

Wheatland Township Board Meeting
Tuesday April 9, 2024
8:00 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by at 8:13 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Supervisor Crowner led the pledge of allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM

Board Members: Trustees Jones, K. Hickey, J. Hickey & Rotkis attended the meeting.

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

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5.1 Approval of March 14, 2024, Regular Meeting Open Session Minutes

- Trustee Jones motioned to open discussion/approval of the minutes for the March 14, 2024, Regular Meeting Open Session. Trustee Hickey seconded.
- The minutes for the March 14, 2024, Regular Meeting Open Session were approved 4-0 via roll-call vote, with one recusal due to absence.

5.2 Approval of Updates to Previously Approved December 14, 2023 – Regular Session Minutes

- Supervisor crowner moved to table approval of December 14, 2023, amended minutes. Trustee Jones seconded and the Board approved deferral of a vote to approve its December minutes 4-0 via roll call vote.

6. OLD BUSINESS

6.1 Discussion only of Ordinance 24-02-O Town Fund Budget

- Supervisor Crowner clarified this agenda item was for discussion purposes only and requested the Board provide any further comments to him via before the May Board meeting at which time the final Town Fund Budget will be presented for final approval.

6.2 Approval of Ordinance 24-03-O Road District Budget

- Trustee K. Hickey motioned to open discussion of Ordinance 24-03-O Road District Budget and Trustee Jones seconded the motion.

-Road Commissioner Wieser reviewed highlights of the budget, noting the Wheatland Road District had been approved to receive several grant allocations in 2024. Reiterated comments from the annual meeting and reconfirmed a contractor was selected for road improvement projects, with a preconstruction meeting scheduled the following week and kick off of the projected two-week job scheduled to begin at the end of April.

- Supervisor Crowner motioned to correct a typo on the ordinance number, Trustee K. Hickey approved and the Board unanimously approved the amended Ordinance 24-03-O. Then Supervisor Crowner motioned to approve the Road District Budget for public hanging and Trustee K. Hickey seconded the motion.

- The Board unanimously approved to hang Ordinance 24-03-O Road District Budget for public review 5-0 via roll call vote.

7. **NEW BUSINESS**

7.1 Approval of Community Memorandum of Agreement with IRIS for Mental Health Referral Services

-Supervisor Crowner distributed handouts and Trustee K Hickey presented a proposal to sign a nonbinding Memorandum of Agreement with Integrated Referral and Intake System (IRIS), a web-based tool to help organizations connect community members to mental health resources and tracks referrals from initial contact through resolution (connecting with services, receiving services, and completing or declining services). The MOA would enable Wheatland Township to begin discussions/information sharing/collaboration with a potential mental-health service provider, ThriveWorks, that helps local first responders (fire, police, etc.) provide better response and care for constituents requiring mental health-related emergencies assistance by providing a resource for referral, ongoing care coordination and follow up. Noted Plainfield, Joliet and Lockport Townships provided similar services, resulting in cost savings of nearly \$800k by reducing the demands on [emergency organizations.]

- Confirmed that after further review and information gathering, should the ThriveWorks referral services discussions progress positively, a full presentation and recommendation, including specific services details, budget requirements and contract terms would be brought to the Board for discussion/approval. Reiterated the MOA was nonbinding but would allow for further exploration of a potential program and also enable Wheatland Township to move forward quickly if/when the Board were to approve the service.

-Trustee Jim Hickey cautioned on the need to confirm HIPPA compliance and proper data protection procedures were in place before any resident data was shared with the third-party vendor. Trustee Rotkis asked if there was any information re costs, who and how many were being serviced in Plainfield or other townships using the service as well as what other terms, such as duration, performance measures, etc., would be included in a potential contract. Trustee Hickey explained those details would be provided should a recommendation be presented to the Board. Supervisor Crowner noted funds for mental health services had been approved and were available in the budget and could be available for this or other mental-health-related initiatives. Clerk Liskey asked if any other government units with larger scope/budgets, like Will County or cities, were providing or seeking to provide this type of service that would benefit the first-responder organizations within their jurisdictions, particularly given the cost-savings benefit highlighted. Supervisor Crowner responded Will County was possibly considering this service on a county-wide basis, explaining Wheatland Township would then defer to the county and not seek to duplicate the service or the cost.

- Supervisor Crowner motioned to approve entering a Memorandum of Agreement with IRIS to continue exploration of ThriveWorks mental health services, Trustee XX seconded the motion. The Board approved moving forward with the IRIS MOA 4-1 via roll call vote.

7.2 Approval of Updates to Wheatland Township Employee Handbook

- Supervisor Crowner motioned to table approval of Updates to the Wheatland Township Employee Handbook, and Trustee Jones seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved tabling discussion/approval of Updates to the Wheatland Township Employee Handbook 5-0.

7.3 Discussion of Intergovernmental Agreement Renewal with DuPage Food

- Supervisor Crowner reviewed a proposed two-year extension of the agreement with DuPage Food Pantry providing Wheatland Township residents access to the pantry for a monthly \$50 fee, the same as the current contract. Note that more than 50 Wheatland residents used the services in

the last year, not including anonymous visits. Confirmed the formal extension proposal would be presented to the Board for approval at the May meeting.

7.4 Discussion of Intergovernmental Agreement with DuPage Township for General Assistance Fund Administration

- Noting this service agreement also would be expiring soon, Supervisor Crowner reviewed the program's performance for the past year, noting applications from residents requesting assistance were increasing, and informed the Board a proposal to extend the agreement would be presented for approval at the same, low-cost terms of the current contract. Confirmed the formal extension proposal would be presented to the Board for approval at the May meeting.

-In response to inquiry from Trustee Jim Hickey, Supervisor Crowner explained the general assistance provided a monthly subsidy for a small number of qualified residents. DuPage Township has a dedicated person administering the assistance funds and, for a small monthly fee, that employee also handled administration for Wheatland Townships general assistance program, including working with Wheatland Township residents on the application process, managing the process with the State, ensuring payments, maintaining records and more. He detailed the difference with the Emergency Assistance Fund, which provides one-time (per year) financial assistance to help residents bridge through a difficult or unexpected financial crisis, such as rent coverage/eviction, vehicle repairs, etc.

7.5 Approval of Annual Town Fund Meeting Agenda

- Trustee K. Hickey motioned to open discussion/approval of the 2025 Annual Town Fund Meeting agenda. Trustee Jones seconded the motion.

- The Board approved the Annual Town Fund Meeting agenda 4-0 via roll-call vote.

8. APPROVAL OF BILLS AND CLAIMS

8.1 Town and Road District Fund Bills & Claims

- Supervisor Crowner motioned to open discussion/approval of the April Town and Road District Fund Bills and Claims, and Trustee Hickey seconded the motion.

- Monthly bills and claims of \$206,860.68 were approved by the Board 5-0 via roll-call vote.

9. REPORTS

9.1 Sr. Administrator/Deputy Clerk - Bill Green

- Confirmed safety buttons were installed on staff telephones.

- Reminded about the Wheatland Township Annual Food Distribution on Wednesday, April 17 from 4 -5:30 p.m. with food provided by the Illinois Foodbank at no cost to Wheatland Township and cohosted by Compass Church. Confirmed volunteers were signed up and encouraged the Board to attend.

- Updated he anticipated being confirmed in May as President of Path to Recovery, a not-for-profit mental health organization to help service prisoners at Kane County Jail. Confirmed this was a charity near and dear to his heart and that he would alert the Board if any potential, though unlikely, conflicts arose.

9.2. ASSESSOR (Mary Katzberg)

- Reiterated the continued growth of Wheatland Township and increasing workload for the assessor's office, referencing new construction boom with 1,000 new parcels as noted in the annual meeting.

- Highlighted that her team was focused on managing the increased resident inquiries and requests for assistance with exemptions for seniors, disabled persons, etc., and explained the

assessor's office staff focus on helping constituents to understand the exemptions, instructions, and more.

9.3. HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER (Tom Wieser)

- Noting he had already reported on several initiatives during the annual meeting, reiterated the justification for eliminating speed bumps on Wheatland Township roads, mentioning despite concerns raised earlier, some residents on the streets where speed bump have been removed had thanked him and members of the road crew for making the decision. Also noted the appreciation of first responders in Naperville and Aurora. Clerk Liskey recommended adding community outreach/education materials on the subject to the website or in an upcoming newsletter.

9.4 TRUSTEES:

TRUSTEE (Jim Hickey)

- No report

TRUSTEE (Kelly Hickey)

- Updated that Senior luncheons would begin on April 17, the same day as food distribution initiative with DuPage Food Pantry. Encouraged other Board members to participate and/or assist with the program, noting she was leading the committee without a co-chair following the resignation of Trustee Bansal in December.

TRUSTEE (Colleen Rotkis)

-No report

TRUSTEE (Terry Jones)

- No report

9.5. TOWNSHIP CLERK (Anita Liskey)

- Updated three FOIAs had been received and/or processed during the month. Extended appreciation to Deputy Clerk Bill Green and Carolyn Rominger for their assistance on the FOIAs and more as she was traveling extensively during the month.
- Reminded Board members to complete their Statement of Economic Interests by the May 1 deadline.

9.6. TAX COLLECTOR/CEMETERY (David Scriven-Young)

- Reported one burial had been completed during the month.
- Updated that Township employee Jim Hofman's extended absence had created a need for more volunteer assistance to support the cemetery and requested an advertisement be placed in the next Wheatland Township newsletter.

9.7. SUPERVISOR (Michael Crouner)

- Noting his updates had been covered during the annual meeting remarks, thanked the Board members for their patience during the past month as he and his wife welcomed a new baby into their family. Reiterated praise for the Board's work and strong achievements in maintaining a focus on and delivering results while maintaining lean operations and remaining committed to ensuring Wheatland Township was as efficient as possible. Commenting that "the numbers speak for themselves," thanked and recognized Wheatland Township staff for their continued diligence and strong performance as well.

11. ADJOURNMENT:

Trustee Jones moved to adjourn the meeting and Trustee K. Hickey seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned on a voice vote at 8:25 p.m.

Next meeting Thursday, May 9, 2024

Approved as presented:

Anita Liskey