

**MORAIN TOWNSHIP, LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
February 25, 2021 5:30 PM**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 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 (attending remotely).

Also present: Clerk Gail Feiger Brown, Assessor Mark Lindsay and Moraine Township resident Nancy Chausow Shafer (all attending remotely).

Public Comment

There was no comment from the public.

Approval of Minutes

Trustee Haggarty moved, seconded by Trustee Zisook, to approve the February 11, 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 Wolfson moved, seconded by Trustee Alvarez, Approval of the bills for the period February 12-February 25, 2021 in the following amounts: \$7,339.54 General Assistance Fund, \$31,205.97 Town Fund. Voting Aye by Roll Call Vote: Supervisor Bassi, Trustees Alvarez, Haggarty, Wolfson and Zisook; voting Nay: none.

Action Items

Acceptance of \$40,000.00 grant from the Healthcare Foundation of Highland Park

Trustee Zisook moved, seconded by Trustee Alvarez, acceptance of a \$40,000.00 grant from the Healthcare Foundation of Highland Park. Voting Aye by Roll Call Vote: Supervisor Bassi, Trustees Alvarez, Haggarty, Wolfson and Zisook; voting Nay: none.

Motion to post Amended Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Fiscal Year 2020-2021

Trustee Wolfson moved, seconded by Trustee Zisook, to post the Amended Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Fiscal Year 2020-2021. Voting Aye by Roll Call Vote: Supervisor Bass, Trustees Alvarez, Haggarty, Wolfson and Zisook; voting Nay: none.

Motion to post Tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Fiscal Year 2021-2022

Trustee Wolfson moved, seconded by Trustee Zisook, to post the Tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Fiscal Year 2021-2022. Voting Aye by Roll Call Vote: Supervisor Bassi, Trustees Alvarez, Haggarty, Wolfson and Zisook; voting Nay: none.

Reports

Assessor's Report Mark Lindsay

- Assessor Lindsay reported on assessment appeals and hearings in the Township. 20% (2234) of resident real estate parcels filed appeals for a 17.8% reduction in value. They ended up receiving a 3.6% reduction in value, or 20% of what they

asked requested. 29.4% (189) of commercial parcels filed appeals for a 19% reduction. They ended up receiving a 5.65% reduction in value.

- Assessor staff has been responding to inquiries about commercial vacancy reductions and from seniors needing assistance completing the online senior freeze application. None of the Assessor Staff are able to assist Spanish-speaking residents and Lake County does not have Spanish phone assistance for residents.
- The Assessor staff is working drawing, valuing and entering into the system 5 new commercial projects in downtown Highland Park, once the projects are substantially complete. They are also working on entering condominium conversions, and neighborhood analysis.

Supervisor's Report Anne Flanigan Bassi

- Trustees were given an emergency assistance report. Two new applications have been received, and five more are in the process of being submitted.
- The Door-to-Door Van Program has provided rides for clients to receive COVID-19 vaccinations, within the boundaries of the program.
- The VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) program is processing many more returns than in prior years. The process to complete is much more labor and time intensive due to remote procedures.
- Supervisor Bassi is applying for a \$100,000 grant for rent assistance from Lake County.

Latino Advisory Committee Report Pablo Alvarez

- Trustee Alvarez has found a volunteer translator to assist Assessor Lindsay.
- On February 18, Family Service's Nuestro Center presented a program in Spanish featuring Lupe Rodriguez of Rosalind Franklin Medical School about COVID-19 vaccines, and which was attended by several committee members.
- Trustee Alvarez presented information about Moraine Township at a college preparatory meeting for parents at Highland Park High School.
- Supervisor Bassi and Trustee Alvarez met with Ana Yankelev, from the Lake County Community Health Ambassador program on February 5.

Food Insecurity Issues Report Amy Zisook

- Trustee Zisook and volunteers prepared and delivered 150 1-gallon snack bags to Highland Park High School. Trustee Alvarez added that students were coming into the building and are taking the snack bags.

Food Pantry Report Anne Flanigan Bassi

- Trustees were given a Food Pantry usage report. Almost 100% of residents using the Pantry are now registered, up from less than 50% when we initially converted to drive-through. Thanks to Door-to-Door Van Driver Ralph Ortiz and to volunteers Stuart and Marlene Senescu for delivering food to 45 households. Clients were called and asked to shovel their walkways for the safety of staff delivering food.
- Thanks to Shari Marcus for her donation of \$1,181.00 from her Teas to Go fundraiser on behalf of the Pantry. This event replaced her pre-pandemic annual bake sale. Shari is a long-time volunteer at the Pantry.

- Thanks to the Highland Park Women's Club for offering to donate winners' proceeds from their upcoming March 2 bingo tournament.
- Thanks to Highland Park Hospital for collecting diapers and cleaning supplies.
- Thanks to the Junior League of Evanston for their donation of \$10,000.00.
- Thanks to Ravinia School for their donation of 75 pizza coupons, which were given to Pantry clients on February 23, and for their \$350.00 donation.

Human Relations Advisory Group Report (HRAG)

No report

Cemetery Report

No report

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Executive Session

None

Adjournment

With no further business to conduct, Supervisor Bassi hereby declared the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Feiger Brown, Moraine Township Clerk