

WEST DEERFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

State of Illinois
Lake County
Township of West Deerfield

DATE: August 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 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 Assessor Tom Healy was also present. Resident Mr. Antonio joined the meeting at the Township Center at 7:48 p.m.

MINUTES

Trustee Levitsky moved to approve the minutes of the July 21, 2020 Board Meeting as amended and was seconded by Supervisor Feiger. 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

None.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

A) For discussion and potential action: Approval of procuring a second recycling bin

Supervisor Feiger explained that the textile recycling bin in the Township parking lot is the second-highest used in Lake County, noting that residents use it frequently; and that SWALCO has encouraged us to accept a second bin, requiring a concrete base prior to installment. Following discussion, Trustee Levitsky motioned to spend no more than \$5,000 to procure a concrete slab to support a second recycling bin 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.

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. 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.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Supervisor Feiger reported that 1) that she and Trustee Levitsky have begun pursuing a "Dementia Friendly Community" project which promotes greater inclusion of dementia patients and their caregivers in the larger community; 2) Del Mar Woods neighborhood is experiencing issues relating to signage and landscaping; 3) Jerry Zachar continues to meet with clients remotely and will start a COVID-19 loss support group; 4) a "back to school" program for Food Pantry families will focus this year on supplies to help with remote learning; 5) she has received a wave of requests for help with child care/learning as schools begin remote teaching; 6) progress of the Mitchell Park renaming committee.

Clerk Scott explained that Lake County Clerk Robin O'Connor has designated West Deerfield Township as an early voting site despite staff and Board concerns that the space is not conducive to voting during a pandemic. Lengthy discussion followed.

ASSESSOR'S REPORT

Assessor Healy reported that their assessments were published the week before, with very slight increases over last year, perhaps accounting for a quieter season than usual. He and his staff are dealing with appeals as they come in, with the appeal deadline September 14. Further, he explained that Gov. Pritzker had waived the requirement for reapplying for disability and senior exemptions already in place in response to COVID-19 concerns.

OPEN DISCUSSION OF THE BOARD

Trustee Levitsky outlined plans for moderated Zoom discussion groups aimed at emotional issues, featuring experts on mental illness, addiction and spousal abuse and questions submitted by audience members.

AUDIT AND APPROVAL OF BILLS

Following discussion, Trustee Levitsky motioned to approve the bills 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.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Supervisor Feiger motioned to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Trustee Parekh. 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, September 15, 2020, at 7 p.m., via Zoom, unless otherwise noted.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Scott
West Deerfield Township Clerk