

**Township Board Meeting
Thursday, January 14, 2021**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Clerk Snitko at 7:30 PM.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Clerk Snitko led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM

Board Members: Supervisor Holscher, Trustees Rotkis attended the meeting (Trustee Nichols did not attend)

Board Officers: Highway Commissioner Alstrom, Assessor Kern, Collector Peterson, and Clerk Snitko were present at the meeting

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

4.1 None

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5.1 Approval of December 10, 2020 – Board Meeting Minutes OPEN SESSION

There was no quorum; approval of Regular Meeting Open Session Minutes was postponed until next meeting.

5.2 Approval of December 10, 2020 – Board Meeting Minutes SPECIAL SESSION

There was no quorum; approval of Board Meeting Minutes Special Session was postponed until next meeting.

6. OLD BUSINESS

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Official Swearing in of Appointed Trustees

Newly appointed Trustees Harkins and Berkowicz were sworn in and joined the Board.

7.2 Discussion/Approval of Resolution 2021-01-R Change in Bank Account Signatory Replacing Resolution 17-02-R

Supervisor Holscher explained that we need to have a secondary signatory for the Township's bank account in case Supervisor is not available and the most senior member of the Board Trustee Rotkis agreed to take on this responsibility. Trustee Harkins moved to approve Resolution 2021-01-R and Trustee Berkowicz seconded. Resolution 2021-01-R Change in Bank Account Signatory was approved 4-0 per roll call vote.

7.3 Discussion/Approval of 2021 Delta Dental Insurance

Supervisor Holscher stated that Delta Dental has been the Insurance provider for the Township for several years and this time they provided the lowest bid again. The price they offered is the same as last year. Trustee Rotkis moved to accept their bid and approve Delta Dental as the Insurance provider for 2021 and Trustee Berkowicz seconded. Delta Dental Insurance Plan for 2021 was approved 4-0 per roll call vote.

7.4 Discussion on 2021-2022 Budget Timeline

Supervisor Holscher provided some details regarding Budget Timeline. Building Construction work is almost done and going forward it will be a regular budget.

7.5 Discussion on 2021-2022 Assessor's Budget

Assessor Kern explained that he is required to provide his Budget in January. He went over the handouts and provided preliminary view of expense items for the year. There is an increase in required IMRF employer contributions (~8%). Will need to replace one server (~\$4,400) this year. Looking to utilize cloud storage for about \$100/month. Staff also needs to catch up on training and certifications that may require some traveling. Do not expect any other big changes or expenses.

8. APPROVAL OF BILLS AND CLAIMS

8.1 Approval of 12/11/2020-1/14/2021 Town and Road District Fund Bills & Claims:

Trustee Rotkis moved to approve the Town, Park, Assessor, Road & Bridge, Special Hard Road and Cemetery Funds bills and Trustee Harkins seconded. Bills in the amount of \$256,121.86 were approved 4-0 per roll call vote.

9. REPORTS

9.1 SUPERVISOR (DEB HOLSCHER)

- Provided updates regarding on-going litigation related to FOIA requests for proprietary CAMA data (JRM software)
- Reminded the Board regarding training requirements for new Trustees
- Building renovations are almost done; this new room will be used for future Board meetings

9.2 HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER (BILL ALSTROM)

- Shared information about salt usage (hard salt & liquid)
- In the past few weeks, crew has been working on small projects

TRUSTEES:

TRUSTEE (COLLEEN ROTKIS)

- Still working on researching options for Wheatland Park

TRUSTEE (WENDELL HARKINS)

- Happy to join the Board and serve in this capacity

TRUSTEE (MARC BERKOWICZ)

- Glad to get involved in the community service

TRUSTEE (GREGORY NICHOLS)

- Currently working with Jerry (JRM) on internet items

9.4 TOWNSHIP CLERK (JACOB SNITKO)

- 1 FOIAs this month: Received several emails asking for information. Provided responses to all email inquiries

9.5 COLLECTOR/CEMETERY (BEN PETERSON)

- Donation summary: 41 donations, current total: \$13,000
- One grave sale and burial (referral from B-K fun home). B. Liu on Dec. 19th.
- Received 4 affidavits to claim ancestor graves; some will be used, and some will give or sell-back
- Trustee update: was contacted by a Township resident. We have had one on-site visit to discuss cemetery history and the duties of a Trustee

9.6 ASSESSOR (CHUCK KERN)

- Assessor Kern provided updates; the office is still closed to the public, but all staff is now working from the office as of 1/4/2021
- Assessments for this year (2021): plan to review and reassess certain neighborhoods. There are no "COVID deals" available. Home sales are still strong

- Shared data how Wheatland assessments compare to other townships. The closer assessed property value to 33.3% the lesser the multiplier is used by the state and county when calculating township taxes. Wheatland Township consistently ranks as one of the most accurate in that regard (closest to the ideal value)

10. ADJOURNMENT:

Trustee Berkowicz moved to adjourn the meeting and Trustee Rotkis seconded; the meeting was adjourned on a voice vote at 8:03 PM.

Next meeting February 11, 2021

Approved as presented:

Prepared by Jacob Snitko, Township Clerk