

Maine Township Board Meeting November 28, 2017

Maine Township Board meeting has been videotaped.

For more detailed reports and discussions please refer to the recorded meeting at:

<http://mainetownship.com/government/meetings.shtml>

Indexed agenda at:

http://mainetownship.com/government/meetingagendas/agenda_17-11-28.pdf

Board Members Present: Trustees Jones, Carrabotta, McKenzie and Sweeney

Other Elected Officials Present: Supervisor Morask, Clerk Gialamas, Assessor Moylan Krey and Highway Commissioner Kazmierczak

Other in attendance: Dayna Berman, Denise Jajko, Elizabeth Coy, Richard Lyon, Marsha Warnick, Michael Samaan, Alexander Barton, Dagmar Rutzen, David Gnutek, Carol Langan, Dennis Martin, Jean Dietsch, Ryan McKenzie, Mindy Haglund, Marie Dachniwsky, Oksana Bukaczyk, Gary Slipke, Linda Slipke, Susan Culotta, Nick Kanehl, Marty Cook, Beth Penesis, Donna Adam, Todd Wessell, Jennifer Johnson, G.Noble, Armand Noble, Joseph Keenan, Adrienne Timm, Sharon McLaughlin, John McNabola and Annette Galante

Supervisor Morask called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m., Clerk Gialamas led the Pledge of Allegiance and called the roll.

Agenda Item: Approval of Minutes of October 24, 2017 Board Meeting

After review and discussion revisions to the proposed minutes were made.

Trustee Jones Motion to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the October 24, 2017 Board Meeting as amended.

Trustee Carrabotta Second.

Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows:

Supervisor Morask Yes

Trustee Jones Yes

Trustee Carrabotta Yes

Trustee McKenzie Yes

Trustee Sweeney Yes

Motion carried.

Agenda Item: Public Participation

Supervisor Morask stated that public participation is allowed on any item of new or old business and asked if there were any requests for public participation now.

Sharon McLaughlin, a resident of the unincorporated area since 1971, stated she had two reasons to speak at this meeting. She began by complimenting the Board on the way the Agenda and Board reports are available on the Maine Township's website. She also complimented the Maine Township's Code Enforcement Officer, Mike Samaan, on the wonderful job he does however he is not a garbage man. Ms. McLaughlin stated there is a problem with garbage in the area where she lives. There is no place to dispose of large items and these items end up in their parking spaces. She requested a letter written from Maine Township to the garbage company asking the garbage man to pick up any large items that have been placed in and around the parking spaces.

Supervisor Morask raised a question regarding an issue with the Republic contract picking up large items and spoke with other residents with a similar garbage problem.

Supervisor Morask stated she is planning on having a meeting with the president of Republic regarding the contract which is up for renewal shortly.

Ms. McLaughlin offered to be present at that meeting which Supervisor Morask agreed to and Ms. McLaughlin extended her appreciation for the Townships representation and assistance.

Agenda Item: Approval of General Assistance Expenditures

Supervisor Morask stated that the Bill Review began at 6:30 p.m. in an open meeting forum and the staff was available for questions.

Payrolls dated October 20, 2017, November 3, 2017 and November 17, 2017 and General Assistance checks #50958 through check #51017 in the amount of \$103,734.61.

Trustee Jones Motion to approve.

Trustee McKenzie Second

Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows:

Supervisor Morask Yes

Trustee Jones Yes

Trustee Carrabotta Yes

Trustee McKenzie Yes

Trustee Sweeney Yes

Motion carried.

Agenda Item: Approval of Road District Expenditures

Payrolls dated November 3, 2017 and November 17, 2017 and Road District checks #20057 through check #20114 in the amount of \$149,124.60.

Trustee Carrabotta Motion to approve.

Trustee Sweeney Second.

Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows:

Supervisor Morask Yes

Trustee Jones Yes

Trustee Carrabotta Yes

Trustee McKenzie Yes

Trustee Sweeney Yes

Motion carried.

Agenda Item: Approval of General Town Fund Expenditures

Payrolls dated November 3, 2017 and November 17, 2017 and General Town Fund checks #55430 through check #55511 in the amount of \$355,256.25.

Trustee Carrabotta Motion to approve.

Trustee McKenzie Second.

Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows:

Supervisor Morask Yes

Trustee Jones Yes

Trustee Carrabotta Yes

Trustee McKenzie Yes

Trustee Sweeney Yes

Motion carried.

Agenda Item: Mike Samaan/Code Enforcement Officer

Mike Samaan stated he has come across numerous properties where residents are putting out their garbage curbside when it is not garbage day. He stated that in the case of single-family houses he issues a warning and speaks with the resident to have them remove their garbage. He stated the streets, West Terrace Place, Sumac, and Robin Dr., have row houses, making it difficult to determine where the garbage is coming from. In these instances, he contacts the route supervisor at Republic Services to get the garbage picked up or he will remove it to discourage even more dumping. He reported that some people do not have an account with Republic Services. There is an Ordinance for owners of the property to have an account for garbage pick-up.

Mr. Samaan reported that this past month 127 warnings and 3 tickets were issued. The warnings issued were mostly for garbage. The other warnings were for branches out on the Township right of way, commercial vehicle parking, inoperative vehicles, and vehicle license plate violations.

Mr. Samaan stated one ticket issued was for not complying after ten days to remove branches in front of the resident's house. He explained with branch pickup over for the year, the resident is in violation of the Property Maintenance Code.

Mr. Samaan stated that the townships no parking snow route ordinance will begin to be enforced in the case of snow 2 inches or more. This ordinance helps the Highway Department keep the streets clean for residents as well as making it easier for them to do their job.

Agenda Item: Officials' Reports

Assessor Moylan Krey stated that with the retirement of Mary Swanson, she will be missed. She added that Ms. Swanson ran a wonderful program and hopes someone will be able to fill her shoes in the near future and maintain that program for the seniors.

Assessor Moylan Krey reported that since the soda tax is gone now, Cook County Board President, Preckwinkle is working on other avenues of saving money and one way is by getting rid of positions in the Board of Review which was a lifeline to the assessor's office in helping residents with their tax appeals. She said they will see how this plays out but it will be a difficult time for the office to get through a lot of appeals that they work with for the township residents.

Assessor Moylan Krey stated that she attended the TOI conference in Springfield and was awarded Elected Official of the Year. She was surprised and honored and attributed this to all the support she has in her office and the organization within the township that works for the residents. She added she is so proud to be involved in the township, loves her job and is very thankful for that.

Highway Commissioner Kazmierczak stated the Tax Levy he submitted has a 2% increase and it is based on the current increase in the consumer price index because not all costs are fixed. He reported that the Aqua project is still problematic. He added that 1,000 tons of salt is on hand for the winter preparation.

Clerk Gialamas congratulated Assessor Moylan Krey on winning the Elected Official of the Year award, a prestigious and well-deserved award. He congratulated all the staff, departments and people that won awards as well.

Clerk Gialamas reported that the TOI conference was very good this year. He added that he received good information and met some new clerks and got some good ideas from them.

Trustee Jones congratulated Assessor Moylan Krey on doing an outstanding job and the Assessor's Office. She commented that one of the top compliments the township gets is regarding the Assessor's office and the wonderful work they do and quality service they give at no cost.

Trustee Jones also added that the township received a total of eight awards and congratulated all the Maine Township award recipients. She attended the TOI conference which was very informative as usual and also attended the last Agency Funding Hearing on October 26th.

Trustee Carrabotta reported that he attended the TOI conference in Springfield. He congratulated all that won awards. He extended his appreciation for the time and effort made by staff on the preparations for the conference which made everything easy.

Trustee Carrabotta stated there were meetings and a variety of seminars to choose from and it was great working with everybody at the conference. He added that it was nice the township was accredited for doing continuing education when it comes to township law, township ordinance and statutes. We serve as a good example to other townships to be involved and keep informed on ever changing laws that apply and the responsibilities as township officials.

Trustee Carrabotta commented that the township looked wonderful there and he had a great time.

Trustee McKenzie stated she attended the TOI conference in Springfield. She went to the TOI meetings where she learned a lot. She added that it was a nice broad base of knowledge and able to choose between the different presentations. She appreciated being able to go there and all the organization that was involved.

Trustee McKenzie commented that she thought it was very nice to network with other trustees in other townships and find out what the differences are in other sections of Illinois. She thought it was very instructive as to what our township does very well and what we can do better.

Trustee McKenzie stated the Township does a lot of great things obviously since receiving eight awards and congratulated everybody who received those awards.

Trustee Sweeney stated she was happy to see all the recipients for the awards that the township won and made us all proud.

Trustee Sweeney stated she attended the TOI conference and there were so many different sessions and so much that you can learn about township code. She added that with the changes made such as the videotaping and board packets accessible on line, the board is moving more into a transparent environment. She commented that the residents want to see so that they understand what their taxpayer dollars are being used for. She is happy to participate with her fellow board members in that way.

Supervisor Morask congratulated all of the Maine Township winners of the TOI awards. She stated that Assessor Moylan Krey and her office does an outstanding job with assisting our residents.

Supervisor Morask stated that she is very proud of Marty Cook and his Recovery Connection program that was recognized at the TOI Conference with two awards: Best Overall Program and Best New Program. She pointed out how incredible and important this program is for our community. Supervisor Morask also noted that our Township received: The MaineStreamers Newcomers Presentation was recognized as an Innovative Senior Program of the Year, Marie Dachniwsky, MaineStreamers Program Coordinator was recognized as Senior Staff Member of the Year, Susan Moylan Krey, Maine Township Assessor was recognized as Elected Official of the Year, A photo of kindergarteners with Seniors at the 90-Plus Birthday Party was recognized as Best Photo of the Year, Kelsey Coy was recognized with the 2017 Youth Leadership Award and MaineStay Youth & Family Services was recognized with the 2017 Youth Organization Award. She added that Marsha Warnick, General Assistance Director was awarded from the TOI General Assistance Caseworkers Association for 20 Years of Dedicated Service to Providing General Assistance. Our Township was also recognized for having most Educational Credit Hours which is a testament to all our Board that we continue to learn.

Supervisor Morask stated that all three Agency Funding Hearings are finished. There were many worthwhile and deserving agencies. She added that allocations need to be awarded and some of the Trustees requested the discussion on this matter before the approval of these allocations.

Supervisor Morask reported that the new Paychex system is a huge success. Also, putting the Board packets online and developing an index system for video meetings is very helpful.

Supervisor Morask pointed out that tonight the estimated tax levies for General Town Fund and General Assistance and Road District have to be approved and added that we are not asking for any increase and keeping it flat.

Agenda Item: Attorney's Report

Attorney Dowd was not present due to personal issues.

Agenda Item: Administrator's Report

Administrator Berman has nothing to add to her written report.

Agenda Item: Personnel, Please reference item under New Business

Supervisor Morask stated that the Senior Director position will be discussed in New Business.

Agenda Item: Old Business, Authorization and vote on destruction of audiotape from March 22, 2016 Closed Session meeting

Clerk Gialamas asked for approval to destroy the tape from the March 22, 2016 Closed Session Meeting. He stated that the minutes of said meeting were approved and taken out from Closed Session on October 25, 2016.

Trustee Jones Motion to authorize for audiotape destruction of the March 22, 2016 Closed Session meeting.

Supervisor Morask 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, Clarification and potential Amendment of New Bill Pay Procedure

Supervisor Morask and Elected Officials agreed that the presented Agenda for Bill Pay is acceptable and they agreed that this meeting won't be videotaped but will be audio recorded.

Agenda Item: Old Business, Discussion/Creation of an Advisory Committee to research Property Tax Rebate

Supervisor Morask stated that after research done by the Assessor's office and Trustee McKenzie the Property Tax Rebate would not be as beneficial as originally thought due to administrative cost.

Supervisor Morask	Motion to remove the Creation of an Advisory Committee to research Property Tax Rebate.
Trustee Jones	Second.

Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows:

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

Motion carried.

Agenda Item: New Business, Discussion of Agency Funding

Supervisor Morask requested that the recommendations for Agency Funding allocations should be received by Friday, December 8th.

Supervisor Morask asked some Agencies representatives to reiterate their needs for funding.

Adrienne Timm on behalf of Center of Concern, Mindy Haglund on behalf of Older Adult Services/Home Delivered Meals, Joseph Keenan and Dirk Ahlbeck on behalf of Avenues to Independence, Maureen McDonnell on behalf of Peer Services and Jean Dietsch Park Ridge Resident spoke in front of the Board pleading and requesting funding. They explained the importance of those organizations helping our community and the importance of local funding needed.

Elected Officials discussed the responsibility of making decisions for these allocations. They pointed out that their goal is to make sure that these agencies provide programs for the Maine Township residents. The M-NASR agency was discussed for their services provided to our residents.

Agenda Item: New Business, 2017 Tax Levy Ordinance Town Fund/GA: Discussion

Supervisor Morask stated that the Board distribution had the proposed 2017 General Town Fund General Assistance and also Road District Tax Levies. She added that the cover letter for these Tax Levies was also included. She stated that the cover letter explains in detail the process of how the estimated tax levies have to be approved 20 days before the final approval of the Tax Levy Ordinance. The deadline to file the Tax Levy Ordinance with the Cook County Clerk's Office is the last Tuesday in December.

Supervisor Morask stated that the General Town Fund and General Assistance Tax Levy is proposed to keep it flat. She pointed out that the levy is an estimate of the final taxes received.

Supervisor Morask	Motion to determine property tax levy for General Town Fund and General Assistance to comply with Truth in Taxation law.
Trustee Jones	Second.

Discussion:

After much discussion with questions regarding the amount of proposed tax levy and reducing the original estimate of 5% with the final amount of \$5,311,881.00 the Trustees voted as follows;

Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows:

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

Motion carried.

Agenda Item: New Business, 2017 Tax Levy Ordinance Road & Bridge: Discussion
Supervisor Morask noted that Road District Levy is proposed with the increase of 2%.

After much discussion with questions regarding the amount of proposed tax levy for Road District, the Trustees requested changing the proposed estimate amount of \$2,551.962.00, after Highway Commissioner Kazmierczak stated he could live with keeping it flat.

Supervisor Morask	Motion to determine property tax levy for Road District to comply with Truth in Taxation law.
Trustee Jones	Second.

Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows:

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

Motion carried.

Agenda Item: New Business, Proposed Special Meeting Date (week of December 18th) for vote on Levy Ordinance

Supervisor Morask	Motion to schedule a Special Board Meeting for the purpose of approving 2017 Tax Levy Ordinances will be held on Tuesday, December 19 th at 7:00 p.m.
Trustee Carrabotta	Second.

Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows:

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

Motion carried.

Agenda Item: New Business, MaineStreamer's Director Selection/Discussion and vote

Supervisor Morask stated that after Mary Swanson retired there was an open Senior Director position.

Administrator Berman stated that Supervisor Morask and she received resumes and interviewed applicants. They recommend Marie Dachniwsky for this position. Ms. Dachniwsky is already working in the Senior Department and she is a very dedicated and qualified person who worked for Maine Township for 17 years. The entire Senior Department agreed that the four of them could do the required work, thus saving the Township \$113,000.00 by not filling Ms. Dachniwsky's job and by the decrease in associated health insurance costs.

Various Trustees voiced their strong approval of both the choice and the savings.

Supervisor Morask Motion to hire Marie Dachniwsky as Senior Director with a salary of \$64,873.00, with benefits and starting date December 4, 2017.

Trustee Carrabotta Second.

Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows:

Supervisor Morask Yes

Trustee Jones Yes

Trustee Carrabotta Yes

Trustee McKenzie Yes

Trustee Sweeney Yes

Motion carried.

Agenda Item: Closed Session

None.

Agenda Item: Adjournment

Trustee Jones Motion to adjourn.

Supervisor Morask Second.

All in favor.

Motion carried on a voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 p.m.

Maine Township Clerk