

Wheatland Township Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 10, 2024

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Crowner at 7:32 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Supervisor Crowner led the pledge of allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM

Board Members: Trustees Hickey, Jones, and Rotkis attended the meeting. Trustee Krzywinski was absent.

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

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5.1. Approval of September 12, 2024 – Regular Board Meeting Minutes

- Trustee Hickey motioned to open discussion/approval of the minutes from the September 12 Regular Board Meeting, and Trustee Jones seconded the motion.
- The September 12 Regular Board Meeting minutes were approved 4-0 via roll-call vote.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Approval of Property, Casualty, and Workers' Compensation Insurance Program

- Supervisor Crowner requested discussion/approval of Property, Casualty, and Workers' Compensation Insurance Program be postponed to the November Board meeting because not all vendor quotes had been received.
- Trustee Hickey motioned to table the discussion, and Trustee Jones seconded. The Board approved postponing discussion/approval of Property, Casualty, and Workers' Compensation Insurance Program until the November meeting 4-0 via roll call vote.

6.2 Approval of 2025 Health Insurance Program

- Karri McRight, Dimond Bros. Insurance, reviewed summary of five insurance plan options for the Board to consider when selecting/renewing an insurance policy for Wheatland Township staff to become effective on January 1, 2025. Highlighting the small increase quoted to renew the existing policy was well below the average double-digit increases, McRight outlined the comparisons between the plan options and confirmed all plans presented were PPOs.
- Trustee Jones asked about Health Care Spending plan options and McRight reviewed an HSA offering, noting that there would be little incentive for employees to move into the program since Wheatland Township currently pays 100% of the coverage for its employees. Dental and life – locked through '26 and vision locked through '28.

-Following further discussion and q/a, Supervisor Crowner motioned to approve offering Plan P5E1BCE, G507OPT, G533BCE (HSA) to all Wheatland Township employees in 2025. Trustee Hickey seconded the motion.

-The Board approved the 2025 Health Insurance Program, offering the plans noted above, 4-0 via roll call vote.

6.3 Approval of 2025 Vision Insurance Program

- Explaining that rates for the employee Vision Insurance were locked in through 2028 under the current policy, Supervisor Crowner motioned to remove discussion/approval of the 2025 Vision Insurance Program from the agenda and to be revisited closer to the expiration of the policy. Trustee Hickey seconded the motion.

- The Board approved tabling discussion of the 2025 Vision Insurance Program 4-0 via roll call vote.

6.4 Approval of Energy Aggregation Program

- Trustee Jones motioned to open discussion/approval of the Energy Aggregation Program and Trustee Rotkis seconded the motion.

- Noting the current contract would expire in 2025, Becky Thompson, Nania Energy Advisors, presented an electricity aggregation program review including potential rates offered by several suppliers that could be offered to Wheatland Township residents, helping them to lock in rate certainty as a way to manage potentially volatile energy costs. She emphasized this would be an optional program in which residents could opt out at any time.

- Thompson explained there was a smaller supplier pool offering this type of program for the coming year and highlighted the Constellation Energy offering as the lowest-cost bid.

- Clerk Liskey requested copy be provided for the Wheatland Township website and other potential communications detailing the savings resulting from the program in the last year.

- Trustee Jones motioned to approve the Constellation Energy bid and Trustee Rotkis seconded. The board approved adoption of the Constellation Energy Aggregation Program 4-0 via roll call vote.

6.5 Approval of Resolution #24-10-R – Resolution Honoring Kevin Martinich

-Trustee Jones motioned to open discussion/approval of Resolution #24-10-R Township Honoring Kevin Martinich. Trustee Rotkis seconded the motion.

- Supervisor Crowner read the resolution (attached as Appendix A) into the record and the Board voted to approve Resolution #24-10-R Resolution Honoring Kevin Martinich 4-0 via roll call vote.

6.6 Approval of Resolution #24-11-R – Resolution Honoring Paul Marquardt

-Trustee Jones motioned to open discussion/approval of Resolution #24-11-R Township Honoring Paul Marquardt. Trustee Rotkis seconded the motion.

- Supervisor Crowner read the resolution (attached as Appendix B) into the record and the Board voted to approve Resolution #24-11-R Resolution Honoring Paul Marquardt 4-0 via roll call vote.

6.7 Approval of Resolution #24-12-R – Resolution Honoring Amber Markham

-Trustee Jones motioned to open discussion/approval of Resolution #24-12-R Township Honoring Amber Markham. Trustee Rotkis seconded the motion.

- Supervisor Crowner read the resolution (attached as Appendix c) into the record and the Board voted to approve Resolution #24-12-R Resolution Honoring Amber Markham 4-0 via roll call vote.

6.8 Approval of Ordinance #24-04-O – Township Tax Levy

- Trustee Rotkis motioned to open approval of Ordinance #24-04-O Township Tax Levy, and Trustee Hickey seconded the motion.
- Supervisor Crouner then motioned to open discussion of Ordinance #24-04-O Township Tax Levy and postpone approval until the November Board meeting. Trustee Hickey seconded the motion.
- The Board voted to open discussion and hold the vote to approve Ordinance #24-04-O Township Tax Levy at the November meeting 4-0 via roll call vote.
- Supervisor Crouner previewed his plans to recommend keeping the levy flat due to significant funds of more than \$1M held in the reserve account. Noting the strong performance of the Board and staff in managing expenses and building up reserve funds, he explained Wheatland Township would be able to cover potential budget increases without a need to increase the levy.

6.9 Approval of Ordinance #24-05-O – Road District Tax Levy

- Trustee Hickey motioned to open approval of Ordinance #24-05-O Road District Tax Levy, and Trustee Rotkis seconded the motion.
- Supervisor Crouner then motioned to open discussion of Ordinance #24-05-O Road District Tax Levy and table approval until the November Board meeting. Trustee Jones seconded the motion.
- The Board voted to open discussion and hold the vote to approve Ordinance #24-5-O Road District Tax Levy at the November meeting 4-0 via roll call vote.
- Road Commissioner Wieser detailed that he would be recommending to keep the Road District tax levy flat as well due to grants and other funds that had come into the Road District in 2024.

7. APPROVAL OF BILLS AND CLAIMS

7.1 Town and Road District Fund Bills & Claims

- Trustee Jones motioned to open discussion/approval of the September 2024 Town and Road District Fund Bills and Claims and Trustee Hickey seconded the motion.
- Monthly bills and claims of \$223,487.50 were unanimously approved by the Board 4-0 via roll-call vote.

8. REPORTS

8.1 Administrator/Deputy Clerk Green

- Reported that he had begun taking classes to get accredited by the Government Finance Association and had also attended the Plainfield Shorewood Townships open houses during the month.
- Updated he was investigating potential grants that could fund small service projects and explained the Northern Illinois Food Bank would no longer be able to bring the mobile food pantry to Wheatland Township due to budget cuts and a need to reduce the number of events they sponsor.
- Informed he had attended September Senior Lunch and presented the Smart Recovery program booklet from the Kane County Task Force on Drugs

8.2 Assessor Katzberg

- Via written report, submitted the Assessor's Office had received 187 appeals and that the staff was in the process of preparing evidence. She thanked her team for the hard work and dedication required to complete the appeals process.

8.3 Road Commissioner Wieser

- Reported dry weather had enabled ditch work to continue and confirmed the road crew would continue to focus on those projects for as long as possible before switching to preparations for winter projects.
- Confirmed Wheatland had adequate salt supply.

8.4 Trustees Reports:

Trustee Hickey

- Reported the September 18 Senior Lunch took place with catering provided by Doggie Diner. Thanked Wheatland Township staff members Carolyn Rominger and Bill Green as well as the Pastor of Wheatland Salem Church and the Senior Committee members for their assistance.
- Updated the next Senior Lunch would be held on October 16 with Doggie Diner providing the catering again.
- Noting speakers were increasingly hard to secure for these lunches, informed she had reached out to Secretary of State's office to enlist a representative to present information on the Real ID and other senior-related Issues such as taking driving tests, etc.

Trustee Jones

- No Report

Trustee Krzywinski

- Absent

Trustee Rotkis

- No Report

8.5 Clerk Liskey

- Reported no FOIAs had been submitted to Wheatland Township in October.

8.6 Tax Collector/Cemetery David Scriven-Young

- Updated two graves were sold, with one casket burial and three cremation burials performed during the month.

8.7 Supervisor Crowner

- Reiterated that he would present updated/final numbers on the ordinances for levies at the November Board meeting.

9. ADJOURNAMENT

- Trustee Hickey motioned to adjourn the meeting, Trustee Jones seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m. via voice vote.

**Next Regular Township Board Meeting:
November 14, 2024, at 7:30 PM**

Approved by: Anita Liskey
Clerk, Wheatland Township