: May 19, 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 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.

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.

MINUTES

Trustee Levitsky moved to approve the minutes of the April 14, 2020 Board Meeting as amended, and was seconded by Supervisor Feiger. There being no discussion, a voice vote was taken. All were in favor and the motion was approved. Trustee Levitsky then moved to approve the minutes from the Public Budget Hearing of April 14, 2020, and was seconded by Supervisor Feiger. There being no discussion, a voice vote was taken. All were in favor and the minutes were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Supervisor Feiger outlined various ways the Township continues to respond to residents during the pandemic: 1) food and grocery store gift cards continue to be distributed to all who need them, and new residents are joining the Food Pantry roll weekly; 2) the demand for case work continues to be high, with approximately three new persons requesting assistance each week; service agencies across the Lake County and the state are backed up, and some are closed altogether; 3) the Pantry is providing pre-packed grocery bags in a "drive-thru" fashion in the parking lot, with some food deliveries being made by volunteers; 4) many facial masks have been donated and are being distributed to residents; 5) in Deerfield, only the Police and Fire Departments and West Deerfield Township are staffed and answering phone calls, so WDT is getting many inquiries each day; 6) a steady stream of food drives of all different types have been held benefit-

ing the Pantry, with monetary donations consistent, as well; 7) the “Phone Buddy” system continues, matching vulnerable residents with volunteers who check in with them daily; 8) the Township’s transportation service will resume when Supervisor Feiger gets the go-ahead from the Governor’s office; meanwhile, most Township riders have been referred to Faith in Action for transportation assistance; 9) Dr. Jerry Zachar meets clients remotely, usually six to eight sessions per day; 10) road issues continue despite the pandemic, which Supervisor Feiger addresses as they come up.

ASSESSOR’S REPORT

Assessor Healy reported that tax bills were mailed at the beginning of May, and his staff has received many calls, as expected. The Lake County Assessor is asking for local assessors to turn in their books early, by June 15 if possible, to avoid a crush of hearings and the risk of a COVID-19 resurgence in the fall. He and his staff are working hard to meet that deadline. Assessor Healy anticipates a number of Zoom rather than in-person hearings this fall.

OPEN DISCUSSION OF THE BOARD

Trustee Levitsky discussed a program called “Go-Go Grandparents” which provides rides for seniors to medical appointments. He also proposed a possible “virtual learning” opportunity he has discussed with several others, including Trustee Schwartz, to help make the work of the Township better known to the community. Supervisor Feiger agreed to discuss the idea with District 113 personnel to learn what their needs may be.

Trustee Schwartz requested that website manager William Lowe provide a detailed breakdown of the work he performs each month on his monthly statements. Trustee Kharasch asked how much the new “donate” button on the Township’s website has generated for the Food Pantry. Supervisor Feiger didn’t have the exact current figure, but noted that the online donation option has greatly increased contributions since March. Clerk Scott reminded the Board to file their Statements of Economic Interest with the Lake County Clerk by June 30, 2020, the extended deadline.

AUDIT AND APPROVAL OF BILLS

Following discussion, Trustee Schwartz motioned to approve the bills as presented, and was seconded by Trustee Levitsky. 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 Trustee Kharasch. A voice vote was taken; all were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m. The next regular Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 16, 2020, at 7 p.m., via teleconference, unless otherwise noted.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Scott

West Deerfield Township Clerk