

Maine Township Board Meeting September 26, 2017

Maine Township Board meeting has been videotaped at www.maintownship.com.
For more detailed reports and discussions please refer to the recorded.

Board Members Present: Trustees Carrabotta, McKenzie, Sweeney and Jones
Other Elected Officials Present: Supervisor Morask, Clerk Gialamas, Assessor Moylan Krey and Highway Commissioner Kazmierczak

Other in attendance: Dayna Berman, Dan Dowd, Doriene Prorak, Denise Jajko, Elizabeth Coy, Richard Lyon, Marsha Warnick, Michael Samaan, Mary Swanson, Dick Barton, Dagmar Rutzen, David Gnuted, Audrey Nankervis, Sharon McLaughlin, Carol Langan, Marty Cook, John Redemacha, Cyndi Rademacha, Marilyn Smolenski, Charlie Melidosian, Linda Slipke, Gary Slipke, Dennis Martin, Jean Dietsch, Deborah Zima, Ryan McKenzie, Blair Garber, Carolyn Drblik, Donna Adam, Eric Poders and Wiesia Tytko

Supervisor Morask called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m., Clerk Gialamas led the Pledge of Allegiance and called the roll.

Agenda Item: Approval of Minutes of July 25, 2017 Board Meeting

Trustee McKenzie	Motion to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the July 25, 2017 Board Meeting as amended and distributed to the Board.
Trustee Carrabotta	Second.

Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows:

Supervisor Morask	Yes
Trustee Jones	Absent
Trustee Carrabotta	Yes
Trustee McKenzie	Yes
Trustee Sweeney	Yes

Motion carried.

Agenda Item: Approval of Minutes of August 22, 2017 Board Meeting

Trustee Carrabotta	Motion to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the August 22, 2017 Board Meeting as distributed to the Board.
Trustee Sweeney	Second.

After the discussion regarding revisions to be made to the August 22nd Board meeting requested by Trustee McKenzie, the Board decided to table the previous motion and vote on a new motion.

Trustee Carrabotta	Motion to waive the reading and approve the August 22, 2017 Board Meeting minutes with proposed additional revisions.
Trustee Sweeney	Second.

Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows:

Supervisor Morask	No
Trustee Jones	Absent
Trustee Carrabotta	Yes
Trustee McKenzie	Yes
Trustee Sweeney	Yes

Motion carried.

Agenda Item: Public Participation
None.

Agenda Item: Approval of General Assistance Expenditures

Payrolls dated August 25, 2017 and September 8, 2017 and General Assistance checks #50852 through check #50898 in the amount of \$69,755.96.

Trustee Sweeney Motion to approve.

Trustee Carrabotta Second.

Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows:

Supervisor Morask Yes

Trustee Jones Absent

Trustee Carrabotta Yes

Trustee McKenzie Yes - Subject to continuing objection to the authority of Supervisor Morask to hire Kelly Schaefer in the Food Pantry as part of General Assistance.

Trustee Sweeney Yes – Subject to objection to the hire of Food Pantry position.

Motion carried.

Trustee Carrabotta added that he as well objects to the hiring of Kelly Schaefer.

Agenda Item: Approval of Road District Expenditures

Payrolls dated August 25, 2017, September 8, 2017 and September 22, 2017 and Road District checks #19965 through check #20008 in the amount of \$117,672.35.

Trustee Carrabotta Motion to approve.

Trustee McKenzie Second.

Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows:

Supervisor Morask Yes

Trustee Jones Absent

Trustee Carrabotta Yes

Trustee McKenzie Yes

Trustee Sweeney Yes

Motion carried.

Agenda Item: Approval of General Town Fund Expenditures

Payrolls dated August 25, 2017, September 8, 2017 and September 22, 2017 and General Town Fund checks #55259 through check #55352 in the amount of \$396,788.57.

Trustee McKenzie Motion to approve.

Trustee Sweeney Second.

Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows:

Supervisor Morask Yes

Trustee Jones Absent

Trustee Carrabotta Yes

Trustee McKenzie Yes

Trustee Sweeney Yes

Motion carried.

Agenda Item: Officials' Reports

Assessor Moylan Krey reported that the Cook County Treasurer's office extended the date for the sale of 2016 Annual Delinquent taxes until May 2018. Per the Cook County Assessor's office for 2017 the Homeowner Exemption available to residents increased from \$7,000 to \$10,000. The Senior Exemption increased from \$5,000 to \$8,000. The Senior Freeze Exemption for low income seniors expanded eligibility by increasing allowable total household income to \$65,000 from the previous limit of \$55,000. There is also a new minimum of \$2,000 EAV deduction for the Senior Freeze.

Assessor Moylan Krey stated that the Board of Review is open for Maine Township from September 25th to October 24th. Her office along with Board of Review Commissioner Dan Patlak will be hosting an Outreach program on October 3rd at the Maine Township Town Hall.

Highway Commissioner Kazmierczak stated that his department is in the process of winterizing their trucks, snowplows and other equipment. Also, for winter they are reiterating the salt contract with State of Illinois and Morton Salt Company.

Highway Commissioner Kazmierczak reported that the tree trimming and bad tree removal project is finished. A huge water project will start on Washington and Golf to Central Avenue in Glenview for both incorporated and unincorporated areas. It will be a very extensive and expensive project putting a 16-inch feeder main to the pumphouse.

Highway Commissioner Kazmierczak stated that his department along with Dorieni Prorak and Code Enforcement Michael Samaan attended the North Maine Fire Department Open House outreaching to the residents with Maine Township services.

Clerk Gialamas added to his written report that he attended the Des Plaines Community Foundation Gala to show his support. He added that this great local organization is always very generous donating to the Maine Township Food Pantry. He also attended the Maine Township Annual Garage Sale on Saturday, September 23rd. He thanked all the staff for organizing and manning this event.

Trustee Sweeney stated that she attended the MCYAF Community Hero Fundraiser honoring Marty Cook from Maine Township Recovery Connection program. She participated in the 1st Agency Funding Hearing on September 19th, she added that two more hearings will be held on October 18th and 26th. The Agencies presenting their programs and needs which will be evaluated and the funds will be decided on.

Trustee Sweeney stated that she spent a great deal of time looking into township's operations. She expressed her concerns in regards to the township's finances and the July hire in General Assistance. She talked about township budget funds pointing out that Maine Township General Assistance spent \$1,116,000.00 for the year and provided services for the needy of \$183,000.00, which is only 16%. Trustee Sweeney pointed that as Trustee she wants to make sure that the taxpayer's money is spent wisely, that we build efficiencies within the township's government and that we streamline. She suggested that the Board distribution be available online as presently is the videotaping of the Board meetings. Trustee Sweeney summarized her concern by saying that for every one dollar spent on aid for the poor, it is costing Maine Township three and half dollars to administer it and she suggested that most taxpayers would not think that is acceptable.

Trustee Sweeney voiced her opinion about not being inform about hiring a new person in General Assistance, about Supervisor's authority hiring in General Assistance and about disagreeing on two attorneys' opinions for mentioned issues.

Trustee Sweeney pointed that her concerns should be addressed and she and other Trustees are willing to fix the mentioned issues.

Trustee McKenzie reported that she attended the MCYAF Community Hero Awards Dinner where Recovery Connection and Marty Cook were honored. She also, attended the 1st Agency Hearing and listened to the presentations from ten agencies. She added that all of these agencies do great and worthwhile work and help their clients and it will be very difficult to decide about the allocations. Trustee McKenzie stated that this is a very high priority job with a big expense to our budget. Trustee McKenzie stated that as an authority of Maine Township on awarding funds to these various agencies, she has done a lot of research on the specific statutory authority and township's code how to properly fund these agencies. She would like for everybody to know that the Township Code states that Maine Township funds are to be expended on Maine Township residents only and pointed out and the funding is determined for the next year's budget 2018-2019.

Trustee McKenzie stated that she has been very bothered by not having any input nor knowledge about the July hire of Kelly Schaefer. She does not see the authority in the township code for that hire. The Trustees received two opinions, one from Attorney Pelini from Champaign and the second one from Attorney Dowd in which both are saying that the hire was appropriate. Trustee McKenzie stated that she disputes both opinions and believes that the Board of Trustees should have been able to discuss the hire and vote on the hire. She strongly believes that the food pantry does not fall under the specific types of financial aid or services under general assistance.

Trustee Carrabotta stated that the MCYAF award dinner was very enjoyable. He was impressed with the food, company and the subject matter. He pointed out that Marty Cook received a well-deserved award. He also added that he attended the first very long Agency Funding Hearing.

Trustee Carrabotta stated that the township Board has a big responsibility to make any decisions and they are accountable for what is going on with the township's finances. He added that the Elected Officials express their independent views and opinions which should help with healthy debates resulting what is best for our residents. He pointed out how that trustees have statutory authority and duty to make sure that the township is acting within its statutory authority. Trustee Carrabotta said that loans and debts of the State of Illinois have to be funded, that funding is becoming much more expensive and it is very important to watch the township's spending and budget. This situation might become even more drastic and Trustees' job is to guide the township through those problems and township goals.

Trustee Jones reported that she attended the Neighborhood Watch meeting on Wednesday, September 6th. She recommended that the newly elected Trustees attend the said meeting to find out what is happening in our community. She added that these meetings are very informative with attendance of Highway Commissioner Kazmierczak, Code Officer Samaan, Planning Commissioner Nankervis and Cook County Sheriff. The residents are voicing their opinions, concerns on several issues and asking questions.

Trustee Jones stated that on September 16th she attended the North Maine Fire Department Open House where residents were getting free flu shots, kids were getting familiar with Fire Department equipment and our OEM team were checking blood pressure and had presentations on CPR – "How to save a life in 2 minutes" and how to use the fire extinguisher properly. She also attended the Agency Funding Hearing and the MCYAF awards and congratulated the Recovery Connection and Marty Cook on the wonderful work they do in this program and saving lives.

Supervisor Morask reported that the new phone system is installed which now allows better access for our residents to our township services and our township. All employees receive a transcribed phone call messages in the computer and also a direct dial which helps to bypass our live person receptionist. Supervisor Morask mentioned that thanks to the transcribed message she received after hours she was able to help a few residents and included one in regards to flooding. She thanked Administrator Berman, her staff and Doriene Prorak for all the work in training on the new phone system.

Supervisor Morask pointed out that our reconstructed website is launched and the Board meetings are videotaped by Richard Lyons. On October 10th she along with Clerk Gialamas, Trustee Sweeney, Administrator Berman and Chief Deputy Tytko will be meeting with Granicus Systems to see other efficiencies and data that can be put online. Today's meeting with Granicus was postponed at request of agency. Supervisor Morask stated that all the Freedom of Information Act - FOIA requests are included now in the Board packets by request of Trustee Sweeney. She added that FOIA officers, township offices and Attorney Dowd are very busy with responding to recent FOIA requests. She pointed out that documents and records of Maine Township are subject to FOIA and we can comply with any of these requests.

Supervisor Morask reported that the Paychex log in program will start on October 2nd. This computer log in system will verify employees time, comp time, vacation and taxes. This new Paychex system will be saving many employees' time. She attended the 1st Agency Funding Hearing on September 19th. She noted that she spent hours responding to two trustees' emails regarding the process of Agency Funding Hearings. Supervisor Morask pointed out that our Township is very fiscally responsible and funding agencies is our core mission. She added that the applications for funding are streamlined and we fund agencies in need that service Maine Township residents.

Supervisor Morask congratulated Food Pantry on doing a great job and was a recipient of \$6,750 on August 12th.

Carol Langan, Food Pantry Director stated that she participated in the Vine Street BBQ Competition in Park Ridge and they donated their money to the Maine Township Food Pantry and Bear Necessities Pediatric Cancer Foundation. Supervisor Morask and Ms. Langan thanked the Vine Street BBQ for their very generous gift.

Supervisor Morask congratulated Marty Cook for his award and said that his award was a wonderful testament to the Recovery Connection program and our Township.

Supervisor Morask said that she has meeting scheduled next week with Administrator Berman and Dick Barton with respect to having social media presence for the Township through Facebook. She

thanked Doriene Prorak, Dagmar Rutzen and Michael Samaan for representing Maine Township at the North Maine Fire Department Open House. Supervisor Morask spoke that our Annual Community Garage Sale held on September 23rd is one of the most popular township events. Despite of very hot weather about 2,000 people participated and attended this year's Garage Sale. The proceeds from the garage sale of over \$5,000 will be donated to the Maine Township Food Pantry (25%) and Maine Township Summer Camp (75%). She thanked all the staff who worked for this year's garage sale and made it a big success.

Agenda Item: Attorney's Report

Attorney Dowd stated that he has been reviewing a number of continuing FOIA requests with FOIA committee. He has been working on a few different issues that was requested by Supervisor Morask and a few members of the Board.

Supervisor Morask added that Attorney Dowd has been issuing on legal opinions and answering Trustees questions and emails.

There was a question from the audience regarding if the Township went for a bid for the paychecks system.

Supervisor Morask answered that the Township needs to go for bids only if the project is over \$20,000. She explained the we did not hire a new company to upgrade a phone system. The upgrade, adding a new service was done with the present company that the Township uses, for under \$20,000. She added that three different vendors were interview.

There was a question from the audience regarding posting of job openings in the Township and the recent job opening in Food Pantry.

Supervisor Morask answered that any job that is under the township general fund is posted in the local newspaper and online. Supervisor Morask stated that open position in Food Pantry falls under General Assistance and doesn't require to be posted.

Agenda Item: Administrator's Report

Administrator Berman stated that the Maine Township Annual Garage Sale is a very important event. She complimented MaineStay department especially Ann Camarano for a great job she does organizing and manning this event. She added that it takes at least six months to plan this event which is wonderful and appreciated by our residents. She mentioned that the proceeds from the Garage Sale are distributed 75% to the Maine Township Summer Camp and 25% to the Maine Township Emergency Food Pantry. She also thanked all the sponsors for making this event worth it and all the employees helping with this year's Garage Sale.

Agenda Item: Personnel

None.

Agenda Item: Old Business, Approval of Closed Session minutes from March 28, 2017

Supervisor Morask presented Closed Session minutes from March 28, 2017 and asked if they can be taken out and placed into the regular minutes. She asked Clerk Gialamas to vote since he was a Trustee at that time and the current three Trustees are new on the Township Board.

Trustee Jones Motion to approve the Closed Session minutes from March 28, 2017 and file them with the regular Board minutes.

Clerk Gialamas Second.

Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows:

Clerk Gialamas Yes

Supervisor Morask Yes

Trustee Jones Yes

Trustee Carrabotta Abstain

Trustee McKenzie Abstain

Trustee Sweeney Abstain

Motion carried.

Agenda Item: Old Business, Discussion of Supervisor's Authority to hire General Assistance Employee
Please refer to video posted on line at www.maintownship.com under the Government tab and meeting agenda September 26th (as noted at the 1hr 29min).

Trustees Sweeney, Carrabotta and McKenzie disagreed with Supervisor Morask's hiring a new person under General Assistance. They agreed that Supervisor Morask did not have authority to hire an assistant director for the Food Pantry without discussion and a vote from the Board.

Supervisor Morask stated that township statute allows the supervisor to hire employees within the General Assistance Fund without Board approval as township attorney verified and she believes that the food pantry falls under General Assistance. She explained the need and responsibilities of an assistant director in the Maine Township Food Pantry with establishing a pilot program.

There were numerous questions from the audience and some comments regarding not advertising the job opening in the Food Pantry Department.

Trustees Sweeney, Carrabotta and McKenzie stated that the job opening should be posted and that it is against Illinois Township Code to define a food pantry as general assistance.

Trustees McKenzie, Carrabotta and Sweeney also disagreed with the legal opinions from Attorney Pelini and Attorney Dowd confirming Supervisor Morask's statement that the food pantry falls into general assistance. Trustee McKenzie and Trustee Carrabotta suggested to get another attorney's opinion

Trustees Carrabotta and Sweeney agreed with Trustee McKenzie suggestion.

Marsha Warnick, General Assistance Director suggested that the Trustees observe what General Assistance Department does on regular basis. She also pointed out that the General Assistance budget helps our residents to meet their needs.

Supervisor Morask gave a statement pointing out the importance of improved services provided by each department of Maine Township. She also indicated how fiscally responsible we are and have always been.

Supervisor Morask's statement in response to Trustee comments and public comment is encompassed at www.maintownship.com, September 26th Board meeting video (as noted at the 2:14:19 to 2:38:13).

Trustee Jones asked about a specific remedy for the concern about the hire that the three other Trustees that had expressed concern about (as noted at the 2hr 41min).

Trustee Carrabotta suggested that the board should be able to discuss the hire of the Assistant Director as it pertains to the need, publishing of the position, and financing of the position.

Trustee Sweeney asked for a thorough audit of the General Assistance department to look at the spending. She also suggested setting up the food pantry as a 501 C3. She also asked for information on how Food Pantry originally got set up under general assistance.

Supervisor Morask said we can't because we already have a legal audit.

See video (as noted at the 2hr 53min) as Supervisor Morask stated that bill pay is already part of the open meeting to the public.

Agenda Item: New Business, Report on Status of Granicus Presentation

Granicus presentation was postponed to October 10th at the request of agency.

Agenda Item: New Business, Discussion, attorney advice and possible vote of inclusion of Bill Pay review in the actual meeting agenda and thus subjecting it to requiring Clerk taking minutes/taping

Trustee Sweeney proposed that the Bill Pay review be included in the Board meeting agenda, be open to the public, recorded and the minutes should be taken on this meeting.

The Board discussed the possibility of reviewing bills to be open to the public and made their concerns regarding confidentiality of General Assistance clients.

Clerk Gialamas suggested to videotaping the review of the bills meeting.

Discussion was postponed to the next Board meeting.

Agenda Item: Closed Session
None.

Agenda Item: Adjournment

Trustee Carrabotta Motion to adjourn.
Trustee McKenzie Second.

All in favor.

Motion carried on a voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:33 p.m.

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Maine Township Clerk