

Wheatland Township Board Meeting

Thursday, June 9, 2022

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Michael Crowner at 7:31 PM.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Bob Collins of Plainfield Park District 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, Highway Commissioner Wieser, Assessor Kern, and Tax Collector Scriven-Young were present at the meeting. Clerk Liskey attended by Zoom.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

4.1 None.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5.1 Approve May 12, 2022 – Regular Meeting Open Session Minutes

- Trustee Bansal moved to open discussion and approval of the Regular Meeting Open Session Minutes. Trustee Rotkis seconded. The Regular Meeting Open Session Minutes for May 12, 2022, were unanimously approved 5-0 per roll call vote.

6. OLD BUSINESS

6.1. None.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Discussion with Plainfield Park District

- Supervisor Crowner introduced discussion of cooperation agreement with the Plainfield Park District. Trustee Jones motioned to open discussion and Trustee Hickey seconded.

- Representatives from Plainfield Park District detailed collaboration options for a potential agreement in which Wheatland Township combine its park and turn over operations to the Plainfield Park District.

- Supervisor Crowner asked about process for considering options beyond those listed in the presentation, such as a dog park as example. Collins explained considerations could be submitted for evaluation and possible inclusion in final plans.

- Road Commissioner Wieser asked about pathways into unincorporated areas. Collins responded that he would need to check but did not believe those would likely be part of the Plainfield Park District jurisdiction.

- Supervisor Crowner thanked the presenters and noted that the Board would consider the proposal internally and then likely follow up with a special meeting.

7.2 Discussion/Approval of Pride Month Proclamation

- Trustee Jones motioned to open discussion of the Pride Month Proclamation and Trustee Hickey seconded.

- Supervisor Crowner read the Proclamation Designating June as LGBTQIA+ Pride Month, submitted by the Plainfield Township, for consideration to be adopted by Wheatland Township, then called for a roll call vote. (See attachment for a full copy of the Proclamation.)
- Trustee Rotkis noted that she supported the first three bullets but, citing issues of confusion with the “TQUIA+” acronyms, abstained from voting.
- The Proclamation Designating June as LGBTQIA+ Pride Month in Wheatland Township was approved 4-0, with one abstention, via roll call vote.

7.3 Discussion/Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement with DuPage Township to allow Wheatland Township residents access to DuPage Township’s Food Pantry

- Trustee Jones motioned to open discussion and approval of the Intergovernmental Agreement with the DuPage Township Food Pantry and Trustee Rotkis seconded.
- Supervisor Crowner explained DuPage Township would be willing to enter into a cooperative agreement giving Wheatland Township residents access to its food pantry for a \$50 monthly charge. The \$50 monthly fee would be the total cost to cover access for all Wheatland residents (not per person). Supervisor Crowner noted that Wheatland Township currently has a similar relationship in place with the DuPage Senior Center, which gives Wheatland Township residents access to the DuPage Senior Center and its services. He explained that DuPage Township Pantry, currently located in Romeoville, plans to build another facility in BolingBrook, making it more convenient for Wheatland Residents. Supervisor Crowner detailed that, if approved, this and other services would be promoted via the redesigned Township Website and soon-to-be relaunched newsletter. He explained listings for the Pantry would also be included in church bulletins and other community outlets.
- Trustee Rotkis highlighted that there are already many charities providing similar services to Wheatland Township residents, questioning the need to add the DuPage Pantry. Trustee Jones pointed out that DuPage Pantry soon to be located in BolingBrook would be more convenient than the others that are serving Wheatland, primarily from Naperville. Trustee Hickey suggested that having services providers in more locations would be the best way to serve all Wheatland Township residents.
- The proposal to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the DuPage Township Food Pantry was unanimously approved 5-0 in a roll call vote.

7.4 Discussion/Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement with DuPage Township to Process any General Assistance applications, interviews, consultations, etc. On our behalf

- Trustee Rotkis motioned to open discussion; Trustee Jones seconded.
- Supervisor Crowner explained key responsibilities of a Township is to provide General Assistance. This agreement would ensure there would be someone available to process application, explain process, answer questions on our behalf. DuPage would charge \$50 per applicant.
- Trustee Hickey asked about time period and opt-out clauses. Supervisor Crowner confirmed we would have the right to terminate with six months’ notice.
- Motion approved by 4-1 roll call vote.

7.5 Discussion/Selection of Township Auditor

- Trustee Bansal motioned to open discussion and Trustee Jones seconded. Crowner explained Seldon Fox submitted the lowest-cost bid. Noted that our staff and outside accountant recommended we stay with Seldon Fox as well, eliminating expenses that would be incurred to establish a working relationship with a new auditor. Supervisor Crowner recommended Wheatland Township remain with Seldon Fox and called for a vote
- The motion was unanimously approved 5-0 via roll call vote

7.6 Discussion/Approval of Ordinance #22-01-O Town Budget

- Trustee Hickey motioned to open discussion and approval of the #22-01-O Town Budget and Trustee Rotkis seconded. Clarifying a question raised in the Public Hearing, Supervisor Crowner clarified that the current residential refuse, recycling and yard waste hauler agreement with current pricing was included after the last contract end date of 5/3/22.
- With no further comment, the #22-01-O Town Budget was unanimously approved 5-0 via roll call vote.

7.7 Discussion/Approval of Ordinance #22-02-O Highway Budget

- The #22-02-O Highway Budget was unanimously approved 5-0 via roll call vote at a Public Hearing on June 9, 2022, held prior to the regular Board meeting.

8. APPROVAL OF BILLS AND CLAIMS

8.1 Approval of 05/12/22 – 06/09/22 Town and Road District Fund Bills & Claims:

- Trustee Rotkis moved to open discussion for approval of the Town, Park, Assessor, Road & Bridge, Special Hard Road and Cemetery Funds bills and Supervisor Crowner seconded. Trustee Jones raised question about two vendor bills. Wieser to follow with Jones directly.
- Bills in the amount of \$164,963.03 were unanimously approved 5-0 per roll call vote.

9. REPORTS

9.1. ASSESSOR (CHUCK KERN)

- Updated that the General Homestead Exemption as well as the Senior Citizens Homestead Exemption was increased by Governor Pritzker. He explained that for tax levy year 2023, the counties bordering Cook County will be given an \$8,000 exemption, while all other counties in the state will have a max exemption of \$6,000. Additionally, he said the maximum senior exemption will be raised \$5,000 to \$8,000. Providing a status update on personnel moves in the Assessor's office, Assessor Kern reported that a new employee started in mid-June and that an intern had also been hired to begin work in late June. Assessor Kern raised the need for the Board to discuss the process for finding a replacement for his role when he retires at the end of 2023, after the reassessment is complete.

9.2 HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER (TOM WIESER)

- Reported Naperville City Council approved development of the land surrounding the Wheatland Township building and that he would be submitting a proposal to the planning committee, formalizing the discussions he has been having regarding a request to improve access to the Wheatland Township garage as part of the broader development initiative.

9.3 TRUSTEES:

TRUSTEE (MEGHNA BANSAL)

- Reported on the May 18 Senior Luncheon noting that 19 senior residents had attended. She updated that the next senior luncheon meeting would be held at the Township on June 15 as an outdoor cookout.

TRUSTEE (KELLY HICKEY)

- No report

TRUSTEE (COLLEEN ROTKIS)

- Updated that she had obtained one quote for resurfacing the park, but that the project was on hold until the Board considers and potentially acts on the Plainfield Park District proposal.

TRUSTEE (TERRY JONES)

- No Report

9.4 TOWNSHIP CLERK (ANITA LISKEY)

- No report.

9.5 TAX COLLECTOR/CEMETERY (DAVID SCRIVEN-YOUNG)

- Reported that two graves were sold during the month. Updated that the new cemetery sign would be installed later this month.

9.6 SUPERVISOR (MICHAEL CROWNER)

- Updated that he had been attending meetings with other Townships as well as meetings for ARPA Funding from Will County. Noting that the first funding deadline was on July 1, he noted that Wheatland could receive approx. \$170,000. He explained that road improvements would not a permissible use for these funds, though said those types of projects might be eligible for more funds that may be coming in next couple of years. He gave examples of what could be included such as stocking up on PPE, projects related to water, health and wellness, social and children’s activities as well as workforce development, grant programs, not-for-profit organization assistance. He explained that the funds would be distributed through a reimbursement program for costs paid out. He suggested ideas for drainage programs, the Transition Program with Neuqua and possibly other high schools could also be considered. He then noted that he would send the presentation from the County to Wheatland Township Board members via email and requested Board input suggestions by June 24.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

- Trustee Jones moved to adjourn the meeting and Trustee Bansal seconded the motion.
The meeting was adjourned on a voice vote at 8:53 PM.

Next meeting July 14, 2022

Approved as presented:

Prepared by Anita Liskey, Township Clerk