

WEST DEERFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

State of Illinois
Lake County
Township of West Deerfield

DATE: July 21, 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 Zoom pursuant to Public Act 101-0640 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, who was present at the Township Center during the meeting.

Township auditor Chris Scalet of Evans, Marshall and Pease was also present at Board request.

MINUTES

Trustee Levitsky moved to approve the minutes of the June 16, 2020 Board Meeting as amended, and was seconded by Trustee Schwartz. There being no 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.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chris Scalet presented an overview of the audit he conducted for fiscal year April 1, 2019 – March 31, 2020, which showed the Township to be in sound financial shape, with a solid cash reserve, healthy operations and no debt. Following several questions from the Board, Supervisor Feiger thanked Mr. Scalet for his presentation, and he left the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

A) For discussion and potential action: Accept Audit for fiscal year 2019-2020

Trustee Levitsky motioned to accept the audit as presented, and was seconded by Trustee Parekh. 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.

B) For discussion and potential action: West Deerfield Township becoming a “Dementia Friendly” community

Trustee Levitsky described steps taken in some Illinois towns to promote greater inclusion of dementia patients and their caregivers in the larger community. He sought the Board’s encouragement to go forward by seeking collaboration with other community partners such as libraries, police and fire departments, and senior centers. He further explained that a Deerfield resident who is involved in Glencoe’s dementia friendly program would be available to assist WDT with this

effort. Acknowledging that initial steps will likely be slowed due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Board was responsive and concurred that Trustee Levitsky begin by contacting various stakeholders within West Deerfield Township.

C) For discussion and potential action: Approve Disability Program Committee recommendations

Clerk Scott reviewed the applications received during the second quarter 2020 and the committee's recommendation to fund each in the amount of \$1,500 (report attached.) Following several Board questions, Trustee Levitsky motioned to approve the recommendations as presented, and was seconded by Trustee Schwartz. 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.

D) For discussion and potential action: Summer Cooling Program

Supervisor Feiger reminded the Board of the Summer Cooling Program, approved in 2019, which helps residents in need who meet eligibility requirements pay for air conditioning costs during the hottest summer months. Following discussion, Trustee Schwartz motioned to allocate a maximum of \$4,500 for \$200 assistance to qualifying residents at 150% of the poverty level, coming from the GA-Utilities line item. He was seconded by Trustee Levitsky. 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'S REPORT

Supervisor Feiger reported that 1) the Township continues to meet the needs of residents despite increased demand for services, noting that the number of people requiring the Food Pantry increases each week, and she believes that will continue for some time. She stated that the number currently served has reached nearly 400, and she believes a "pick and choose" Pantry will be impossible for quite some time; 2) staff has adjusted some programming in response to differences this year, such as the Summer Bag and school supply programs; 3) Jerry Zachar continues to meet remotely with residents, with more people seeking mental health services and emotional support than ever before; 4) adjustments to the building are planned, including protective glass partitions on the main floor counters, in advance of reopening; 5) staff is working to compile email addresses for all Pantry clients to most effectively communicate not only Pantry news, but other possibilities of assistance, such as free Zoom meetings offered by the Josselyn Center; 6) safety precautions are being devised for the Transportation Program, such as plastic seat covers, and interviews for drivers are scheduled. Staff continues to coordinate rides with Faith in Action in the interim.

ASSESSOR'S REPORT

Supervisor Feiger reported on Assessor Healy's behalf that he expects publication of assessment rolls in late August, and that he and his staff are considering options for safely supporting residents when they come to the building with questions following assessment publication.

OPEN DISCUSSION OF THE BOARD

Trustees discussed the current issue of renaming Mitchell Park in Deerfield; Supervisor Feiger is on the committee considering proposals. Trustee Parekh noted that parents are finding it difficult not knowing when or if schools will reopen in the fall, and in what capacity.

AUDIT AND APPROVAL OF BILLS

Following discussion, Supervisor Feiger motioned to approve the bills as presented, and was seconded by Trustee Parekh. 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.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Trustee Schwartz motioned to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Trustee Kharasch. 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 meeting was adjourned at 8:31 p.m. The next regular Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 18, 2020, at 7 p.m., via Zoom, unless otherwise noted.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Scott
West Deerfield Township Clerk