

## **ORDINANCE #25-01-O**

### **ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING ADVISORY COMMITTEES FOR WHEATLAND TOWNSHIP**

**WHEREAS**, Wheatland Township, Will County, State of Illinois (the "Township") is a duly organized and existing township, and a unit of local government organized under the laws of the State of Illinois and is operating under the provisions of the Illinois Township Code, 60 ILCS 1/1-1, et. seq., and all laws amendatory thereto; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Supervisor and the Township Board of Trustees are committed to ensuring the effective administration of government and the responsible management of taxpayer money; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Supervisor and the Township Board of Trustees have determined that, to assist with the orderly and efficient conduct of Township business and to increase transparency and accountability, the Township should establish several committees dedicated to advising the Township as to certain core matters; and

**WHEREAS**, the Supervisor and the Township Board of Trustees have determined it to be in the best interests of the Township to establish the following advisory committees:

- (i) Environmental Advisory Committee
- (II) Mental Health Advisory Committee

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Supervisor and Board of Trustees of Wheatland Township, Will County, Illinois, as follows:

**Section 1. Recitals.** The above recitals and findings are found to be true and correct and are incorporated herein and made a part hereof, as if fully set forth in their entirety.

**Section 2. Establishment of Township Advisory Committees.** The following Township Advisory Committees are hereby established and are charged with the following:

A. Environmental Advisory Committee

The Environmental Advisory Committee shall serve as an advisory body to the Township Board on matters concerning sustainability, conservation, and environmental stewardship. This Committee may advise on initiatives including but not limited to:

- Environmental education and community engagement;
- Sustainable practices in Township operations;

- Clean-up events, habitat restoration, and beautification;
- Promotion of recycling, waste reduction, and green infrastructure;
- Partnerships with schools, businesses, and environmental organizations.

**B. Mental Health Advisory Committee**

The Mental Health Advisory Committee shall advise the Township Board on strategies to support mental health and wellness among residents. The Committee may:

- Identify community mental health needs;
- Recommend Township-supported initiatives to promote mental well-being;
- Collaborate with service providers and mental health professionals;
- Review programs for crisis intervention, outreach, education, and access to care;
- Inform residents about mental health resources and services.

**Section 3. Advisory Committee Authority.** Each advisory committee shall act in an advisory capacity only. All requests and communications on behalf of a committee must come from its Chairperson. Through the Chair, each committee may request:

- Access to Township staff, records, or reports relevant to its scope;
- Written responses from Township officials, with reasonable notice and within appropriate legal boundaries;
- Permission to bring forward recommendations at public meetings.
- Committees shall not access or disclose any confidential information without prior written authorization from the Supervisor and the Township Board. Violations may result in removal from the committee.

**Section 4. Committee Membership.** The Supervisor, with the advice and consent of the Township Board of Trustees, shall appoint committee members and designate the Chair of each committee.

- Each committee shall consist of at least five (5) members, including at least one (1) elected Township official.
- Members shall be selected based on subject-matter expertise or community involvement.
- The Supervisor shall establish a public application process for community member participation.

- Members shall serve one-year terms and may be removed at the discretion of the Supervisor and Township Board for cause, including repeated absences or misconduct.
- The Supervisor may serve ex officio on any committee.

**Section 5. Meetings and Legal Compliance.** Each Advisory Committee shall:

- Conduct an initial meeting within 90 days of this ordinance's effective date;
- Adopt a regular meeting schedule and comply with the Illinois Open Meetings Act, Freedom of Information Act, and other applicable laws;
- Ensure meeting minutes and actions are submitted to the Township Board;
- Develop an annual summary report of activities and recommendations.

**Section 6. Restrictions on Committee Action.** Advisory Committees are strictly advisory and may not authorize spending, enter into contracts, or adopt final policy positions on behalf of the Township.

**Section 7. Severability.** If any provision of this Ordinance is deemed invalid, the remaining portions shall remain in full force and effect.

**Section 8. Repealer.** All ordinances, resolutions, or policies in conflict with this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

**Section 9. Effective Date.** This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its passage and approval by the Supervisor and Township Board of Trustees of Wheatland Township, Will County, Illinois.

**ADOPTED AND APPROVED** on this 22nd day of May 2025.

Attest:

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Supervisor Michael Crowner

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Clerk Terry Jones