

Wheatland Township Board Meeting Thursday, November 10, 2022

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Clerk Liskey at 7:35 PM.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Trustee Terry Jones led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM

Board Members: Trustees Hickey, Jones and Rotkis attended the meeting. Trustee Bansal attended the meeting via Zoom link.

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 Oct. 13, 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 October 13, 2022, Regular Meeting Open Session were unanimously approved 5-0 per roll call vote.

6. OLD BUSINESS

6.1. Discussion of Ordinance 22-03-O Donation of Wheatland Park.

- Supervisor Crowner read the resolution donating Wheatland Park to Plainfield Park District into the minutes. He also recognized Trustee Rotkis for her work in managing Wheatland Park over the last several years.

- Trustee Jones motioned to approve the ordinance and Trustee Hickey seconded. The Board unanimously approved Ordinance 22-03-O Donation of Wheatland Township Park 5-0 via rollcall vote.

6.2 Discussion of Aggregated Energy Contract with Nania Energy Advisors

- Supervisor Crowner motioned to open discussion of the aggregated energy contract and Trustee Jones seconded the motion.

- Supervisor Crowner confirmed he had participated in the review and bidding process as agreed upon in the last meeting. He executed a contract with MC2, the lowest cost energy provider presented.

-Supervisor Crowner noted that he would continue to monitor prices to so that in the event market prices drop Wheatland Township could notify residents should they want to opt out of the program.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Discussion/Approval of 2023 Board Meeting Schedule

-Trustee Jones motioned to open discussion re the Wheatland Township Board Meeting Schedule for 2023, and Trustee Hickey seconded the motion. With no further

discussion, the Board unanimously approved the 2023 meeting schedule as presented 5-0 via rollcall vote.

7.2 Discussion/Approval of 2023 Holiday Schedule

- Trustee Jones motioned to open discussion of the holiday schedule and Trustee Rotkis seconded the motion.
- Trustee Jones then motioned to amend the Columbus Day holiday to include a reference to Indigenous Peoples Day. After a question from Trustee Rotkis, Trustee Jones clarified the Indigenous People reference would be listed *in addition* to Columbus Day on the 2023 Holiday Calendar.
- The Board approved adding a reference to “Indigenous Peoples Day” in addition to the Columbus Day listing.
- Supervisor Crowner then moved to approve the 2023 Holiday Calendar with the above amendment and Trustee Hickey seconded. The Board unanimously approved the 2023 Holiday Calendar as amended 5-0 via rollcall vote.

7.3 Discussion of Tax Levy for Truth in Taxation Law for Town Fund

- Supervisor Crowner motioned to open discussion of the Tax Levy for the Town Fund and Trustee Rotkis seconded the motion.
- Supervisor Crowner reminded the Board that discussions would begin soon re the 2023 budget. He noted that due to external factors, there would be a number of increases to consider/manage including rising health insurance and ongoing inflation pressures.
- Updated that a proposed budget would be provided by the Wheatland Township accountant and presented at the December Board meeting for review and discussion. He requested the Board to submit any planned recommended line items/additional expenses to him by December 1 for inclusion in the materials to be presented at the December meeting.

7.4 Discussion of Tax Levy for Truth in Taxation Law for the Road District Fund

- Supervisor Crowner motioned to open discussion of the tax levy for the Road District Fund and Trustee Hickey seconded the motion.
- Supervisor Crowner asked Highway Commissioner Tom Wieser to detail considerations for the 2023 Road District budget, confirming the timeline for completion would be the same as for the Town Fund at the end of the December.
- Highway Commissioner Wieser noted inflation also would be an issue for the road district as well as higher salaries required to attract candidates in the tight labor market and called out the cost of piping materials used in many of the road districts and initiatives and among the top ten of its expenses had increased 300 percent in 2022 and would continue to be a driver for increased budget need in the 2023 budget as well.

7.5 Discussion/Approval 2023 Health Insurance and Ancillary Benefits Plan

- Trustee Rotkis motioned to open discussion Wheatland Township health insurance and ancillary benefits plan and Trustee Hickey seconded the motion.
- Supervisor Crowner detailed the options that had been presented, confirming that the current option which provided employees lowest cost deductible would increase from \$729 to \$882 per employee in 2023. He noted that his preference would be to accommodate the increase and ensure employees continued to receive full coverage with the lowest possible deductible. He also noted that there was only a modest increase in the dental plan and both the employee vision plan and life insurance would be relatively flat in 2023.

- Supervisor Crowner motioned to approve a renewal of the existing health insurance and ancillary benefits plan for Wheatland Township employees. Trustee Hickey seconded the motion. The insurance renewal was unanimously approved 5-0 in rollcall vote.

7.6 Discussion/Approval of Deputy Clerk appointment

- Supervisor Crowner motioned to open discussion of the appointment of a Deputy Clerk and Trustee Hickey seconded the motion.

- Clerk Liskey explained the proposal to appoint a deputy clerk to provide back up to the clerk and assist in performing duties as needed including executing documents required by law, assist in preparing FOIA responses, attending bid openings, attending township meetings, Board meetings and taking minutes, and more. She confirmed that, if approved, the role of newly appointed Wheatland Township Senior Administrator, Finance and Operations would be expanded to include the Deputy Clerk appointment. She noted that Green had previously served as Deputy Clerk of Lisle Township.

- Trustee Hickey motioned to approve the appointment of a Deputy Clerk and Trustee Jones seconded the motion. The Board approved the recommendation to appoint a Deputy Clerk 5-0 via rollcall vote.

8. APPROVAL OF BILLS AND CLAIMS

8.1 Approval of 10/13/22 – 11/10/22 Town and Road District Fund Bills & Claims:

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

- Bills in the amount of \$151,978.67 were unanimously approved 5-0 per roll call vote.

9. REPORTS

9.1. ASSESSOR (CHUCK KERN)

– Reported he had attended the Monthly Assessors Meeting in Lockport in October where discussions focused on potential scenarios that could impact the local housing market in 2023.

9.2 HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER (TOM WIESER)

- Reported that two new road district employees had been hired in October and confirmed preparation for snow removal season had begun and was going well. –

- Updated that the Road District had purchased extra supplies of salt in 2022 at a lower price which would be available for use in 2023.

- Confirmed remediation to manage bird infestation in the Wheatland Township building would be completed soon.

9.3 TRUSTEES:

TRUSTEE (MEGHNA BANSAL)

- Reported that 18 seniors attended the October Senior Luncheon, which was catered by Sharko's Restaurant. Mike Kelley, Will County Sheriff was the speaker.
- Confirmed the November luncheon will take place on Nov. 16. Caputo's will cater and a speaker from the Illinois Dept. on Aging's Senior Health Insurance Program will present and answer questions on Medicare.

TRUSTEE (KELLY HICKEY)

- Reported that the October senior luncheon had taken place and went well.
- Updated on the clerical work being done by students from the Neuqua Valley High School Transition Program.
- Updated on efforts to reach the Eagle Scout who was building a food pantry at Wheatland Township, confirming she hoped to be able to schedule him into the December Board meeting for an update.

TRUSTEE (COLLEEN ROTKIS)

- Confirmed that she was completing last initiatives at the park before it would be handed over to the Plainfield Park District and expressed her appreciation to the Road District staff for their assistance over the years.
- Noted that park rental fees of \$180, including \$80 for the gazebo and field usage, were being refunded due to inclement weather conditions.

TRUSTEE (TERRY JONES)

- Reported that a Phishing scam had taken place within Wheatland Township that had resulted in \$400 theft from a Wheatland Township bank account.
- Supervisor Crowner explained that the issue preventative measures were being put in place by Wheatland Township's IT support provider to establish cybersecurity policies and best practices for the office and deliver mandatory cyber training for all staff.

9.4 TOWNSHIP CLERK (ANITA LISKEY)

- Updated that a response to one FOIA request was underway and confirmed that the records disposal initiative continued to progress with the assistance of the Step Program students from Neuqua Valley High School. She also noted that a new shared drive was being created for Wheatland Township to increase access and improve organization and management of the Township's records and other files.

9.5 TAX COLLECTOR/CEMETERY (DAVID SCRIVEN-YOUNG)

- Reported one grave was purchased in October and one casket burial and two ash burials took place at the cemetery during the month.
- Noted that a cemetery clean-up day was held on September 29 and confirmed that fallen branches due to heavy winds had been cleared.

9.6 SUPERVISOR (MICHAEL CROWNER)

- Noted a final reminder that the budget and tax levies for the Town and Road District would be priorities for the month of December.
- Introduced Administrator Green to detail several initiatives he was spearheading to extend the services offered by and elevate recognition of Wheatland Township among

its residents. Green reported on a number of programs under exploration, including: (1) a recycling and pumpkin smash held at Lewis University and discussions on other recycling initiatives that could be done at Wheatland Township including a fire extinguisher recycling program for residents that could be done at no cost. (2) Discussions on basic CPR training classes for staff and elected officials (3) an evaluation of office safety and a safety inspection of the Wheatland Township offices. -Green also updated that Wheatland Township was participating in the 2022 Toys for Tots program and had hosted a Dewali celebration in its offices, which were led by Trustee Bansal. Flu and covid shots had been provided for free to staff and a senior luncheon participant. He also noted that the potential passport program had been put on hold due to a hold as the Dept of State prioritized new facilities that could provide after hour (weekend and evening) service. He also updated on plans to address issues with the Township's grant accounts which would make it easier to apply for and process future potential grants to support Wheatland Township residents and programs.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

- Trustee Jones moved to adjourn the meeting and Trustee Hickey seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned on a voice vote at 8:36 PM.

Next meeting December 8, 2022

Approved as presented:

Prepared by Anita Liskey, Township Clerk