

**Wheatland Township Board Meeting  
Thursday, June 8, 2023**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Crowner at 7:30 PM.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Supervisor Crowner led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. ROLL CALL AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM**

Board Members: Trustees Bansal, Jones, Hickey 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** Trustee Rotkis read a letter from Naperville resident Tom Egan making the Board aware of traffic and noise issues at the intersection of Wolf Crossing and a public meeting to discuss the problem which will be held in Naperville on June 16 from 3 – 4:30 p.m. Full text of the letter is attached as an addendum to these minutes.

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**5.1 Approve May 11, 2023 – Regular Meeting Open Session Minutes**

- Trustee Rotkis moved to open discussion and Trustee Bansal seconded the motion approval of the Regular Meeting Open Session Minutes. Road Commissioner Wieser requested an amendment changing a reference to road staff being “required” to use Township-owned vehicles to “encouraged.”
- Supervisor Crowner motioned to vote to approve the amendment. Trustee Bansal seconded. The amendment was unanimously approved 5-0 via roll call vote.
- Supervisor Crowner then motioned to vote to approve the amended minutes for the May 11 Regular Meeting Open Session. Trustee Jones seconded.
- The amended minutes for the May 11, 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 of Resolution #10-02-R Freedom of Information Act Policy and Designating the Township’s FOIA Officers**

- Supervisor Crowner motioned to table discussions and approval of Resolution #10-02-R Freedom of Information Act Policy and Designating the Township’s FOIA Officer until the July Board meeting. Trustee Jones seconded the motion.
- The Board unanimously approved the request to move discussion to the July meeting 5-0 via roll call vote.

**7.2 Discussion/Approval of Ordinance #23-01-O 2023-2024 Town Budget**

- Trustee Hickey motioned to open discussions and approval of Ordinance #23-01-O 2023-2024 Town Budget, and Trustee Jones seconded the motion.

- In opening comments, Supervisor Crouner reiterated no changes had been made to the budget since the Board had approved for re-hanging in May. He also confirmed the Township attorney and accountant had approved the budget.
- The Board unanimously approved the Town budget 5-0 via roll call vote.

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

- Trustee Bansal motioned to open discussion/approval of Discussion/Approval of Ordinance #23-02-O 2023-2024 Road District Budget. Trustee Jones seconded.
- After Supervisor Crouner confirmed no changes had been made to the budget since it was presented at the May meeting, the Board unanimously approved Ordinance #23-02-O 2023-2024 Road District Budget 5-0 via roll call vote.

**8. APPROVAL OF BILLS AND CLAIMS**

**8.1 05/11/23 – 06/08/23 Town and Road District Fund Bills & Claims:**

- Trustee Rotkis moved to open discussion to approve the Town, Park, Assessor, Road & Bridge, Special Hard Road and Cemetery Fund bills. Trustee Jones seconded the motion.
- Trustee Rotkis questioned a charge for mileage, noting the line item was deleted from the 2023-24 budget. Road Commissioner Wieser explained the expense was misallocated and should have been listed under the training/conferences. He further noted the mileage line item had been deleted from the budget following a review of the past three years' expenses.
- With no further discussion, bills in the amount of \$954,248.51 were unanimously approved 5-0 in a roll call vote.

**9. REPORTS**

**9.1. TAX COLLECTOR/CEMETERY (DAVID SCRIVEN-YOUNG)**

- Informed that four ash burials were completed in May.
- Noted that the Cemetery had received a note of recognition and a \$500 donation from Wheatland Township resident Judy Goist expressing appreciation for the services provided in an ash burial ceremony during the month. A copy of the letter is attached as an addendum to these minutes.

**9.2 Administrator and Deputy Clerk Bill Green**

- Reported that the mobile dental service day was moved to July 20 and that promotions and sign-up information was available on the Will County Website. Explaining that even though the dental care was targeted for children, especially now that school is out, services could also be provided to adults. The mobile dentists will perform cleanings, general checkups and basic dental care, all of which will be available to qualifying residents at no cost to Wheatland Township.
- Confirmed the Fire Extinguisher program remains operational and available.
- Updated re training programs he attended at the Illinois Counties Risk Management Trust in Springfield. Noted Wheatland Township must implement sexual harassment training course for staff and elected officials in 2023, and annually, to be in compliance.
- Informed that he and Trustee Jones attended a senior car clinic hosted by Lisle Township to observe operations and consider the possibility for Wheatland Township.
- Announced Wheatland Township would be participating in a community service work program to help residents on probation complete community service hours. A program participant will be onsite to do lawn maintenance at Wheatland Township offices on Friday afternoons throughout the summer.

- Confirmed the new environmental recycling contract had been signed as was effective June 1, 2023, through May 31, 2024.
- Provided status updates on number of ongoing initiatives including:
  - (1) efforts to become a certified passport agency were being explored.
  - (2) issues with Sam.gov that would allow Wheatland Township to receive its ARPA reimbursements were being addressed.
  - (3) outreach to other governmental bodies to identify opportunities for shared community service initiatives were underway.
  - (4) editorial plans for the next issue of the Wheatland Township newsletter, to be published on July 1, were in process.

**9.3. ASSESSOR (CHUCK KERN) –**

- Provided an update that a new full time deputy assessor trainee was hired. He confirmed that the assessor’s office was now fully staffed with the addition of this new employee.

**9.4. HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER (TOM WIESER) –**

- In response to the issues raised in the resident letter read by Trustee Rotkis, Road Commissioner Wieser confirmed the road in question was not in the jurisdiction of Wheatland Township. Noted that the City of Naperville was conducting speed studies in that location to determine how to address speeding problems. Informed that a proposal for a second truck terminal for the nearby industrial park was under consideration.
- Trustee Hickey asked if Wheatland Township had responsibility to police the area. Road Commissioner Wieser reconfirmed the site was outside of Wheatland Township jurisdiction.

**9.5 TRUSTEES:**

**TRUSTEE (MEGHNA BANSAL)**

- Reported that 17 senior residents attended the May 17 senior luncheon, which was catered by Panda Express at a cost of \$241.89, which was offset by \$5.00 contributions collected from each attendee. She noted staff members from Congresswomen Laura Ellman’s office presented at the luncheon and participants also played bingo as entertainment.
- Confirmed the next senior lunch will be held on June 21, with food provided by McAllister’s Deli.

**TRUSTEE (Kelly Hickey)**

- Informed that she had contacted Neuqua High School re having new students from their Transitions program assigned to Wheatland Township in the Fall.
- Updated that she had reached out to the Secretary of State’s office to explore the possibility of partnering with Will County to host a Real ID application session for Wheatland Township residents. Confirmed all staffing would be provided by the Secretary of State at no cost to Wheatland Township. Trustee Hickey stated she will continue to research the possible event and provide a formal recommendation to the Board at a future meeting.

**TRUSTEE (COLLEEN ROTKIS)**

- Confirmed that Wheatland Township had received and made its last utilities payment to for the park, given the intergovernmental agreement approved last month that turned over responsibilities for park management and maintenance to the Plainfield Park District.

**TRUSTEE (Terry Jones)**

-Noted that the State of Illinois is accepting applications to recognize volunteers. Applications are due June 16, 2023.

**9.6. TOWNSHIP CLERK (ANITA LISKEY)**

- Noted four FOIAs had been submitted during the month, with three responses completed and one in process.
- Updated on continued proliferation of “mass-mail” and/or phishing email inquiries into Wheatland Townships clerk’s office as well as to other surrounding townships. Noted that she had conferred with WT attorney Ed Mullins as needed to seek counsel on responses to suspicious emails.
- Updated on ongoing efforts to populate the shared drive,

**9.7. SUPERVISOR (MICHAEL CROWNER)**

- Noted Wheatland Township had received a few resident complaints re overgrown grass and confirmed warning letters had been sent to residents whose lawns were in violation of township ordinances.
- Updated that he along with Wheatland Township staff were continuing efforts to explore possible programming and new service offerings that would benefit residents and ensure Wheatland Township was visible within the community

**10. ADJOURNMENT:**

- Trustee Hickey moved to adjourn the meeting and Trustee Jones seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned on a voice vote at 8:19 p.m.

**Next meeting Thursday, July 13, 2023**

Approved as presented:

Anita Liskey

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Prepared by Anita Liskey, Township Clerk

Addendum:

1. Statement from Naperville Resident Tom Egan 6/8/23

**Statement to Wheatland Township Board 6/8/23**

I recently moved into the Carillon Club in Naperville. Carillon is adjacent to an industrial park on the north side and is bounded by 95<sup>th</sup> St. on the south, Wolf's Crossing on the West and 91<sup>st</sup> St on the north (White Eagle Country Club abuts the eastern side). Carillon is supposed to be a safe, quiet retirement community. This statement is made in order to inform the board of various public nuisances plaguing our community which make it anything but quiet and safe.

All three of the surrounding major streets produce entirely too much traffic, congestion and pollution and noise from loud mufflers, engine revving and tire squealing. Another dense housing complex is in the process of being built right across from Carillon on Wolf's Crossing which will only add to our woes. The local factory has been emitting constant, unbearable noise. Further, 91<sup>st</sup> street is akin to a drag raceway.

I have been negotiating with the factory and I understand steps are being taken to (i) reduce the factory noise and discharges to an acceptable level during business hours and (ii) provide Carillon and surrounding residents with periods of no noise on weekends and holidays. A proposed zoning change to permit truck terminal on nearby Wolf's Crossing was fortunately defeated by the Will Co. board last month.

While the noise and congestion on 95<sup>th</sup> and Wolf's crossing need to be addressed, it is the 91<sup>st</sup> St. illegal activities which pose an exigent threat. Vehicles, including actual race cars, muscle cars and motorcycles, are speeding at up to 100 miles an hour, stupidly revving engines, spewing out deafening muffler noise and generating silly ear-splitting tire squealing. One racer actually crashed through our perimeter fence last year. The unobstructed, vast expanse looking eastward on 91<sup>st</sup> is being taken as an open invitation by hooligans to act recklessly and oppressively. We need to remove that imaginary yet all too tempting invitation.

Unfortunately, the confluence of streets and industrial park at Wolf's Crossing and 91<sup>st</sup> involves at least these governmental entities: Naperville, Aurora, Will Co. and Wheatland Township. The residents at Carillon constantly make calls to various law enforcement which are either ignored, lost between the governmental agencies or the patrols get there 20 minutes after the perpetrators left the area. Worse I've been at my fence with the Naperville officer listening the illegal activities on a nearby street in the industrial park and he could do nothing because that street was in Aurora. Further, on the Friday before Memorial Day we were assaulted by thunderous noise from a race car being worked on in a driveway the industrial park just outside my fence. We called police dispatch and Will Co. and Naperville answered. It was decided that a Will Co sheriff would respond. Over

three hours later, the race car was still revving its engine, squealing its tires and racing up and back on 91<sup>st</sup> St—all while we were trying to work in peace. It was embarrassing to try to talk on the phone to work, stressful to be under the yoke of roaring noise and disrespectful punks and a feeling of helplessness relying on support that never came.

The street sign outside the Carillon entrance on 95<sup>th</sup> street states that there should be no excess vehicle engine and muffler noise—that needs to be enforced. And why are muscle cars and motorcycles generally allowed on 91<sup>st</sup> street after business hours since that street only serves the industrial park? We need to consider employing other police enforcement techniques to help ameliorate all of this nonsense including stepped up police patrols though inter- governmental cooperation, speed bumps, cameras, noise detectors, etc. All of these ideas are advocated by residents, police officers and businesses that have to deal with these maladies. A ride down 135<sup>th</sup> street east of Rt 59 in Plainfield can give you an idea of how speed bumps can quiet down and protect a neighborhood at a low cost while being constantly on guard.

Leaving Carillon residents to endure all of this nonsense is but another tax on us which is a most unfair levy. We all pay a lot of property taxes for which we get little services in return. Some of the funds we pay need to be allocated back in our favor to end the public nuisances plaguing our area. This unfair tax shifts these public nuisance burdens onto those least able to bear it and least deserving to bear it.

I am not an advocate for bigger government but I am a proponent of effective government. If the basic rights of health and welfare cannot be provided to its citizens, a governmental entity cannot claim any effectiveness at all. The current hodge podge of multi jurisdictional authority is leaving everyone powerless in a storm of destructiveness. Everyone in charge leaves no one in charge. This cannot be left to one person or agency of the government – we all need to be in it and pulling in the same direction.

This racing and street noise is not a new problem- the link below to a Tribune article shows the problems were highlighted in 2021. And the enforcement creates a whack- a- mole situation: if you suppress the racers in one area, they move to another. A comprehensive attack must be mounted.

We invite the Wheatland Township Board to join our efforts to end the oppression of citizens trying to live peacefully in their golden years.

Thank you,  
Tom

link to Tribune story:

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/naperville-sun/ct-nvs-stop-drag-racing-naperville-st-20210409-5c76prodqbbqtfb2jp5nhznfa-story.html>

2. Email response to Tom Egan from Board Member Colleen Rotkis – sent 6/9/23

Hi Tom,

I read your letter on your behalf to the Wheatland Twp Board during Public Comment last night. They were glad you apprised them of the situation. Hwy Comm Tom Weiser was already planning on attending your Fri. June16 Carillon meeting. He's been in touch with Julie Berkowicz on the issue. He will be the point person to best represent Wheatland, verify what falls within our jurisdiction, and coordinate, if necessary, with the other government bodies to hammer out a potential solution.

Other board members were interested and may attend the meeting if possible.

Please share any other specifics needed for the meeting -

Carillon Clubhouse

Fri. June16

3 - 4:30 pm

Have a good weekend.

Colleen Rotkis

Wheatland Twp Trustee

3. Note from Judy Goist - 5/30/23

05/30/23

Jim ~  
Thank you so  
much for all your  
help these past  
weeks. It was  
sincerely appreciated!

Hope this donation  
for upgrades to the  
Township Cemetery  
helps.

Judy Goist  
and family in  
memory of  
Bob Goist