

MORAIN TOWNSHIP, LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
October 14, 2021

Meeting called to order at 5:30 pm by Supervisor Anne Flanigan Bassi.

The following Board Members were in attendance on site: Supervisor Anne Flanigan Bassi, Trustees Pablo Alvarez, Mark Haggarty, Christine Peschier and Nancy Chausow Shafer. Also in attendance on site: Deputy Clerk Sanela Abazovic and Bobbie Hinden (Family Focus). Attending via video conference: residents Janet Freed and Ginny Schulte, Kristina Phillips (Career Resource Center) and Megan Powell-Filler (PADS).

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Agency Presentations

Bobbie Hinden, Family Focus

The Right From The Start (RFTS) program for prenatal to 3 year-olds currently has 7 parent educators (all vaccinated), 5 are bi-lingual. They have partnered with Lake County Health Department on coordinated intake referrals for home visits, a program partially funded by a state grant. Their virtual case load was up to 174, but has returned to in-person over the last few months and is lower. RFTS currently includes 40 prenatal families and a waiting list.

Kristina Phillips, Career Resource Center

During the pandemic, CRC pivoted to virtual services and served 30 Moraine Township residents. They obtained a Rivers Casino grant for a virtual Boot Camp and scholarships for clients. Traditional job seekers have needed a lot more support for wrap around social service referrals during the last 18 months.

Megan Powell-Filler, PADS Lake County

PADS pivoted their services from the rotating site model to hotel-based and are serving more people. In February, they housed 250 people in hotels (vs. 90-110 in prior years). Caseloads are heavy as they house more people per night who stay longer than in the past.

For this fall-winter season, they are using a hybrid model with both hotels and up to 20 people in a congregate setting. They hope to return to the rotating site model by October 2022.

Walk-ins are not allowed at the congregate settings, but local Police Departments have site locations and are authorized to drop people off as needed. PADS provides transportation back to their office during the day and for intake.

PADS caseworkers make site visits when alerted to the presence of homeless people in the community, do intake and provide transportation.

Approval of Minutes

Trustee Peschier moved, seconded by Trustee Alvarez, to approve minutes from the board meeting September 23, 2021. Trustee Haggarty asked that the spelling of his name be corrected in several places in the minutes. **The motion passed by voice vote.**

Approval of Bills

Trustee Haggarty moved, seconded by Trustee Shafer, to approve bills for the period September 24 to October 14, 2021 in the amount of \$36,441.09 for Town Fund and \$37,187.05 for General Assistance Fund.

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

Action Items:

- Trustee Shafer moved, seconded by Trustee Peschier, appointment of Township Administrator Sanela Abazovic as Moraine Township Deputy Clerk. **The motion passed by voice vote.**

Reports

Assessor's Report

No report.

Supervisor's Report: Anne Flanigan Bassi, Supervisor

- The Township's September 30, 2021 bank balance report was distributed to trustees.
- The September 2021 15-month service report was distributed to trustees.
- The Emergency Assistance report was distributed to trustees.
- Three returning CAC volunteers, plus 2 bi-lingual staff members and an amazing 5 new CAC volunteers are training with CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid) to participate in the Township's program to help residents enroll for health insurance on the Federal Marketplace under the ACA (Affordable Care Act). We are planning to do most appointments with enrollees in-person this year if they are vaccinated, and are preparing procedures for both in-person and remote appointments.
- Supervisor Bassi renewed the Township Insurance Broker's License which is required to enable the Township to supervise volunteer CACs in the health insurance enrollment program under the Affordable Care Act.
- The Township was notified that we were awarded a \$6,700.00 VITA Grant to offset 2022 program costs. Co-coordinator Donna Novickas and Supervisor Bassi will meet October 15 to prepare and submit an amended budget and completed contract to IRS.
- Supervisor Bassi distributed the NSSD 112 Low Income Students by School for the 2021-2022 school year.
- New signs, magnets and door lettering has been installed with the new Township logo.
- Supervisor Bassi and volunteer Cindy Wolfson are working through all the text for the new website; Supervisor Bassi, website designer Evelyn Gherig and volunteer Ashley Heaton are refining the navigation and organization of the site.
- Supervisor Bassi created in-house Charitable Fund letterhead with the new logo.
- The Township hosted a farewell lunch for van driver, Matt Jennings, on September 27, 2021. Matt is moving to Wisconsin.
- On October 6, Pablo Alvarez brought all of the Highland Park High School Counselors to the Township for a tour and information on how the Township can help students and families experiencing difficult times.

- On October 8, Trustee Peschier, Food Pantry and Transportation Coordinator Contreras and Supervisor Bassi presented information about Township services to District 112 Counselors and Social Workers.
- Supervisor Bassi attended the First Bank of Highland Park Community Advisory Committee meeting on October 12.
- Supervisor Bassi attended the Highland Park Intergovernmental Partner's meeting on October 13.

Latino Advisory Committee Report

- The committee will meet virtually on October 21.
- Highland Park Mayor Nancy Rotering appointed Council Member Andrés Tapia as liaison to Moraine Township Latino Advisory Committee.

Sunset Food Fundraiser: Trustee Mark Haggarty

- Trustee Haggarty, Supervisor Bassi and Cindy Wolfson met with Frank Lomoro, Vice President of Operations for Sunset Foods, on October 5 about the annual fundraiser. The event will be held December 3, 4, 5. A new \$100 PLU is added, and Sunset will allow posting of the flyer on the plexiglass at checkout stations. Trustee Haggarty will work with volunteer graphic designer Steve Zweiback on updating the flyer.

Food Pantry Report: Supervisor Anne Flanigan Bassi

- Usage report on re-opened Pantry was distributed to the Board.
- We will begin picking up donations at the Mariano's in Buffalo Grove next Monday.
- Donations are currently coming in from Jessica Messe's effort to raise funds for the Pantry in commemoration of the one-year anniversary of the passing of her father, Nick Messe (a Food Pantry volunteer).
- After close of Pantry on Thursday, Volunteer Stuart Senescu delivers food that will spoil before the pantry re-opens next week to a school in Waukegan. He passed on a lovely note from the principal about how happy the families are to receive the food.

Food Insecurity Issues Report: Trustee Christine Peschier

- The second delivery of 110 gift cards to Oak Terrace is completed and Oak Terrace Engagement Specialist Jose Castrejon said the families are grateful for the assistance. Trustee Peschier expressed gratitude to Congregation Am Shalom for increasing the number of sponsors participating in the program.
- Amy Zisook and Gail Brown delivered the second set of snack bags to Highland Park High School for the Drop-In Center.
- Thanks to volunteer Wendy Dickson for spearheading the effort to raise \$1,475.00 to keep the Red Oak snack program. Wendy, along with volunteer Maureen Byron and another volunteer, will alternate purchasing and delivering the fruit snacks weekly throughout the school year.
- We are waiting to hear from Edgewood School on the number of participants and will work on getting volunteers to sponsor the backpack program at the school.

Cemetery Report

No report.

Old Business

- The Board discussed the 2022 meeting schedule.

New Business

- Trustee Peschier discussed the Holiday Gift Drive. Volunteers gathered this week to stuff 900 envelopes inviting qualified families to participate, and Co-Chairs Christine Peschier, Gail Brown and Cindy Wolfson are working on revising the sponsor letter and soliciting sponsors for this year's drive.
- Supervisor Bassi reviewed Township financial information with the Board. discussed the statutory "cap" on our Tax Levy, Township reserves, the Levy process, and a multi-year summary of the Township Levy. The Tax Levy must be submitted to the Lake County Clerk no later than the last Tuesday in December.
- Trustee Haggarty asked about the SALT food program for residents managed by former Principal Brad Swanson and high school student volunteers, and how it interfaced with other food programs available to residents.

Executive Session

There was no executive session.

Adjournment

Trustee Alvarez moved, seconded by Trustee Shafer, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed by a voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sanela Abazovic, Moraine Township Deputy Clerk