

Wheatland Township Board Meeting
Thursday, July 14, 2022

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Clerk Liskey at 7:33 PM.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Trustee Hickey led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM

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

Board Officers: Supervisor Crouner, Assessor Kern, and Clerk Liskey attended the meeting. Highway Commissioner Wieser and Tax Collector Scriven-Young were absent

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

4.1 None.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5.1 Approve June 9, 2022 – Regular Meeting Open Session Minutes

- Trustee Rotkis moved to open discussion and approval of the Regular Meeting Open Session Minutes. Trustee Hickey seconded. The Regular Meeting Open Session Minutes for June 9, 2022, were approved 4-0 per roll call vote.

6. OLD BUSINESS

6.1. None.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Discussion/Approval of Special Town Meeting re Wheatland Township Park

- Trustee Bansal motioned to open discussion and Trustee Rotkis seconded.
- Supervisor Crouner requested to postpone discussion on a Special Town Meeting re Wheatland Township Park until the August Board meeting. He explained that he required more time to consult with the Wheatland Township attorney and get legal opinion the two possible options for partnering with Plainfield Park District on improvements and ongoing maintenance for the Wheatland Township Park.
- Trustee Rotkis asked and received confirmation that the Board could discuss and vote on the proposal(s) during the same meeting session.
- Supervisor Crouner motioned to table discussion until the August 11 Board meeting. Trustee Hickey seconded and the Board approved moving further discussion to the August meeting 4-0 via roll call vote.

8. APPROVAL OF BILLS AND CLAIMS

8.1 Approval of 06/09/22- 07/14/22 Town and Road District Fund Bills & Claims:

- Supervisor Crouner moved to open discussion for approval of the Town, Park, Assessor, Road & Bridge, Special Hard Road and Cemetery Funds bills and Trustee Hickey seconded.
- Bills in the amount of \$579,854.38 were approved 4-0 per roll call vote.

9. REPORTS

9.1. ASSESSOR (CHUCK KERN)

– Noting that he did not have updates for the Board, he asked if the Wheatland Township attorney had given any guidance regarding the best way to proceed with a search to replace the Assessor role when Assessor Kern retires at the end of 2023. He reminded the Board that to qualify for the Assessor position, candidates would need to complete and pass 12-course certification program. He expressed concern that candidates would not want to pay for the certification without knowing whether or not they would get the position. Assessor Kern asked the Board to determine a process and timeline to open the search.

-Supervisor Crouner noted that there could be issues with both the optics and practicality of providing assurances to a potential candidate in advance of posting the opening and extending an offer. He suggested scheduling the Wheatland Township attorney into the August Board meeting so he could discuss, respond to questions and provide advice on a proper procedure to follow to fill the Assessor position.

9.2 HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER (TOM WIESER)

– No Report

9.3 TRUSTEES:

TRUSTEE (MEGHNA BANSAL)

– Reported on that the Senior Luncheon was cancelled in June due to extreme heat. She updated that the next Senior Luncheon meeting will be held inside at the Wheatland Township offices on July 20. Doggie Diner will provide food for the luncheon and bingo will be the entertainment.

TRUSTEE (KELLY HICKEY)

– Informed the Board that she had attended a Pace Transportation meeting at Will County. She reported that Pace is challenged by a 30 percent decrease in drivers while ridership is back at 100 percent. Given the shortage, servicing seniors with disabilities and require mobility aids and assistance is the biggest hurdle Pace must address presently. She noted the company shared a robust plan it will be implementing to recruit drivers from local colleges, including offering incentives for them to get professional licenses. The company will also be encouraging multiple riders and continue using Uber to meet residents travel needs while reducing the pressure on buses. On a positive note, Pace confirmed its complaint process has improved significantly and that the company will make making additional technology updates to make the system more efficient.

- Updated that she had met with representatives of the Plainfield School District 202 Transition Program to see if they will have students to place in the fall. Similar to the transition program offered by Neuqua High School, the Plainfield program is designed to provide work experience to graduating seniors who do not plan to go onto college. Trustee Hickey and Clerk Liskey met with representatives from the Naperville Transition Program in the Spring. Wheatland Township will consider providing work opportunities to students in these programs to assist with administrative tasks in the Township offices. Trustee Hickey will provide additional updates later this year.

TRUSTEE (COLLEEN ROTKIS)

- Updated that there is a new address for the Wheatland Township Park and noted that she will ensure all vendors know to send bills and other communications to the Wheatland Township office. She also noted that she had received notice of Governor Pritzker's bill to look at opportunities to consolidate state government, an exercise undertaken by the Governor's office every 10 years. She will continue to provide updates as they are available.

TRUSTEE (TERRY JONES)

- No Report

9.4 TOWNSHIP CLERK (ANITA LISKEY)

- Noted that a total of three (3) FOIAs had been received and responded to in the last three months, with no outstanding issues.

9.5 TAX COLLECTOR/CEMETERY (DAVID SCRIVEN-YOUNG)

- No Report

9.6 SUPERVISOR (MICHAEL CROWNER)

- Opened discussions on maintenance issues with the Wheatland Township building. Informed about a recent and substantial leak in the file room where a pipe that had become clogged from condensation broke and flooded the room. Commending her efforts, he noted that Carolyn Rominger had managed the flood, moving file cabinets and relocated all of the records, office supplies and other containers held in the file room as well as disposing water-logged materials. He confirmed that a contractor was retained to repair the pipe but noted ongoing issues with the HVAC system that, despite some remedial repairs, would need to be addressed this year. Additionally, he informed the Board that he had asked Road Commissioner Wieser to retain a contractor to complete a full inspection and remediation of any potential mold issues. He also discussed other maintenance problems that after being put off for several years would require attention and repair in 2022, including bird infestation, roof repairs, cleaning and disinfection and pest control.

- Assessor Kern noted ongoing issues with high humidity levels in the building and suggested cleaning the carpet as well. He then read a letter of complaint submitted to him by an employee re a request to have the many issues with the building fixed to improve working conditions within the office. (A copy of the letter is attached.)

- The Board agreed that condition of the building and the issues raised in the employee letter needed to be remediated as quickly as possible. Trustee Hickey suggested consideration of a work from home (WFH) arrangement for employees who were uncomfortable being in the office until the repairs could be made. Supervisor Crowner and Assessor Kern agreed that a WFH schedule could and would be put in place quickly, given recent experiences with the pandemic.

- Supervisor Crowner noted that he would move forward with the repairs, beginning with the mold inspection and deep clean/disinfection of the office space. He confirmed that he and Road Commissioner Wieser would remain focused on obtaining bids and retaining contractors to address the other projects expediently with the goal of having all maintenance work completed by year end.

He committed to providing regular updates on these maintenance issues at future Board meetings.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

- Trustee Hickey moved to adjourn the meeting and Supervisor Crouner seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned on a voice vote at 8:35 PM.

Next meeting August 11, 2022

Approved as presented:

Prepared by Anita Liskey, Township Clerk