

MORAINES TOWNSHIP, LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
August 19, 2021

Meeting called to order at 5:35 pm by Supervisor Anne Flanigan Bassi

The following Board Members were in attendance: Supervisor Anne Flanigan Bassi, Trustees Pablo Alvarez and Mark Haggarty.

Trustee Nancy Chausow Shafer, arrived at 5:44 pm.

Absent: Trustee Christine Peschier.

Also in attendance: Clerk Naomi Wexler, Pantry Garden Coordinator Sam Piro, and Videographer Evelyn Gehrig.

Pantry Garden Report by Sam Piro, Head Volunteer

This is the Garden's 13th year and the second under COVID protocols. Thanks to the Park District for partnering with the Township to make the land available, and to Park District staff for annual plowing.

Twelve families participated with individual plots this year, some using up to 3 plots each. The Township provided gift cards to families to purchase seedlings.

Seven food pantry plots have generated at least 30 pounds of produce each week, and most family plots are thriving.

Shout-out to Township staff and garden volunteers who make the garden possible.

The Board expressed its gratitude to Sam Piro, head volunteer, and Master Gardeners Sandy Washburn and Linda Mihel, for their many years of dedication to make this effort a success.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Approval of Minutes

Trustee Alvarez moved, seconded by Trustee Haggarty, to approve minutes from the board meeting July 13, 2021. **The motion passed by voice vote.**

Approval of Bills

Trustee Shafer moved, seconded by Trustee Alvarez, to approve bills for the period July 14 to August 19, 2021 in the amount of \$94,139.67 for Town Fund and \$29,058.83 for General Assistance Fund.

Voting Aye by roll call vote: Supervisor Bassi and Trustees Alvarez, Haggarty, and Shafer. Voting Nay: none. **The motion passed.**

Action Items:

- Trustee Shafer moved, seconded by Trustee Haggarty, approval of Intergovernmental Agreement between Moraine Township and County of Lake to administer up to \$200,000 of Federal Emergency Rental Assistance for Moraine Township residents who have experienced economic hardship due to COVID-19.

Voting Aye by roll call vote: Supervisor Bassi and Trustees Alvarez, Haggerty, and Shafer.

Voting Nay: none.

The motion passed.

Reports

Assessor's Report: Mark Lindsay, Assessor

Written report from assessor was distributed.

The appeal period ended on Monday, August 16th for Moraine Township. There was a total of 1,404 appeals, or 10.6% of 13,173 total parcels. There were 2,223 appeals in 2020. We are in the third year of the four-year assessment cycle and appeals tend to decline through the four year cycle. West Deerfield Township and Moraine Township have the highest number of appeals in the county. This is due to a few factors: high home values attract lawyers seeking lucrative appeals; relative uniqueness of homes allows for subjective valuation.

Supervisor's Report: Anne Flanigan Bassi, Supervisor

- Supervisor Bassi introduced Evelyn Gehrig, our new volunteer videographer. Evelyn is also our volunteer "webmaster", and is working on the new website for the Township.
- July 31, 2021 report on quarterly bank balances was distributed to the board.
- 15-month service report was distributed to the Board.
- Emergency Assistance report was distributed to trustees.
- Supervisor Bassi submitted the 2021 interim report to the Healthcare Foundation of Highland Park for the van grant.
- The website team concluded the best platform for the new website is Squarespace. Supervisor, staff, trustees, assessor, former trustees (as volunteers) and others are working on text and photos for the new website.
Volunteer Marketing Professional Ashley Heaton is working with volunteer Graphic Designer on redesigning the Township's logo.
- Supervisor Bassi attended the Highland Park intergovernmental partners meeting on July 14.
- Supervisor Bassi and Case Worker attended TOI (Townships of Illinois) General Assistance training in Rockford on July 16.
- Moraine Township Charitable Fund, Inc. (also known as Community Chest), a not-for-profit corporation separate from Moraine Township government, received a \$100,000 check from the Sharon Northrup Trust as an unrestricted bequest from the estate.
The directors of the NFP will have a zoom meeting next week to learn about foundations and possibly investing these funds to provide revenue for future years.
- Thanks to Trustee Shafer for attending the Lake County Zoom Paratransit meeting.
- Thanks to Trustee Shafer for attending Lake County's Domestic Violence Coordinating Committee as the Township's liaison.
- Thanks to Trustee Shafer for staffing a Township table at Highland Park's 2021 National Night Out on August 3.
- Thanks to Volunteer Coordinator Sara Hoffman and Summer Intern Trinity Garcia (on her last day of with the Township) for staffing a Township table at the Highwood Wednesday night festival August 4, 2021.
- We received a wonderful note of appreciation from the family of a deceased van rider.

- IRS sent a hand-written note of appreciation for the Township's Herculean effort on the VITA program this past tax season. Kudos to Donna Novickas and Ron Altman, program co-coordinators with Supervisor Flanigan Bassi, and our amazing team of 20 volunteers.
- Our attorney, Jim Hartman, will attend the next board meeting to introduce himself and answer trustee questions.

Latino Advisory Committee Report - Trustee Pablo Alvarez

No report.

Food Pantry Report: Supervisor Anne Flanigan Bassi

- Report on usage of re-opened Pantry. In addition to increase in SNAP benefits, clients with school-age children have now received retroactive EBT (Electronic Benefit Transfer) summer lunch food payments in a lump sum for the summer. Staff believes these factors might indicate less food insecurity at this time.
- The Pantry is purchasing a new refrigerator and freezer.
- Food Pantry Coordinator Linda Contreras, Volunteer Coordinator Sara Hoffman and Supervisor Flanigan Bassi will meet next week to discuss resuming store donation pick-ups.

Cemetery Report – Trustee Shafer

No report

Transportation Report – Trustee Shafer

Lake County Transportation Committee is developing a countywide paratransit system which will be run through Pace. It will likely not replace Moraine Township's van service, but can supplement our service during hours the van does not operate.

Old Business

The Board discussed draft electronic attendance rules. The consensus was to add a provision to the rules limiting any one trustee's use of the policy to two meetings in a 12-month period.

New Business

There was no new business.

Executive Session

There was no executive session.

Adjournment

Trustee Alvarez moved, seconded by Trustee Haggarty, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed by a voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Naomi Wexler, Moraine Township Clerk