

WEST DEERFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

State of Illinois
Lake County
Township of West Deerfield

DATE: September 15, 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, Paras Parekh, Ron Schwartz, and Supervisor Feiger. Township Assessor Tom Healy was also present, as was resident Andrew Richter.

MINUTES

Trustee Levitsky moved to approve the minutes of the August 18, 2020 Board Meeting 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

Mr. Richter noted that he was present to observe the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

TRUSTEE REPORTS

Trustee Levitsky updated the Board on progress toward West Deerfield Township being certified as a “Dementia Friendly Community” promoting greater inclusion of dementia patients and their caregivers in the larger community, and his work to organize a panel discussion featuring experts in mental health issues, ideally by the end of October.

Trustee Kharasch reported on the Center for Enriched Living’s day programming for young adults with disabilities.

ASSESSOR’S REPORT

Assessor Healy noted that September 14 marked completion of the 30-day appeal period for property valuations. He and his staff have assisted residents as much as possible, reviewing documents in the parking lot and making “house calls” to explain the appeals process, which Lake County now requires to be submitted online only. He explained that Gov. Pritzker ordered that some exemptions be automatically carried over from last year, such as the senior freeze and disability exemptions, without the need for refiling.

SUPERVISOR’S REPORT

Supervisor Feiger reported that 1) the parking lot was frequently being used as a temporary “pick and choose” pantry for Food Pantry clients, which was appreciated by all; the Villages of Deerfield and Bannockburn were planning or conducting fundraisers for the Pantry in recent weeks. Noting that food costs have risen 5.4% since

the start of the pandemic, she explained that new clients join the Pantry on a weekly basis; 2) The Holiday Wish program will be held again this year, with modifications to adapt to COVID-19 protocols; 3) she continues to work with Lake County officials and the North Shore Sanitary District on Del Mar Woods road issues; 4) protective glass has been installed in the Township office; 5) the Mitchell Park Renaming Committee, of which she is a member, continues to meet; 6) seven residents have applied for summer cooling assistance, while staff has assisted with over 50 LIHEAP applications thus far; 7) the Township Center parking lot would be redone before the next Board meeting; 8) staff has implemented a texting system wherein food pantry clients can be contacted more easily, a voting letter would be sent to residents that week, and a Fall newsletter was in the works.

CLERK'S REPORT

Clerk Scott discussed plans for Early Voting at the Township Oct. 19 through Nov. 1, and the steps staff is taking in preparation. A full plan for COVID-19 prevention had not yet been issued by the Lake County Clerk.

OPEN DISCUSSION OF THE BOARD

Trustee Kharasch complimented Township staff on how well they are handling the various challenges presented by the pandemic while continuing to meet the needs of residents. Trustee Parekh mentioned that Lake County recently pledged to address climate change through green energy operations and raised the possibility of the Township doing the same. He will research other municipalities that have participated in consortiums to source energy in this way.

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 8:29 p.m. The next regular Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 20, 2020, at 7 p.m., via Zoom, unless otherwise noted.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Scott
West Deerfield Township Clerk