

**Township Board Meeting
Thursday, September 9, 2021**

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Supervisor Michael Crouner 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 Crouner, Clerk Liskey, Assessor Kern, Highway Commissioner Wieser and Tax Collector Peterson were present at the meeting.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

- 4.1** Comments were made recognizing and thanking Tax Collector Peterson for his service in advance of his retirement.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5.1 Approval of Aug 12, 2021 – Regular Meeting Open Session Minutes

- Trustee Jones moved to approve Regular Meeting Open Session Minutes and Trustee Rotkis seconded. Regular Meeting Open Session Minutes for August 12, 2021 were approved 4-0 per roll call vote, with Trustee Bansal abstaining.

6. OLD BUSINESS

6.1. Approval of Senior Committee Chairperson(s)

- Approved Trustees Bansal and Hickey to co-chair the senior committee for 2021

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Discussion/Approval of 2020/2021 Audit prepared by Selden Fox

- Trustee Hickey moved to open discussion and Trustee Rotkis seconded.
- Selden Fox reviewed financial statements and detailed the audit. Tax Collector Peterson raised questions regarding how some of the statements relating the cemetery were labeled.
- Supervisor Crouner moved to postpone approval, pending changes. Trustee Hickey seconded

7.2 Discussion/Approval of Township Attorney

- Trustee Crouner motioned to open discussion re approval of new legal counsel for the Township. Trustee Rotkis seconded the motion.
- Supervisor Crouner updated the board on the RFP process and recommended the Township retain attorney Ed Mullin for legal services.
- The Board approved this recommendation 5-0 per roll call vote.

7.3 Discussion/Approval of Resignation letter from Tax Collector

- Trustee Rotkis motioned to open discussions for the approval of the resignation letter of Tax Collector Peterson. Supervisor Crouner seconded the motion.
- Following remarks by Tax Collector Peterson, his resignation was approved 5-0 per roll call vote.

8. APPROVAL OF BILLS AND CLAIMS

8.1 Approval of 8/12/21- 9/9/21 Town and Road District Fund Bills & Claims:

- Trustee Jones moved to approve the Town, Park, Assessor, Road & Bridge, Special Hard Road and Cemetery Funds bills and Trustee Rotkis seconded. Bills in the amount of \$222,222.41 were approved 5-0 per roll call vote.

9. REPORTS

9.1 ASSESSOR (CHUCK KERN)

- Updated that the Assessor's Office is nearing the end of appeals season, noting that the number of appeals is somewhat less than last year and confirming the process is going well.

9.2. HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER (TOM WIESER)

- Provided an update on the work that was being done on drainage and ditch improvements. He noted that 2,000 linear feet of drainage pipe had been completed during the month. He also informed the Board that Western Gradall would be here to assist with ditch work the week of 9/13/21. He reported out on the dual challenges of increasing cost and supply scarcity of pipes that the highway team is experiencing.

9.3 TRUSTEES:

TRUSTEE (MEGHNA BANSAL)

- Reconfirmed her acceptance to co-chair the senior committee.

TRUSTEE (KELLY HICKEY)

- Reconfirmed acceptance of position to co-chair the senior committee along with Trustee Bansal and noted that senior lunches would be held on the following dates: 10/20, 11/17 and 12/15.
- Updated the Board that the "Be the Match" Bone Marrow event discussed at the last meeting will be held at the Township offices from 11 a.m.–2 p.m. on Saturday, 10/16/21. She requested and received approval for use of garage space to host the event and solicited volunteers to assist. She also noted that Illinois Senators Laura Ellman and Meg Cappel plan to attend.

TRUSTEE (COLLEEN ROTKIS)

- Reported that the winterization process for the park had begun with sprinkler shutdown and noted that an assessment of needs for next year were underway.

TRUSTEE (TERRY JONES)

- No updates

9.4 TOWNSHIP CLERK (ANITA LISKEY)

- Provided a brief update on the status of FOIA requests, noting the Township had received one (1) new inquiry during the month.

9.5 COLLECTOR/CEMETERY (BEN PETERSON)

- Reported that 18 new graves were sold, one ash burial took place during the month and noted another is scheduled in October 2021.
- Updated that contracts have been completed for a new street sign and rot iron fence which will be funded by donations and balance in the Operations Fund.
- Reported that the Care Fund (CD and Cash) totals \$227,118.

- Referenced his resignation submitted earlier in the meeting and effective immediately. He extended his gratitude to the Wheatland Township staff in all departments for their support and assistance over the past 12 years.

9.6 SUPERVISOR (MICHAEL CROWNER)

- Updated the Board that he will be initiating a process to bid out insurance providers.
- Noted that the contract for Selden Fox, the accountant who performed the 2020-2021 audit for the Township, was expiring and he would launch a provider review process to ensure the Township receives the best price for these services going forward.
- Reported on the PACE service/grant status and updated on issues the community has been experiencing. Crowner confirmed that he would be looking to renegotiate the rates the Township pays for its portion of services.
- Informed the Board that he had requested a meeting with the Plainfield Park District to discuss a property adjacent to the Wheatland Park.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

- Trustee Jones moved to adjourn the meeting and Supervisor Crowner seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned on a voice vote at 8:28 PM.

Next meeting October 14, 2021

Approved as presented:

Prepared by Anita Liskey, Township Clerk