

**Wheatland Township Board Meeting
Thursday, March 9, 2023**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Crowner at 7:38 PM.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Supervisor Crowner led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM

Board Members: Trustees Hickey, Jones, Bansal and Rotkis attended the meeting.

Board Officers: Supervisor Crowner, Assessor Kern, Highway Commissioner Wieser, Cemetery/Tax Collector Scriven-Young and Clerk Liskey attended the meeting.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

4.1 n/a

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5.1 Approve January 12, 2023 – Regular Meeting Open Session Minutes

-Trustee Bansal moved to open discussion and approval of the Regular Meeting Open Session Minutes. Trustee Hickey seconded. Minutes for the February 9, 2023, Regular Meeting Open Session were unanimously approved 5-0 per roll call vote.

6. OLD BUSINESS

6.1 n/a

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Discussion/Approval to open a MaxSafe Public Funds Money Market Account with Wintrust Bank

-Trustee Hickey motioned to open discussion of Money Market account. Trustee Rotkis seconded the motion.

- Supervisor Crowner explained the Township maintains a balance of funds that are not used for operations. As discussed at the last meeting Deputy Clerk Green reviewed bank account options and arranged a meeting with Wintrust Bank re its Max Safe Public Funds Money Market Account that is currently paying out over 4 percent (vs the Township's current account that is earning less than one-half of one percent. Supervisor Crowner noted this account is not a CD and would allow full access including ability to withdraw or add funds during the year with no fees. He also reminded this account would only be used for excess funds only. He suggested opening the account with \$700k-\$800k, which could result in approximately \$30k of earned interest for the year based on the current rate.

- The Board unanimously approved the proposal to move excess funds into a Wintrust MaxSafe Public Funds Money Market account 5-0 via roll call vote.

7.2 Discussion/Approval of Ordinance #23-02-O 2023-2024 Road District Budget

- Road Commissioner Wieser detailed items in the 2023 budget proposal. Key points included: (1) The 2023-2024 budget recommendation is relatively flat to the previous year. (2) The road program bid came in below expectations at \$377k vs \$380k. (3) Lower-than-normal snowfall has resulted in a large supply of excess salt,

which will allow for a reduction in that line item for next year. (4) The Road District may receive ARPA funding to cover or partially cover expenses for further storm drainage repair and maintenance projects.

- Trustee Hickey pointed out that no budget had been allocated for contingencies and recommended addressing that oversight to add money to cover unanticipated expenses. Supervisor Crowner agreed and motioned to amend the budget proposal to add \$100k for contingency expenses. Trustee Jones seconded. The Board unanimously approved the amendment to add \$100k for contingencies to the Road District budget 5-0 via roll call vote.

- Supervisor Crowner also motioned to approve an amendment to add \$35k for payroll taxes. Trustee Rotkis seconded. The Board unanimously approved the amendment to add \$35k to payroll taxes 5-0 via roll call vote.

7.3 Discussion of Formation of Decennial Committee to Study and Report on Local Efficiencies

-Trustee Rotkis opened discussion by explaining the Decennial Committees on Local Government Efficiency Act, signed into law by Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker, required all units of local government that may levy a tax, excluding municipalities and counties, to form a committee to study local efficiencies and report recommendations regarding efficiencies and increased accountability. She noted that she would recruit participants for the committee, including a minimum of two resident volunteers. She also explained that the committee would have three separate meetings on this project and Wheatland Township staff would be enlisted to support the creation of the final report which will include separate sections covering the Road District and Cemetery. Clerk Liskey agreed to join and record the committee meetings. Trustee Rotkis detailed that there is an 18-month timeline to complete the report and informed that the finished document would be submitted to the County Clerk and Chairman and posted to the Wheatland Township website for visibility. She further explained that she would follow TOI recommendations on formatting and process and would provide further updates at the April Board meeting.

7.4 Discussion/Approval of Annual Town Meeting Agenda

- Trustee Jones motioned to open discussion/approval of the Annual Town Meeting agenda. Trustee Hickey seconded.

- The Board unanimously approved the agenda for the 2023 Annual Meeting 5-0 in a roll call vote.

8. APPROVAL OF BILLS AND CLAIMS

8.1 02/09/23- 03/09/23 Town and Road District Fund Bills & Claims:

- Trustee Hickey moved to open discussion to approve the Town, Park, Assessor, Road & Bridge, Special Hard Road and Cemetery Fund bills, and Supervisor Crowner seconded the motion.

- Bills in the amount of \$230,731.24 were unanimously approved 5-0 in a roll call vote.

9. REPORTS

9.1. ASSESSOR (CHUCK KERN)

- Updated that work on the Quadrennial Assessment Review, an Illinois State mandate requiring all properties be assessed for assessment accuracy every four years, was underway and scheduled to be completed by early June 2023. He noted his staff would be sending initial data to Will County for review and input. He also informed that Wheatland Township was required to provide an additional \$400 million in new assets, excluding new growth properties.
- Added that he discovered through Lisle Township that state universities, including Northern Illinois University, Eastern Illinois University, Western Illinois University and Southern Illinois University maintained a records archive and would accept, preserve, and make searchable historical records.

9.2 HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER (TOM WIESER)

- Noting that the mild winter had resulted in a large amount of unused salt quantities, Commissioner Wieser informed that his team was working to identify low-cost storage options and reiterated the oversupply would result in budget savings next year.
- Confirmed road program bids had been received and were under review, noting at least one bid was below estimates.
- Updated that a D-construction company had completed work on Aurora Road.

9.3 TRUSTEES:

TRUSTEE (MEGHNA BANSAL)

- Reported the Senior Committee met in March and had booked space at the Wheatland Salem Church for the year's lunches, were working on activities, speakers and entertainment. Confirmed the first Senior Luncheon would be held on Wednesday, April 19.

TRUSTEE (KELLY HICKEY)

- Informed that no students from the Neuqua Valley High School Transition Program had been to Wheatland Township in the last two weeks and that she would follow up with the school.
 - Noting that federal aid programs WIC and SNAP do not allow for the purchase of baby supplies, Trustee Hickey updated that a Diaper Drive to benefit Wheatland Township residents would be held at the township offices on Sunday, March 12 from 1 – 4 p.m. Donations would be contributed to and available from the DuPage Township Food Pantry.

TRUSTEE (COLLEEN ROTKIS)

- Suggested Board members review the March issue of TOI Magazine for more information on the Decennial Act and requirements.
- Confirmed the Road Crew had opened the Wheatland Park during the month.

TRUSTEE (TERRY JONES)

- n/a

9.4 TOWNSHIP CLERK (ANITA LISKEY)

- Updated that three FOIA inquiries had been received and responded to during February.
- Reminded Statement of Economic Interests were due in May.

TAX COLLECTOR/CEMETERY (DAVID SCRIVEN-YOUNG)

- Reported that one burial had been completed in February.
- Updated that vendor notice had been received regarding a slight increase on grave openings and closing that would go into effect in April. He noted the Cemetery Board would review at its April meeting, but confirmed the increase would not have a material budget impact.

9.5 SUPERVISOR (MICHAEL CROWNER)

- Updated Plainfield Park had provided the quick claim deed for Wheatland Park which would transfer maintenance responsibilities. Informed attorney review and title verification would be the next steps in completing the transfer and confirmed two quotes for title services had been received.
- Noted that several technology service providers and vendors had reached out and confirmed he was having meetings to understand options available. Also noted he and Commissioner Wieser were considering a technology audit of hardware and software utilized by Wheatland Township employees and officials to identify possible cost savings as well as solutions.
- Informed that he attended a check presentation for the food pantry at the DuPage Township Senior Center, and updated that a new pantry closer to Bolingbrook, and in turn, Wheatland Township residents was planned for the near future.
- Also reminded the Wheatland Township IGA with the DuPage Senior Center remained active and that the senior center was very active. Suggested Wheatland Township increase communications/website postings about the center to its senior residents so they could take advantage of the center's programs.
- Informed on discussions with the City of Naperville re grants for Pace transportation program.
- Confirmed the first issue of the redesigned Wheatland Township newsletter had been distributed/posted and was generating positive feedback including community suggestions on future initiatives.
- Administrator/Deputy Clerk Green provided additional project updates, including:
 - Updated the redesigned newsletter was generating attention and resulting in increased resident outreach to the Township offices.
 - Confirmed the Mobile Food Pantry, in cooperation with the Northern Illinois Food Bank, would be held on Monday, May 1 at the Compass Church parking lot and noted 15 volunteers were needed to manage the event. Informed tours of the food bank could be arranged for Board members as requested.
 - Informed that intergovernmental agreement for the fire extinguisher program was complete and confirmed the cabinet was scheduled to arrive later in March.
 - Updated that one student from Plainfield High School had applied for the TOI scholarship.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

- Supervisor Crowner moved to adjourn the meeting and Trustee Jones seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned on a voice vote at 9:06 PM.

Next meeting April 11, 2023

Approved as presented:

Prepared by Anita Liskey, Township Clerk