

MORaine TOWNSHIP, LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
May 27, 2021 5:30 PM

Meeting called to order at 5:30 pm.

Attending via video conference: Moraine Township Trustees Pablo Alvarez, Mark Haggarty, Nancy Chausow Shafer, Christine Peschier.

Also attending Moraine Township Clerk Naomi Wexler (present at the township office), and attending via video conference Assessor Mark Lindsay.

Joining the meeting via video conference Moraine Township Supervisor Anne Flanigan Bassi, who experienced technical issues, briefly joined the meeting at 5:45 pm, had additional technical issues and rejoined after the assessor's report.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Approval of Minutes

Trustee Nancy Chausow Shafer moved, seconded by Trustee Mark Haggarty, to approve minutes from board meeting of May 5, 2021. Voting Aye by roll call vote: Trustees Alvarez, Haggarty, Shafer, Peschier. Voting Nay: none. **The motion passed.**

Approval of Bills

Trustee Nancy Chausow Shafer moved, seconded by Trustee Christine Peschier, to approve bills for the period May 6 to May 27, 2021 in the amount of \$230,465.64 for Town Fund, \$27,892.87 for General Assistance. Voting Aye by roll call vote: Trustees Alvarez, Haggarty, Shafer, Peschier. Voting Nay: none. **The motion passed.**

Reports

Assessor's Report – Assessor Mark Lindsay

Moraine Township 2021 Property Tax Assessment Books will close on June 1, with anticipated Lake County publication date of July 1. Assuming a July 1 assessment publication, the 30-day Illinois statutory appeal process would close August 1. Board of Review hearings will probably begin around August 16 as a hybrid model combining on-line and in-person hearings.

The County had 4,189 PTAB (Property Tax Appeals Board) appeals for 2020 assessments, representing 20% of all Board of Review decisions. As a reference point, there were 1,900 PTAB appeals in 2019.

The Township's estimates correctly reflect market value to a factor of .9994, based on 2021 home sales.

Supervisor's Report – Supervisor Anne Flanigan Bassi

- 15-Month Service Report was distributed to trustees.

- Emergency Assistance report was distributed to trustees. The FERA (Federal Emergency Rent Assistance) grant has almost reached 70% spent. The program has been very helpful for struggling residents and the Township will submit a request an additional \$150,000.
- Emergency Assistance has been distributed from four sources: A 2020 \$15,000 federal grant through Lake County, Township General Assistance Fund (Township tax dollars), Moraine Township Charitable Fund, Inc., a 501c3 not-for-profit funded with donations from the public, and a 2021 \$100,000 federal grant under FERA (Federal Emergency Rent Assistance) Program through Lake County.
- Personnel changes: Carol Pomerantz, who graciously stayed on to help with phone answering and resident assistance after her fall resignation as volunteer coordinator, resigned as of the end of May, and Summer Intern Trinity Garcia started May 17. In July, Luis Gonzalez will assume additional duties in the Food Pantry and with resident assistance in addition to his van driving responsibilities.
- Supervisor Bassi has received renewal rates from Blue Cross/Blue Shield for employee health insurance for plan year August 1, 2021 to July 31, 2022, as well as quotes from other health insurance providers, and is also exploring the possibility of “piggybacking” on the City of Highland Park employee health insurance plan.
- The Township VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) Program finished May 17, the final date for taxpayers to file 2020 income tax returns. 20 volunteers completed over 260 tax returns for low- and moderate-income taxpayers.
- Supervisor Bassi and VITA program Co-Coordinator Donna Novickas are working on an application for a federal grant for the 2022 VITA filing season (2021 tax returns).
- A Moraine Township newsletter is at the printer now and will be mailed early June.
- The audit for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2021, as well as the annual IRS Form 990 and Illinois AG-990.

FOOD PANTRY

- Food pantry usage report was distributed to Trustees.
- Staff and Russian-speaking volunteer are making wellness calls to clients and letting them know about the July 7 Pantry re-opening and hours of operation.
- Staff and volunteers will do a dry run of soft opening operations on June 1 to test a system for limiting the number of clients in the Pantry at any one time and expedite their time for each visit to accommodate all clients.

Latino Advisory Committee Report

No report.

Food Insecurity Issues Report

No report.

Pantry Garden Report – Anne Flanigan Bassi

- Seven Food Pantry clients will be participating in the garden with their own plots this summer. They will receive gift cards to purchase seedlings.
- Two Township residents (not pantry clients) would also like plots. Since plots are available, they will be given plots for this year only but will not receive gift cards.
- Six new volunteers were found to assist Sam Piro, lead garden volunteer, and Linda Mihel and Sandy Washburn, volunteer Master Gardeners.

Human Relations Advisory Group Report (HRAG)

No report.

Cemetery Report – Anne Flanigan Bassi

Sometime this fall former Trustee Cindy Wolfson and part-time cemetery staff Donna Novickas will make the presentation they made to the prior board about the possible sale of cremation plots near the rain garden.

Old Business

None

New Business

- Mark Haggarty indicated he might be able to facilitate services of legal counsel for residents wishing to enroll in the DACA program through his network. Pablo Alvarez stated that the North Suburban Legal Clinic also provides DACA services to the community. Caseworker Lupe Summerville will be advised about the availability of these resources.
- The Board discussed HPHS summer school food bags transition from former Trustee Amy Zisook. Trustee Christine Peschier agreed to be the point person for this program; scheduled drop off at the High School is June 11th.
- June 10th board meeting will occur in person. Naomi Wexler is unable to attend; Deputy Clerk Sanela Abazovic will be asked to cover the meeting.

Executive Session

None

Adjournment

Supervisor Bassi declared the meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Naomi Wexler, Moraine Township Clerk