

MORAIN TOWNSHIP, LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
April 8, 2021 7:00 PM

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. remotely via Zoom teleconference.

Upon roll call the following members were present: Supervisor Anne Flanigan Bassi (present at the Moraine Township office), and Trustees Pablo Alvarez, Mark Haggarty, Cindy Wolfson and Amy Zisook (all attending remotely).

Also present: Assessor Mark Lindsay (attending remotely), Clerk Gail Feiger Brown (present at the Moraine Township office), and Moraine Township residents Christine Peschier, Nancy Chausow Shafer, Naomi Wexler, and Moraine Township Ethics Commission Chair Keith Brin (all attending remotely).

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Ethics Commission Report Cindy Wolfson

The Ethics Commission met on April 5. The Ethics Ordinance will be posted on the Moraine Township website along with a link to an email that will go to members of the Ethics Commission. Trustee Wolfson is currently serving as Ethics Advisor. Trustee Haggarty will become Ethics Advisor when the new term for Elected Officials begins on May 17.

Approval of Minutes

Trustee Zisook moved, seconded by Trustee Haggarty, to approve the March 18, 2021 Regular Board Meeting Minutes. Voting Aye by Roll Call Vote: Supervisor Bassi, Trustees Alvarez, Haggarty, Wolfson and Zisook; voting Nay: none.

Approval of Bills

Trustee Zisook moved, seconded by Trustee Haggarty, Approval of the bills for the period March 19-April 8, 2021 in the following amounts: \$9,435.41 General Assistance Fund, \$30,489.32 Town Fund. Voting Aye by Roll Call Vote: Supervisor Bassi, Trustees Alvarez, Haggarty, Wolfson and Zisook; voting Nay: none.

Action Item

Approval of Emergency Rental Assistance Fund Agreement

Trustee Alvarez moved, seconded by Trustee Zisook, Approval of an Emergency Rental Assistance Fund Agreement. Voting Aye by Roll Call Vote: Supervisor Bassi, Trustees Alvarez, Haggarty, Wolfson and Zisook; voting Nay: none.

Reports

Assessor's Report

No report

Supervisor's Report Anne Flanigan Bassi

- Trustees were given the report of Township services from January, 2020 through March, 2021. The number of incoming calls have increased, with queries about VITA assistance, COVID-19 vaccines, and child care resources. Door-to-Door van

rides are increasing. Food Pantry numbers are higher due to five Tuesdays in March.

- Trustees were given an Emergency Assistance Report. The Township has disbursed almost \$87,000.00 to residents in emergency assistance since the start of the pandemic.
- The City of Highland Park held a COVID-19 vaccination event at Highland Park Country Club today, on April 8. Thanks to Staff Lupe Somerville for transporting seniors living in Peers Senior Housing to the Country Club for their vaccinations, using the Township van. Thanks to Staff Linda Contreras and Lupe Somerville for calling senior clients on Good Friday who don't live in city housing to get them appointments at the event.
- Supervisor Bassi and Trustee Zisook had a call with Alpina Patel at Jewel Osco on April 7 about partnering with Jewel Osco to host a COVID-19 vaccination site for Pantry clients and volunteers in late April or early May. Supervisor Bassi and Trustee Zisook are working on the specifics of the event.
- The VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) program continues to be inundated with submissions.
- Supervisor Bassi expressed her condolences on behalf of the Board of Trustees to the family of Muriel Lederer, who passed away on March 31. Muriel's children, Bill Lederer, Jill Doherty, and Peggy Blum, have established an unrestricted endowment fund at the Moraine Township Charitable Fund, Inc., in their mother's memory. Muriel was a highly respected community leader. The Township is grateful for the family's trust in the Township. Thanks to Trustee Wolfson for sending thank-you notes for the \$2,700.00 that has been contributed to date.
- Supervisor Bassi, Staff Linda Contreras and Lupe Somerville interviewed a candidate for a paid summer internship at the Township, and will offer her the position. She is bilingual and a rising senior at Illinois State University. She will work at the Township full-time from mid-May to mid-August to help us re-open the Pantry, and help staff and backfill vacations.
- Thanks to Trustees Wolfson and Zisook and to Clerk Brown for their assistance with the volunteer appreciation swag bags for the Annual Town Meeting. Thanks to Highland Pop, Love That Spice and Sally's Nuts for selling us goodies at a discount that we delivered to over 150 households.
- Thanks to former Moraine Township Trustee Bryna Gamson, who has been maintaining the Excel workbook of donations since the onset of the pandemic. Over the last year, the Township has received unsolicited donations for the Charitable Fund of almost \$450,000.00. Adding pass-through donations to the Holiday Drive and Oak Terrace the total is over \$492,000.00. We're grateful to a generous community that has enabled us to care for our residents during this challenging time.

Latino Advisory Committee Report

No report

Food Insecurity Issues Report

No report

Food Pantry Report Anne Flanigan Bassi

- Trustees were given a Pantry usage report. Usage was down during the schools' Spring Break. Deliveries have been increasing. Supervisor Bassi is meeting with staff to develop procedures for re-opening the Pantry for shopping.
- The Braeside School We-Spirit Club of 3rd, 4th and 5th graders honored Moraine Township on the one-year anniversary of the onset of the pandemic. Students sent lovely and heartfelt thank you notes, which Supervisor Bassi shared with Trustees.

Human Relations Advisory Group Report (HRAG)

Clerk Brown attended the HRAG meeting on March 25. Everyone is reminded to attend the virtual Awards event to be held April 22. It was a pleasure serving as HRAG liaison for the past 7 ½ years.

Cemetery Report

No report

Old Business

None

New Business

- **Changing Board Meeting Dates** Supervisor Bassi
A discussion was held about changing upcoming meeting dates prior to the new Board of Trustees taking office on May 17. Trustees concurred with the following changes. The April 29 Board Meeting is hereby cancelled. The Board Meeting scheduled for May 13 has been changed to May 5 at 5:30 p.m.
- **Re-opening the office and Food Pantry** Supervisor Bassi
A discussion was held about re-opening the office and Food Pantry to the staff and public. Staff has been mostly working from home, but will likely return to being present at the office full-time on May 1. Staff with child-care issues may have more flexible work from home options. The major HVAC improvements and plexiglass dividers at the office will ensure COVID-19 safety. Further, all staff will be fully vaccinated by June 1. The public, volunteers and staff will wear masks in the office, but staff will be permitted to remove their masks when they are seated at their desks. The Food Pantry will re-open to clients in July. Supervisor Bassi is working with staff to develop re-opening procedures.

Executive Session

None

Adjournment

With no further business to conduct, Supervisor Bassi hereby declared the meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, _____ Gail Feiger Brown, Moraine Township Clerk