

**Township Board Meeting
Thursday, January 13, 2022**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Crowner at 7:37 PM.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Meeting Attendee Jim Hofman 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, Assessor Kern, and Tax Collector Scriven-Young were present at the meeting.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

4.1 None.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5.1 Approval of Dec. 9, 2021 – Regular Meeting Open Session Minutes

- Trustee Bansal moved to open discussion and approval of the Regular Meeting Open Session Minutes. Trustee Jones seconded. Regular Meeting Open Session Minutes for December 9, 2021, were approved 5-0 per roll call vote.

5.2 Approval of Dec. 20, 2021 Special Board Meeting Open Session Minutes

- Trustee Rotkis moved to open discussion and approval of the Special Meeting Open Session Minutes. Trustee Hickey seconded the motion. The minutes were approved 5-0 per roll call vote.

6. OLD BUSINESS

6.1. None.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Discussion/Approval of 2022 Pace Partners Agreement

- Trustee Jones moved to open discussion of the 2022 Pace Partners Agreement and Trustee Hickey seconded the motion.

- Supervisor Crowner motioned to postpone discussion and approval of the 2022 Pace Partners agreement to the February board meeting. Citing late deliver of the new 2022 Pace Partners proposal (right before the Jan. Board meeting) and confirming there would be no break in service, Supervisor Crowner explained he wanted to give the Trustees as well as legal counsel time to review before voting on the proposal.

- The Board unanimously approved the request to move this vote to the February Board meeting per 5-0 roll call vote.

7.2 Discussion on 2022-2023 Budget timeline

- Supervisor Crowner motioned to open discussion on the annual budget timeline for 2022-2023. Trustee Bansal seconded.

- Supervisor Crowner initiated discussion by asking the Board to review past budgets and identify items they may want to raise for consideration, further review and discussion. Noting that the 2022-2023 budget would be on the March 10 Board meeting

agenda, he asked the Board to submit their thoughts, feedback and ideas, along with solutions for covering services in areas they may wish to propose cost reductions by Thursday, Feb. 24, two weeks before the March meeting.

- Supervisor Crowner reconfirmed the 2022-2023 Budget would be discussed/approved for hanging at the March 10, 2022, Board meeting with final approval at the April 12, 2022, Board meeting.

- Tax Collector Scriven-Young confirmed that the planning/approval process for the 2022-2023 Cemetery budget will follow the same timeline.

7.3 Discussion of 2022-2023 Assessor's Budget

- Trustee Bansal motioned to open discussion of the 2022-2023 Assessor's Budget. Trustee Jones seconded the motion.

- Assessor Kern introduced the topic by outlining the 2022-2023 budget expectations for the Assessor's office highlighting it had remained relatively flat for the past 10 years.

- Noting that he expects the Assessor's Office to come in slightly below (\$3k -\$5k) for the 2021-2022 fiscal year, Assessor Kern highlighted three areas that will drive increases for in the 2022-2023 budget cycle including (1) higher employee health insurance costs (2) inflation and other rising costs (3) modest wage adjustments for staff. He noted that he plans to make reductions in other areas to help offset the increases as possible, specifically in training and subcontractor fees.

- Assessor Kern also informed the Board one long-time employee in the Assessor's office will be retiring this year and the position will be filled.

7.4 Discussion of Ordinance for Bill Payment

- Supervisor Crowner motioned to open discussion of the ordinance for bill payment and was seconded by Trustee Jones.

- Supervisor Crowner initiated the discussion by explaining an ordinance passed by the previous Wheatland Township Board in 2020 that allowed for the approval and payment of routine bills (i.e.. cable TV fees) in advance of the monthly board meetings that would allow Wheatland Township to avoid late charges. Supervisor Crowner reviewed sign off polices, required by the Township Code, that ensure multi-level review by staff, the Supervisor, Clerk and accountant for each bill before payment is made – all of which would remain in place for bills covered by this ordinance.

8. APPROVAL OF BILLS AND CLAIMS

8.1 Approval of 12/9/21 – 01/13/22 Town and Road District Fund Bills & Claims:

- Trustee Jones moved to open discussion for approval of the Town, Park, Assessor, Road & Bridge, Special Hard Road and Cemetery Funds bills and Trustee Rotkis seconded.

- Bills in the amount of \$220,866.68 were approved 5-0 per roll call vote.

9. REPORTS

9.1. ASSESSOR (CHUCK KERN)

- Provided an overview of the tentative adjustment factor that Will County would use to adjust property taxes in Wheatland Township to keep them in line with rising real estate values.

9.2 HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER (TOM WIESER)

- Updated the Board on the status of snow removal, pointing out that is the primary focus of his team currently. He reported there had been five weather events requiring

snow removal so far this year. He confirmed the road crews had distributed 107 tons of salt and that reserve supplies remained adequate.

9.3 TRUSTEES:

TRUSTEE (MEGHNA BANSAL)

- Reconfirmed that the 2021 Senior Luncheon program had been successfully executed and completed for the year and informed the Board that the 2022 Senior Luncheon series would begin in April 2022.

TRUSTEE (KELLY HICKEY)

- Updated that new committee members will be appointed to the Senior Committee in Q1 and will be on board to begin planning for the 2022 luncheon series.

TRUSTEE (COLLEEN ROTKIS)

- No update.

TRUSTEE (TERRY JONES)

- No update.

9.4 TOWNSHIP CLERK (ANITA LISKEY)

- No update.

9.5 COLLECTOR/CEMETERY (David Scriven-Young)

- Reported that two burials and one ash burial had been done in December 2021.
- Thanking the road crew, he noted that the new fence had been installed and updated that the new sign will require historic preservation approval and was still being delayed by national labor and supply shortages.
- Confirmed that a fee structure review and analysis remains ongoing and that he plans to report out on outcomes and recommendations at an upcoming Board meeting.

9.6 SUPERVISOR (MICHAEL CROWNER)

- Updated that he had meetings scheduled with the Plainfield Park District to explore synergy opportunities and invited Trustee Rotkis to join the discussions.
- Adding to his earlier comments re the Pace Partnership agreement, he noted that he had been in discussions with the Naperville partners to identify further cost saving opportunities and grants for Wheatland Township and would share additional updates in a future Board meeting.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

- Supervisor Crowner moved to adjourn the meeting and Trustee Jones seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned on a voice vote at 8:33 PM.

Next meeting February 10, 2022

Approved as presented:

Prepared by Anita Liskey, Township Clerk