

**Wheatland Township Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 14, 2024**

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Supervisor Crouner led the pledge of allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM

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

Board Officers: Supervisor Crouner, 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 October 10, 2024 – Regular Board Meeting Minutes

- Trustee Jones motioned to open discussion/approval of the minutes from the October 10 Regular Board Meeting, and Trustee Hickey seconded the motion.
- The October 10 Regular Board Meeting minutes were approved 5-0 via roll-call vote.

6. OLD BUSINESS

6.1 Approval of Energy Aggregation Program

- Trustee Rotkis motioned to open discussion/approval of the 2025 Energy Aggregation Providers and Trustee Hickey seconded.
- Representatives from Nania Energy Providers explained the price increase that took place following the last Board meeting and reviewed requirements for enrollment, switching suppliers, and more. Reviewed a recommendation for the Dynegy program at a rate of 0.08599 vs ComEd of about 0.095 also has an additional fee increase expected next June 2025.
- The Board unanimously approved the Dynegy Energy Aggregation Program 5-0 via roll call vote.

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

- Supervisor Crouner noted levy request would remain flat to last year at \$964,201 which would freeze property taxes for the upcoming tax year.
- The Board approved Ordinance #24-04-O – Township Tax Levy, 5-0 via roll call vote.
- Supervisor Crouner then requested the Board vote to amend the time of the December Township Tax Levy public hearing from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Trustee Rotkis seconded the motion and the Board approved the 7:30 p.m. time change for the December Township Tax Levy Public Hearing 5-0 via roll call vote.

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

- Supervisor Crouner summarized the accountant's recommendation of a 3.6% increase in the Road District Tax Levy, which would be \$2,175,728 - the lowest increase in the last four years.
- The Board approved Ordinance #24-05-O – Road District Tax Levy 5-0 via roll call vote.
- Supervisor Crouner then requested the Board vote to amend the time of the December Road District Tax Levy public hearing from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Trustee Hickey seconded the motion and the Board approved the 7:30 p.m. time change for the December Road District Tax Levy Public Hearing 5-0 via roll call vote.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Approval of Ordinance #24-06-O – Parking Ban

- Road Commissioner Wieser explained the ordinance was intended to address a safety hazard at 12409 S Industrial Dr caused by trucks parking and blocking the fire lane entrance within the industrial park. He noted the Plainfield Fire Dept, and all businesses located on Industrial Drive supported the proposed parking ban.
- Trustee Krzywinski suggested amending the ordinance to clarify the ban would restrict parking on both sides of the street.
- Given the amendment request, Supervisor Crouner motioned to postpone the vote on Ordinance #24-06-O until the December meeting when the edit would be included. Trustee Rotkis seconded the motion, and the Board approved deferring Ordinance #24-06-O until the December 2024 meeting.

7.2 Approval of Property, Casualty, and Worker's Compensation Plan

- Trustee Jones motioned to open discussion/approval of the property, casualty, and worker's compensation plan and Trustee Hickey seconded. Karri McRight, representative from Dimond Brothers Insurance informed the Board that quotes from 11 carriers had been received and reviewed with mixed results. Three of the quotes were higher than a renewal with current carrier, and all others declined as they were unable to compete with current pricing or had other underwriting issues. She recommended renewing the current policy at \$52,208 (vs current price of \$49,427) would be the best, most cost-effective option, noting the other quotes all came in above \$60k.
- She also recommended reinstating storage tank liability coverage for \$400 annually to receive \$2M of protection for pollution liability. Road Commissioner Wieser expressed support for this addition.
- The Board approved the recommendation to renew property, casualty, and worker's compensations plan with the current provider 5-0 via roll call vote.

7.3 Approval of 2025 Board Meeting Schedule

- Trustee Jones motioned to discuss/approve the 2025 Board Meeting Scheduled. Trustee Hickey seconded the motion.
- The Board approved the 2025 Board Meeting Schedule as presented 5-0 via roll call vote.

7.4 Approval of 2025 Holiday Schedule

- Trustee Hickey motioned to discuss/approve the 2025 Holiday Scheduled. Trustee Jones seconded the motion.
- The Board approved the 2025 Holiday Schedule as presented 5-0 via roll call vote.

7.5 Approval of Resolution #24-13-R - HSA Contributions

- Trustee Rotkis motioned to discuss/approve Resolution #24-13-R to offer an HSA option as a way of incenting employees to move to a higher deductible plan. Trustee Hickey seconded the motion.
- Supervisor Crowner said the Township would deposit money into HSA accounts as an incentive for employees to move into cheaper (lower premium) plan, noting that even though the 2025 renewal price was very good, future years could be higher. He also detailed the approximate savings of moving employees to lower premium plans would be as follows: (1) \$45 per month or individuals (2) \$141 for couples and (3) \$170 for families.
- In response to an inquiry from Trustee Rotkis, Ms. McRight confirmed the insurance company would handle employee communications, respond to questions, open enrollment, etc.
- Trustee Hickey noted the Wheatland Township employees had expressed interest in the HSA option.
- The Board approved Resolution #24-13-R HSA Contribution 5-0 via roll call vote.

7.6 Approval of Resolution #24-14-R – Resolution Setting Compensation

- Supervisor Crowner reviewed information provided in the Board packet, showing employment compensation data available from the recent TOI survey regarding elected officials and townships, noting the only position without data was the tax collector as Wheatland is one of the few in the Chicago area townships that has an active tax collector managing the cemetery. He suggested minimal increases as outlined in the attached chart representing only about 1% of the total budget.
- The Board approved Resolution #24-14-R – Resolution Setting Compensation 3-2 via roll call vote.

8. APPROVAL OF BILLS AND CLAIMS

8.1 Town and Road District Fund Bills & Claims

- Trustee Jones motioned to open discussion/approval of the October 2024 Town and Road District Fund Bills and Claims and Trustee Hickey seconded the motion.
- Monthly bills and claims of \$256,870.45 were unanimously approved by the Board 5-0 via roll-call vote.

9 REPORTS

9.1 Administrator/Deputy Clerk Green

- Updated on his continuing work to complete grants and provided an update on the status of grants in process.
- Noted he had completed workplace harassment and compliance webinars and would be attending a grant writing workshop in November.
- Informed he is focused on enrolling new Ride DuPage clients and has participated in Chamber of Commerce events, including a ribbon-cutting ceremony at Ciel Senior Living in Plainfield during the month.

9.2 Assessor Katzberg

- Via written report updated that the Assessor's office was focused on catching up on administrative work backlogs following completion of assessments.

9.3 Road Commissioner Wieser

- Updated that the road crew was focused on completing ditch re-grading projects and other miscellaneous seasonal project wrap up. Noted that the next budget would include the purchase

of a new truck to replace a 2002 truck and the need to revise budget allocations. Confirmed he was working with Wheatland Township accountant Mark Dahlberg to manage that process.

9.4 Trustees Reports:

Trustee Hickey

- Reported the October Senior Luncheon had been completed and 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 November 20 with catering by Jimmy Johns and Deputy Chief Dan Jungles speaking on senior safety.
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Trustee Jones

- No Report

Trustee Krzywinski

- No report

Trustee Rotkis

- No Report

9.5 Clerk Liskey

- Reported no FOIAs had been received in the month of October.

9.6 Tax Collector/Cemetery David Scriven-Young

- Updated no activity took place at the cemetery during October. Informed and expressed condolences for cemetery Trustee Jim Hoffman who had passed away following a health issue. Congratulated Trustee Hickey on her election win and subsequent appointment to the Will County Board, commending her work at Wheatland Township.

9.7 Supervisor Crowner

- Reiterated his appreciation to Trustee Hickey for her Board service, thanking her for collaboration and work during the past three years. Updated the Board will begin replacement efforts to be discussed at the December Board meeting.

10. ADJOURNMENT

- Trustee Jones motioned to adjourn the meeting, Trustee Hickey seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 p.m. via voice vote.

Next Regular Township Board Meeting:

December 12, 2024, at 7:30 PM

Approved by: Anita Liskey
Clerk, Wheatland Township

	Yes / No					
	High	Low	Median	Average	IMRF	Insurance
Supervisor	\$100,176	\$21,000	\$45,000	\$49,189	19 / 12	20 / 12
Road Treasurer	\$1,000	\$100	\$1,000	\$961	N/A	N/A
Total			\$46,000	\$50,150	61%	63%
Clerk	\$72,530	\$2,400	\$18,267	\$20,649	10 / 21	7 / 24
Assessor	\$127,980	\$7,200	\$79,769	\$73,357	22 / 8	24 / 6
Highway Commissioner	\$123,816	\$7,200	\$79,791	\$73,393	19 / 6	21 / 4
Trustee	\$12,000	\$1,500	\$5,805	\$5,814	0 / 33	3 / 30

Source: TOI Survey Data 2024

	2001	2005	2009	2013	2017	2021	COLA	Proposed
Supervisor	\$24,000	\$31,500	\$29,000	\$29,000	\$29,000	\$29,000	\$42,756	\$36,000
Highway Commissioner	\$45,300	\$62,000	\$66,000	\$66,000	\$66,000	\$66,000	\$97,307	\$72,000
Assessor	\$35,000	\$54,000	\$54,000	\$54,000	\$54,000	\$54,000	\$79,615	\$60,000
Clerk	\$10,185	\$13,000	\$11,000	\$11,000	\$11,000	\$11,000	\$16,217	\$15,000
Collector		\$2,050	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$5,897	\$6,200
Trustee	\$4,000	\$6,500	\$5,500	\$5,500	\$5,500	\$5,500	\$8,108	\$7,000
Total Salaries	\$130,485	\$188,550	\$186,000	\$186,000	\$186,000	\$186,000		\$219,200