

MORAIN TOWNSHIP, LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
October 8, 2020, 5:30 PM

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. at Moraine Township's parking lot at 800 Central Avenue, Highland Park, and upon roll call the following members were present: Supervisor Anne Flanigan Bassi, Trustees Pablo Alvarez, Dwayne Douglas, Cindy Wolfson and Amy Zisook. Also present: Clerk Gail Feiger Brown, Moraine Township Pantry Plants Garden Manager Sam Piro, Melissa Septon (Blessings in a Backpack), Kristina Phillips (Career Resource Center), Karen Fay (Center for Enriched Living), and Moraine Township residents Janet Freed and Bill Laegeler.

Public Comment

None

Agency Presentations

- **Blessings in a Backpack** Melissa Septon
The Township was thanked for its support which helps fund weekend food backpack programs at Braeside, Green Bay, Indian Trail, Ravinia and Wayne Thomas elementary schools. 100% of the 120 students served are Moraine Township residents. Due to COVID-19, some bags are distributed to families at their homes and some are picked up at Oak Terrace School.
- **Career Resource Center (CRC)** Kristina Phillips
Due to COVID-19, CRC shut down in March, but re-opened in April offering their career counseling services virtually. CRC has been able to offer 5-7 programs per month, including a 2-week intensive program to launch careers in hospitality. CRC staff continues to work with a surge in clients needing jobs.
- **Center for Enriched Living (CEL)** Karen Fay
The Township was thanked for its grant which provides scholarships for Moraine Township residents participating in programs and services for individuals with developmental disabilities. Last year, CLE served 31 Moraine Township residents. Due to COVID-19, CLE closed for one week in March, then re-opened with 50 virtual programs. CLE currently offers both virtual and in-person services.

Pantry Plants Garden Report Sam Piro

Pantry Plants Garden Manager Sam Piro reported that due to COVID-19, only six families were able to participate in the garden, in order to safely maintain social distance. The Township provided gift certificates for families to purchase plants from Home Depot. There was some vandalism this year, necessitating repair of the gate and installation of a lock. For safety reasons, only one volunteer could work in the garden at a time. The crops were robust and plentiful for the Food Pantry. Many thanks to the following who made the garden a success: Master Gardeners Linda Mihel and Sandy Washburn, the Park District of Highland Park, Doris Osman, Joel Schneider, and Fortino Tolentino.

Approval of Minutes

Trustee Zisook moved, seconded by Trustee Wolfson, to approve the September 24, 2020 Regular Board Meeting Minutes. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Approval of Bills

Trustee Douglas moved, seconded by Trustee Alvarez, Approval of the bills for the period September 24-October 8, 2020 in the following amounts: \$14,446.35 General Assistance Fund, \$33,027.37 Town Fund. Voting Aye by Roll Call Vote: Supervisor Bassi, Trustees Alvarez, Douglas, Wolfson and Zisook; voting Nay: none.

Action Item

- **Resolution setting Elected Officials compensation for May 2021 to May 2025**

Trustee Douglas moved, seconded by Trustee Zisook, approval of a Resolution setting Elected Officials compensation for May 2021 to May 2025. Voting Aye by Roll Call Vote: Supervisor Bassi, Trustees Alvarez, Douglas, Wolfson and Zisook; voting Nay: none.

Reports

Assessor's Report Anne Flanigan Bassi

The Assessor staff is participating in Lake County Board of Review Zoom teleconference hearings on assessment appeals.

Supervisor's Report Anne Flanigan Bassi

- Trustees were given service reports for July, 2019 through September, 2020. There has been a significant increase in Food Pantry applications and usage. Extra grocery gift cards were distributed to struggling clients.
- Trustees were given a report on Emergency Assistance.
- Trustees were given a five-year summary report of Northshore School District 112 free and reduced-price school meals (FRAM) program.
- The plexiglass installation in the office and Pantry has been completed.
- Ireland Heating & Air Conditioning Co. of Highland Park was awarded the contract to perform the HVAC retrofit. The work will take approximately two weeks to complete after materials are ordered.
- Supervisor Bassi and Administrator Sanela Abazovic are working on the federal CARES act reimbursement submission to Lake County.

Latino Advisory Committee Report

No report

Food Insecurity Issues Report

No report

Food Pantry Report Anne Flanigan Bassi

- Trustees were given a report of food usage. Food distribution is increasing weekly, as well as the number of weekly deliveries.
- Thanks to the Highland Park Police Department for delivering 97 bags of food through their food drive held on October 6.
- Food Pantry clients will not be given grocery gift cards in November as they will receive an extra Thanksgiving meal with fixings.

Lake County Coordinated Transportation Services Committee (LCCTSC) Report

No report

Human Relations Advisory Group Report (HRAG)

No report

Cemetery Report Cindy Wolfson

- Trustee Wolfson and Cemetery Manager Donna Novickas are researching the feasibility of a cremains garden at Mooney Cemetery.
- Stonehugger Cemetery Restoration, Inc. is due to arrive on October 19 to make needed repairs.

Old Business

- **Levy** Anne Flanigan Bassi

Supervisor Bassi and Trustees discussed the 2020 Tax Levy, for taxes to be collected in 2021. With taxpayers suffering through unprecedented economic times, Trustees concurred with Supervisor Bassi's recommendation to reduce the Levy by \$35,000.00.

New Business

- **2021 Regular Board Meeting Schedule** Gail Feiger Brown

Trustees were given a draft of the 2021 Regular Board Meeting Schedule. The Schedule will be approved at a future Board Meeting.

- **Phyllis Santullano Holiday Drive** Gail Feiger Brown

Clerk Brown and community volunteer Sue Kach are co-chairing the annual Holiday Drive. Due to COVID-19 safety concerns, sponsorship and distribution of the gifts will be different. Families of District 112 and HPHS students who qualify for free and reduced-price meal program will be invited by the school districts to participate.

Executive Session

None

Adjournment

With no further business to conduct, Trustee Douglas moved, seconded by Trustee Alvarez that the meeting be adjourned at 6:55 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Feiger Brown, Moraine Township Clerk