

**APPROVED: Thursday, December 9, 2021**

**Wheatland Township Special Board Meeting  
Monday, November 29, 2021**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Clerk Liskey at 7:34 PM.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Trustee Terry Jones led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. ROLL CALL AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM**

Board Members: Trustees Bansal, Hickey, Jones, and Rotkis, attended the meeting.

Board Officers: Supervisor Crowner, Clerk Liskey, Highway Commissioner Wieser, Tax Collector Scriven-Young and Assessor Kern were present at the meeting.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

4.1 None.

**5. DETERMINATION OF TAX LEVY**

**5.1 Determination of Tax Levy for Truth in Taxation law for Town Fund**

- Trustee Rotkis moved to open discussion of tax levy for the Town Fund and Trustee Hickey seconded.
- Supervisor Crowner initiated discussion presenting a recommendation to increase the Town Fund levy by 4 percent. He noted that the levy increase was determined in consultation with Township Accountant Mark Dahlberg to account for increases in cost of health insurance and other supply costs. He also noted the requested dollar increase is significantly more modest compared to those of other nearby Townships.
- Assessor Kern highlighted likely budget increase needed for the Assessor's office. He also pointed out that the Board will have the opportunity to revise/abate the levy in six months, noting that it is only possible to reduce the levy at that point.
- Clerk Liskey called for the vote and the proposal to increase the tax levy for the Town Fund by 4 percent was unanimously approved 5-0 per roll call vote.

**5.2. Determination of Tax Levy for Truth in Taxation law for Road District Fund**

- Supervisor Crowner moved to open discussion of tax levy for the Road District Fund and Trustee Hickey seconded.
- Highway Commissioner Wieser initiated discussion noting that after a comprehensive review of expenses the Township accountant and he agreed a 7.33 percent increase would be appropriate for the Road District Fund based on rising supply costs. He highlighted increasing material costs as well as insurance increases as key drivers for raising the levy. He also commented on likely decreases in receipts from the motor fuel tax and pointed to a Professional Engineering Study that was done in 2016 recommending the replacement of four roads in the Township – none of which had been addressed yet.
- Trustee Hickey inquired about additional funding sources such as the Cares Act and other Federal programs. Commissioner Wieser responded that Will County Officials had explained it will take at least three to six months to determine what funds are

available and how they would be distributed. He also noted Townships typically receive distributions last. He also explained that other funding programs available through Illinois Dept of Transportation would require implementation of studies that would take at least one to two years.

- Clerk Liskey called for the vote and the proposal to increase the tax levy for the Road District Fund by 7.33 percent was unanimously approved 5-0 per roll call vote.

### **5.3. Discussion/Approval of 2022 Health Insurance and Ancillary Benefits Plan**

- Supervisor Crowner moved to open discussion of the 2022 Health Insurance and Ancillary Benefits Plan for Wheatland Township employees and Trustee Hickey seconded.

- Supervisor Crowner initiated the discussion by summarizing four quotes that were provided by the Township insurance broker Karri McRight and conveyed her recommendation to adopt the Principal Financial plan, moving away from the Township's current plan offered by Delta Dental. This new proposed plan would result in a 6 percent savings on vision and 3 percent savings on dental with minimal increases for life and other ancillary benefits.

-Turning to Health Insurance plans, Supervisor Crowner referred to the quote comparison prepared by the insurance broker, noting the high cost of the United Healthcare plans, and suggested removing those offerings from consideration.

- Supervisor Crowner presented a recommendation to approve a Blue Cross Blue Shield Healthcare plan that would maintain current coverage levels and the Principal Financial Ancillary Benefits plan.

- The Board discussed current coverage percentages and options, agreeing to adopt a new plan would provide the same level of coverage for Township employees.

- Trustee Hickey pointed out the need to move up Insurance Plan reviews in the future so employees would be able to consider potential spouse plans when determining their coverage needs. The Board agreed to implement an earlier review process in 2022.

- Supervisor Crowner presented a recommendation to approve a Blue Cross Blue Shield Healthcare plan that would maintain current coverage levels and the Principal Financial Ancillary Benefits plan.

- Clerk Liskey called for the vote and the proposal was unanimously approved 5-0 per roll call vote.

### **6. ADJOURNMENT:**

- Supervisor Crowner moved to adjourn the meeting and Trustee Hickey seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned on a voice vote at 8:45 PM.

**Next regular Board meeting December 9, 2021**

Approved as presented:

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Prepared by Anita Liskey, Township Clerk