

WEST DEERFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

State of Illinois
Lake County
Town of West Deerfield

DATE: February 16, 2016

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees of West Deerfield Township was called to order by Township Supervisor Alyson Feiger at 7:00 p.m. This meeting was held at the Deerfield Public Library, 920 Waukegan Rd., Deerfield, Illinois.

Roll call was taken by Clerk Kristen Scott. Present were Trustees Marc Brown, Ron Levitsky, Ron Schwartz and Jack Strom; Supervisor Feiger; and Clerk Scott. Township Assessor Tom Healy arrived at 7:12 p.m.

Present from the public were Bob Rosenbacher, West Deerfield Township Food Pantry Chair; and Robbie Boudreau, executive director, Faith in Action.

MINUTES

Trustee Strom moved to approve the January 19, 2016 minutes. Trustee Levitsky seconded the motion. There being no discussion, a voice vote was taken. All were in favor and the minutes were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Rosenbacher asked what plans the Assessor has to set up a satellite office similar to the Supervisor's temporary office at Deerfield Village Hall, and other details about maintaining Assessor services while the Township office was closed.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Supervisor Feiger reported on the major sewage back-up that occurred at the Township building on January 28, necessitating a shutdown of the building. Substantial damage to the main and lower levels, including the Food Pantry, was sustained during the initial hydrostatic pressure back up and the resultant flood. She outlined steps being taken to restore the building to full and safe public use, and how staff provided services to residents during the building's closing. Supervisor Feiger noted that among other contractors, she is working with a remediation service and an adjuster from TOIRMA, the Township insurer, who are overseeing all work to clean, sanitize, and restore the building. All contractors and agencies involved will adhere to EPA standards. Supervisor Feiger estimated that the Township offices may reopen by March 1, 2016, while the Food Pantry will remain closed for a longer period.

Supervisor Feiger stated that she was extremely proud of staff's response, noting that they had worked out of their cars in the Township parking lot to redirect and assist residents who came seeking services in the initial days after the damage. On February 2, the Township had established a temporary office in a Deerfield Village Hall main floor conference room, providing all resident services except passport processing. She expressed her appreciation to Village officials for their generosity.

Supervisor Feiger also thanked Robbie Boudreau for her quick response in helping with rides scheduled through the Township's transportation program in the initial days following the backup. Ms. Boudreau replied that Faith in Action was able to respond so quickly due to the partnership between Faith In Action and the Township.

Supervisor Feiger also noted that the First Presbyterian Church of Deerfield is currently serving as a repository for donated food until the Food Pantry reopens. She described some of the numerous offers of help the Township received within days of the building damage, including that from religious organizations, school groups, other government entities, and individual residents.

Mr. Rosenbacher spoke on behalf of the Food Pantry Board, thanking the community for its overwhelmingly generous response, as well as the Township staff for its service above and beyond the job. Mr. Rosenbacher noted that this event highlighted the importance of the Food Pantry to the community, both as a practical resource and a shared philanthropy. Supervisor Feiger thanked Mr. Rosenbacher for his help and leadership.

In response to Trustee Brown's query, Supervisor Feiger confirmed that the Township is fully insured for the building damage, and an estimate will be made for the loss of food in the Pantry. She added that the Township has not solicited donations of any kind, but responded to questions of how best to help, ie: grocery store or pharmacy gift cards for Food Pantry clients in lieu of food in the immediate term.

Trustee Levitsky expressed concern that staff not compromise their health by using the building before it is fully cleared for inhabitation by EPA standards.

Assessor Healy stated that his staff requires access to computers within a Township facility in order to log into the Lake County Assessor system, and access property data and other information related to their duties. He and his staff began two hour shifts in the building on February 8, responding to phone calls and emails. Mr. Rosenbacher asked several questions about the Lake County Assessor's computer system, and asked Mr. Healy to arrange for a Lake County Assessor's representative to speak to the Board to explain their computer system and login requirements. Trustee Strom suggested that a contingency plan be established going forward for consistent operation of assessing and other Township business in the event of another crisis of this kind.

Trustee Levitsky asked if Assessor Healy had yet spoken to other Townships or municipalities to learn if any of them had formed consortiums to help curb medical insurance premiums. Assessor Healy responded that he will follow up and present his findings at the next Board meeting.

Supervisor Feiger also noted that the Community Services Grant Committee report and recommendations will be forthcoming to the Board.

NEW BUSINESS

A. For discussion and potential action: Approval of financial assistance to international students at Trinity University for health insurance premiums

In his work as an Affordable Care Act advisor, Trustee Schwartz has noted that international students at Trinity University in Bannockburn are eligible for ACA services, but often cannot afford even the minimum premiums. He considered suggesting the Township allocate funds to assist these students, but subsequently learned that a very low-cost HMO policy is available to these students. He therefore suggested that the Township make an effort in Fall, 2016 to educate Trinity foreign students of their options under the ACA.

B. For discussion and potential action: Approval of College of Lake County Life-Changing Scholarships for 2016 High School Graduates for \$20,000

Supervisor Feiger reminded the Board of their approval of similar scholarships last year. Trustee Schwartz motioned to approve two Life-Changing scholarships for College of Lake County granted to West Deerfield Township 2016 high school graduates in the total amount of \$20,000, coming from the College of Lake County line item. Supervisor Feiger seconded the motion. Trustee Levitsky amended the motion to designate one of the two scholarships for a West Deerfield Township resident, and the other to whomever the decision makers select. Trustee Brown seconded the amendment. There being no further discussion, roll call was taken: Trustee Levitsky (aye), Trustee Strom (nay), Trustee Schwartz (nay), Trustee Brown (aye), and Supervisor Feiger (nay). The majority being opposed, the amended motion was not approved. Roll call was then taken on Trustee Schwartz's original motion: Trustee Levitsky (aye), Trustee Strom (aye), Trustee Schwartz (aye), Trustee Brown (aye), and Supervisor Feiger (aye). All being in favor the motion was approved.

C. For discussion and potential action: Approval of Township College Scholarships for 2016 High School Graduates for \$5,000.00

Supervisor Feiger motioned to approve \$5,000.00 for college scholarships for high school students graduating in 2016 from a West Deerfield Township high school, pursuant to established Township policy and coming from the Scholarship line item. Trustee Schwartz seconded the motion. There being no discussion, roll call was taken: Trustee Levitsky (aye), Trustee Strom (aye), Trustee Schwartz (aye), Trustee Brown (aye), and Supervisor Feiger (aye). All being in favor the motion was approved.

D. For discussion and potential action: Approval of Tentative Town Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for 2016-17

Supervisor Feiger motioned to approve Tentative Town Budget and Appropriation Ordinance 2016-17. Trustee Schwartz seconded the motion. Supervisor Feiger suggested the Board hold a special meeting expressly to discuss the budget before the regular March meeting. There being no further discussion, roll call was taken: Trustee Levitsky (aye), Trustee Strom (aye), Trustee Schwartz (aye), Trustee Brown (aye), and Supervisor Feiger (aye). All being in favor the motion was approved.

OPEN DISCUSSION OF THE BOARD

None.

AUDIT AND APPROVAL OF BILLS

Following discussion on several points, Trustee Schwartz motioned to approve the bills as presented. Trustee Strom seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, roll call was taken: Trustee Levitsky (aye), Trustee Strom (aye), Trustee Schwartz (aye), Trustee Brown (aye), and Supervisor Feiger (aye). All being in favor the motion was approved.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Trustee Levitsky moved to adjourn the meeting. Supervisor Feiger seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken; all were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m. The next regular Board Meeting will take place on Tuesday, March 15, 2016, at 7 p.m., at the West Deerfield Township Center, 601 Deerfield Road, Deerfield, Illinois.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Scott
West Deerfield Township Clerk