

WEST DEERFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

State of Illinois
Lake County
Town of West Deerfield

DATE: October 20, 2015

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 West Deerfield Township Center, 601 Deerfield Road, Deerfield, Illinois.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Supervisor Feiger. Roll call was taken by Clerk Kristen Scott. Present were Trustees Ron Levitsky, Ron Schwartz, and Jack Strom; Supervisor Feiger; and Clerk Scott. Trustee Marc Brown was absent.

MINUTES

Trustee Levitsky motioned to approve the minutes of the September 17, 2015 meeting. Supervisor Feiger seconded the motion. There being no discussion, a voice vote was taken. All were in favor and the minutes were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

OLD BUSINESS

A. For discussion and potential action: Establish Estimate for Tax Levy for 2016

Supervisor Feiger stated her position that the 2016 Levy should be reflective of the Township's healthy financial state, including substantial reserves, and recommended lowering the Levy by two or three percent. Board members present agreed in principle to a decrease of 2%, Town Fund only, either by reducing the Levy or granting an abatement. Further discussion followed. Supervisor Feiger motioned to reduce the Town Fund Levy for 2016 by 2%, to \$874,872 (Town Fund), \$56,982 (IMRF), totaling \$931,854. Trustee Levitsky seconded the motion for discussion purposes. Following further discussion, Supervisor Feiger withdrew her motion, and noted that she will gather further information about the abatement process for continued discussion at the November Board meeting.

B. For discussion and potential action: Approval of Paratransit Van Replacement

Supervisor Feiger reiterated that the Going Places transportation service is one of the Township's flagship programs. She noted that leasing a transportation van outfitted to suit user need would not be cost effective for the Township, and recommended purchasing a new van, following the appropriate bidding procedures. Discussion followed, including the specific source of funding within the existing budget, and the possibility of the Township making installment payments. Trustee Strom wished to voice his support of rides for medical purposes, and for quality of life

rides for residents in financial need, but noted that he is less comfortable using the Township program to provide quality of life rides with no income bar in place. Supervisor Feiger motioned to approve funding for the purchase of a paratransit van not to exceed \$42,000. Trustee Levitsky seconded the motion. Trustees Levitsky and Strom asked Supervisor Feiger to provide a detailed breakdown of the specific line items from which the funds will be drawn at the November Board meeting. There being no further discussion, roll call was taken: Trustee Levitsky (aye); Trustee Strom (abstain); Trustee Schwartz (aye); and Supervisor Feiger (aye). The majority being in favor the motion was approved.

C. For discussion and potential action: Contribution of \$5,000 to Deerfield Community Emergency Fund

Supervisor Feiger explained that the Deerfield Community Emergency Fund was jointly administered by Deerfield Village Manager Kent Street, Deerfield Chief of Police John Sliozis, and police department social worker Jerry Zachar. Supervisor Feiger noted that she works closely with each of them, and they have been consistently receptive to helping Township residents in need, even those who live outside Deerfield. However, given the Township's immediate need to purchase a transportation van, she recommends not donating to the fund this year, and reconsidering a donation in 2016.

NEW BUSINESS

A. For discussion and potential action: Accept Disability Grant Committee Recommendations

Supervisor Feiger reviewed the one application received during the previous quarter, submitted by a 66-year-old woman requesting funds to adapt her bathroom after being permanently disabled following her car being hit by a drunk driver. The committee recommended funding \$1,000, subject to the applicant providing documentation of the work being done. Trustee Levitsky motioned to approve the Grant Committee's recommendations. Trustee Strom seconded the motion. There being no discussion, roll call was taken: Trustee Levitsky (aye); Trustee Strom (aye); Trustee Schwartz (aye); and Supervisor Feiger (aye). All being in favor the motion carried.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Supervisor Feiger apprised the Board of various matters including 1) the Township having processed 392 passports during the previous month; 2) the Township's case manager and Supervisor Feiger visited One Deerfield Place and assisted 70 residents in signing up for LIHEAP, the low-income energy assistance program, with other Township residents coming directly to the Township office for similar assistance; 3) 135 pets were vaccinated during the Clinic held September 26, with many compliments from the Lake County Animal Control on the Jewett Park venue; 4) a Medical Cannabis Seminar, jointly sponsored by West Deerfield Township and Senator Julie Morrison on October 8, was well attended and provided a broad range of information on the new Illinois law and its impact on the local community; 5) Clerk Scott will be leading the Township's annual Halloween Party for Children with Special Needs on October 24, 1-3 pm.; 6) Vernon Township Supervisor Peterson has requested support in responding to a proposal disallowing intergovernmental agreements, which Supervisor Feiger will provide through testimonials on the numerous collaborative projects between the two Townships; 7) discussed the Township's legal expenses, and her expectation that these will

decrease in coming months, as several policies have recently been updated; 8) asked if the Board would approve of sponsoring a “Friday with Friends” event at the Patty Turner Senior Center on November 20; and 9) thanked Trustee Schwartz for serving as Supervisor Pro Tem in her absence at the September Board meeting.

OPEN DISCUSSION OF THE BOARD

Trustee Strom noted again his concern that internet service remains unavailable in the upstairs Boardroom of the Township Center. He asked that Supervisor Feiger convey his dissatisfaction to the Township computer consultant.

AUDIT AND APPROVAL OF BILLS

Following brief discussion, Trustee Strom motioned to approve the bills as presented. Trustee Schwartz seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, roll call was taken: Trustee Levitsky (aye); Trustee Strom (aye); Trustee Schwartz (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. Trustee Strom seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken; all were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m. The next regular Board Meeting will take place on Tuesday, November 17, 2015, at 7 p.m., at the West Deerfield Township Center, 601 Deerfield Road, Deerfield, Illinois.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Scott
West Deerfield Township Clerk