

**Wheatland Township Board Meeting
Thursday, October 13, 2022**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Clerk Liskey at 7:33 PM.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Tax Collector/Cemetery David Scriven-Young 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, Assessor Kern, Highway Commissioner Wieser, Tax Collector Scriven-Young and Clerk Liskey attended the meeting.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

4.1 n/a

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5.1 Approve Sept. 8, 2022 – Regular Meeting Open Session Minutes

-Trustee Jones moved to open discussion and approval of the Regular Meeting Open Session Minutes. Trustee Hickey seconded. Minutes for the September 8, 2022 Regular Meeting Open Session were unanimously approved 5-0 per roll call vote.

6. OLD BUSINESS

6.1. Discussion of Ordinance 22-xx-O Vacation of “Old” Normantown Road to Forest Preserve District of Will County, Ill.

- Supervisor Crowner motioned to open discussions on the ordinance to vacate the “old” Normantown Road to Will County Forest Preserve. Trustee Hickey seconded.

- Supervisor Crowner confirmed the Will County Forest Preserve District Board had approved the ordinance for a land swap in which the City of Naperville would give Wheatland Township the land needed to expand its parking lot in exchange for transferring ownership of Normantown Road to the Will County Forest Preserve.

-Highway Commissioner Weiser explained that even though Wheatland Township would still pay fees and taxes on the property it would be acquiring, the proposed swap would enable the much-needed expansion while eliminating the \$250k per acre purchase cost, resulting in a significant savings.

- Trustee Jones motioned to vote on the ordinance, Trustee Rotkis seconded, and the Board unanimously approved Ordinance 22-xx-O Vacation of “Old” Normantown Road 5-0 via roll call vote.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1. Discussion/Approval of Ordinance 22-03-O Donation of Wheatland Township Park

- Supervisor Crowner motioned to open discussion or Ordinance 22-03-O re the donation of Wheatland Township Park to the Plainfield Park District and Trustee Rotkis seconded.

- Confirmed the ordinance had been approved by the Plainfield Park District Board but noting that documentation had not yet been received, Supervisor Crowner motioned to postpone the vote until the November Board meeting. Trustee Jones seconded.
- The Board unanimously approved the postponement of a vote on Ordinance 22-03-O Donation of Wheatland Township Park until the November meeting 5-0 via rollcall vote.

7.2 Discussion/Approval of Ordinance 22-04-O Snow Parking Ban

- Trustee Bansal motioned to open discussion of Ordinance 22-04-O re a Snow Parking Ban and Trustee Hickey seconded the motion.
- Highway Commissioner Weiser explained the need to institute a ban on street parking during snowstorms on certain streets within Wheatland Township where parked cars consistently impeded snow removal efforts. Noting the proposed snow parking ban was similar to those already in place in several neighboring municipalities, he detailed the proposed ordinance would prohibit street parking when snow accumulation was more than 2 inches, as determined/reported by the Weather Bureau.
- Trustee Jones motioned to vote on the proposed snow parking ban, and Trustee Hickey seconded. The Board unanimously approved Ordinance 22-04-O Snow Parking Ban 5-0 via rollcall vote.

7.3 Discussion/Approval of Aggregated Energy Contract with Nania Energy

- Trustee Jones motioned to open discussion of Nania Energy and Trustee Rotkis seconded the motion.
- Reporting on the bidding results that had been submitted by potential electricity providers, Nania Energy representative Becky Thompson recommended the Board enter a three-year contract with MC2, which offered the lowest price of 9.25 cents/btu. She confirmed residents would have the ability to opt out at any time should the market change and ComEd prices drop below that price point.
- Citing the Illinois Commerce Website listings, Supervisor Crowner pointed out that that another provider showed a lower price than MC2 proposal. Thompson agreed to review and respond to the discrepancy the following day.
- Noting extreme volatility creating an urgent need to lock in a price before the market moved, Trustee Hickey motioned to approve implementation of a streamlined process in which the Board would (1) approve the extension of the Nania Energy agreement to contract with the lowest-cost provider for a term not to exceed 36 months and (2) grant authority to Supervisor Crowner to confirm the provider at a set price, not to exceed the ComEd listed rate. Supervisor Crowner seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the extension of the Nania agreement and implementation of the process to secure an energy provider and price as detailed above 5-0 via rollcall vote.

7.4 Discussion/Approval on Property, Casualty and Other Insurances

- Trustee Bansal motioned to open discussion re policy renewal of property, casualty and other insurance for Wheatland Township, and Trustee Hickey seconded the motion. Dimond Bros. Insurance Representative Karri McRight reviewed Wheatland Township's current coverage, highlighting trends and recent cost drivers including increases for cybersecurity coverage and a recommendation, based on a recent bi-annual property appraisal, to add \$2.5M of property coverage for two bridges located on 119th St. and 135th St., which would result in a premium increase of approximately \$5,700. Previously, the bridges were only covered for liability – with no protection for damages or potential replacement. Supervisor Crowner reminded the Board that Wheatland Township does not have a budget for capital expenditures.

-After discussion re the possibility of potential annexations by the Cities of Naperville or Plainfield, McRight confirmed that in the event of an ownership change, the Township policy would be adjusted to remove bridge(s) coverage, and premiums would be reduced or prorating/credited.

-Trustee Rotkis moved to vote on the insurance renewal proposal with the inclusion of property coverage for the two bridges. Trustee Hickey seconded. The Board approved the renewal of Wheatland Township property, casualty and other insurance policies with the inclusion of an additional \$2.5M of bridge coverage 4-1 via roll call vote.

7.5 Discussion/Approval of Environmental Recycling & Disposal Service Contract

- Supervisor Crouner motioned to open discussion re the renewal of the Environmental Recycling & Disposal Service contract and Trustee Jones seconded.

- Supervisor Crouner highlighted the proposal's new terms which included (1) a 5% increase and (2) an exclusivity clause that would eliminate the ability of Wheatland residents to opt out or use another waste management service provider.

- After several Board members raised concerns about exclusivity clause, Supervisor Crouner motioned to amend the contract to remove exclusivity and reinstate resident's ability to opt out. Trustee Hickey seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously approved the proposed amendment be included in the contract.

- Supervisor Crouner confirmed he would ask the vendor to revise contract and bring it back for a Board vote before the May 2023 expiration of the current contract.

8. APPROVAL OF BILLS AND CLAIMS

8.1 Approval of 09/08/22 – 10/13/22 Town and Road District Fund Bills & Claims:

- Trustee Bansal moved to open discussion for approval of the Town, Park, Assessor, Road & Bridge, Special Hard Road and Cemetery Fund bills, and Trustee Hickey seconded the motion.

- Bills in the amount of \$243,772.34 were unanimously approved 5-0 per roll call vote.

9. REPORTS

9.1. ASSESSOR (CHUCK KERN)

– Noted that he had requested the Township accountant begin including a comparison of spend to date vs budget to help the Board understand if operations are running above or below plan in monthly financial reports.

– Reported Assessor's staff was focused on reviewing/managing property tax appeals, the volume of which has been significantly lower compared to past years with only 66 residential appeals and 6 commercial appeals submitted.

9.2 HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER (TOM WIESER)

- Reported that on Leverenz Street was ongoing in collaboration with the City of Naperville. Once findings are complete, recommendations to manage speeding issues will be developed.

- Informed that a new traffic study would soon be implemented in response to resident concerns that Naperville plans to widen a bridge and add a left turn lane on 87th Street would result in increased traffic in surrounding neighborhoods as drivers seek alternative routes.

9.3 TRUSTEES:

TRUSTEE (MEGHNA BANSAL)

- Reported that 18 seniors attended the September Senior Luncheon, which was catered by Caputo's Grocery at a cost of \$256.86 and featured a presentation on scam prevention by Judge Mary Kay O'Brien.
- Confirmed the next Senior Luncheon was scheduled for October 19, with catering provided by Sharko's restaurant and a safety presentation by Will County Sheriff Mike Kelley.
- Updated that a date will soon be announced for the next Senior Luncheon Board Committee meeting.

TRUSTEE (KELLY HICKEY)

- Recognized Will County Board Member Meta Meuler's contribution of 911 Center promotional items that were distributed to attendees of the September senior luncheon.
- Updated on the clerical work being done by students from the Neuqua Valley High School Transition Program.
- Reported on continued Pace transportation delays and service disruptions Wheatland Township residents experienced in September due to ongoing driver shortages. Noted that concerns re complaint reports and geofencing problems with the Uber remediation offering had been discussed with Pace officials who were actively working to address the issues.

TRUSTEE (COLLEEN ROTKIS)

- Confirmed that two broken spotlights in the park had been repaired.

TRUSTEE (TERRY JONES)

- No report.

9.4 TOWNSHIP CLERK (ANITA LISKEY)

- Updated that a records disposal project had kicked off to improve organization and management of Wheatland Township records, with significant progress being made during September. Thanked Wheatland Township's newly appointed Senior Administrator, Finance and Operations, Bill Green, for his assistance in scheduling a resource from Will County to explain the disposal process and respond to questions. --
- Joined Trustee Hickey in recognizing and thanking the Neuqua Valley High School Transition students for their assistance with the project.

9.5 TAX COLLECTOR/CEMETERY (DAVID SCRIVEN-YOUNG)

- Reported three casket burials had been completed in September.

9.6 SUPERVISOR (MICHAEL CROWNER)

- Formerly introduced Senior Administrator Green to the Board, detailing his background and explaining immediate areas of focus that will include collaborating with Township staff on operations, budgeting and planning as well as assisting the Highway Commissioner on several short- and long-term projects. Highlighted that Green will develop strategies to help Wheatland Township improve its community outreach and service offerings to drive engagement and raise its profile among its constituents.
- Following Supervisor Crowner's remarks, Green addressed the Board, reporting he was working to become a passport agent so Wheatland Township could begin offering

passport services. He also noted that he had secured an Osco representative to administer flu shots for Township employees and board members this year, with the goal of making the service available to community residents in the future. Other new community services under immediate consideration include a recycling program and shredding days for residents.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

- Trustee Hickey moved to adjourn the meeting and Trustee Bansal seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned on a voice vote at 9:22 PM.

Next meeting November 10, 2022

Approved as presented:

Prepared by Anita Liskey, Township Clerk