

WEST DEERFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

State of Illinois
Lake County
Town of West Deerfield

DATE: October 21, 2014

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees of West Deerfield Township was called to order by 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 Marc Brown, Ron Levitsky, Ron Schwartz and Jack Strom; Supervisor Feiger; and Clerk Scott.

Present at Board request was Mike Fainman of Keyth Technologies, and David Shamrock of the Patty Turner Senior Center. Also present was Pam Fainman.

MINUTES

Trustee Levitsky motioned to approve the September 16, 2014 minutes. Trustee Strom seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, a voice vote was taken. Trustee Schwartz abstained from voting as he was absent from the September meeting. All those voting were in favor and the minutes were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Supervisor Feiger asked Mike Fainman of Keyth Technologies to summarize his suggestions for improving security at the West Deerfield Township Center. His suggestions ranged from rekeying locks throughout the building, installing an alarm system, utilizing an access control system, and installing surveillance cameras. Board members asked a number of questions on costs and effectiveness of the various security components.

Supervisor Feiger invited David Shamrock, Patty Turner Senior Center Director, to describe their "Fridays with Friends" program, designed to engage more seniors in social situations, which attracts between 40-60 guests each month. Supervisor Feiger noted that the "Going Places" van has been made available to take residents to and from the "Friday with Friends" program, a convenience funded by \$4,000 from the Deerfield Park District to West Deerfield Township. Board members discussed with Mr. Shamrock how West Deerfield Township may most effectively serve its senior residents through sponsorship of a "Friday with Friends" event or other programs.

OLD BUSINESS

A. For discussion and potential action: Senior Services budget and sponsored events

Supervisor Feiger began by recounting the various ways in which West Deerfield Township is currently serving its resident seniors: by helping them navigate all possible public or other forms of aid available, including SNAP, LiHEAP, Salvation Army, Catholic Charities, Faith in Action, and many other service agencies; Food Pantry assistance, the Senior Call program, Accessibility Grants, close work with One Deerfield Place, the only subsidized senior housing facility in the Township. She then proposed that the Board designate a specific dollar amount to sponsor a "Fridays with Friends" event at the Patty Turner Senior Center. Trustee Brown motioned that West Deerfield Township use \$75,000 from the current budget to hire 2-3 people to go into the community and visit senior residents in their homes. Further discussion followed. The motion failed due to lack of a second. Supervisor Feiger motioned to spend \$500 to sponsor a "Friday with Friends" event at the Patty Turner Center. Trustee Brown seconded the motion. Brief discussion followed, and roll call was taken: Trustee Levitsky (nay); Trustee Strom (nay); Trustee Schwartz (aye); Trustee Brown (aye); Supervisor Feiger (nay). The motion failed.

Further discussion ensued. Trustee Levitsky then motioned to allocate \$500 to be used for one or more “Friday with Friends” events at the Patty Turner Center. Trustee Schwartz seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, roll call was taken: Trustee Levitsky (aye); Trustee Strom (aye); Trustee Schwartz (aye); Trustee Brown (aye); Supervisor Feiger (aye). All being in favor the motion was approved.

B. For discussion and potential action: Tax Levy for 2015

The Board discussed the Township’s current financial position, and projected revenues and expenditures for the next several years. Trustee Brown motioned to keep the levy at the same level as 2014. Supervisor Feiger seconded the motion. Further discussion followed, including Trustee Strom’s assertion that a preliminary budget for 2015 should be discussed before a decision on the levy is made. Trustee Brown withdrew his motion, and discussion was tabled until the November, 2014 Board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

A. For discussion and potential action: Financial Assistance for Bannockburn senior residents’ water and sewer bill

Supervisor Feiger apprised the Board of two residents in financial difficulty and suggested how the Township may assist. Discussion followed. Trustee Levitsky motioned that West Deerfield Township provide financial assistance to two Bannockburn residents recommended by the Township Supervisor at a total amount not to exceed \$650.00. Supervisor Feiger seconded the motion. Further discussion followed. Trustee Schwartz asked if Bannockburn has an institutional arrangement to help in-need residents, as do other neighboring communities. Supervisor Feiger replied that it does not. 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 carried.

B. For discussion and potential action: Approval of 2015 Board Meeting Schedule for West Deerfield Township

Trustee Levitsky motioned to approve the 2015 Board Meeting Schedule (attached) as presented. Trustee Schwartz seconded the motion. There being no discussion a voice vote was taken. All were in favor and the schedule was approved.

C. For discussion and potential action: Building security proposals

Trustee Brown motioned to have all locks on the Township Center building rekeyed. Trustee Schwartz seconded the motion. Brief discussion followed. It was suggested by Trustee Levitsky that further consideration of building security options was prudent before a decision was made by the Board. He asked that Supervisor Feiger present at its next meeting which security measures she would like the Board to approve. Trustee Brown withdrew his motion. The issue was tabled until the November, 2014 Board meeting.

SUPERVISOR’S REPORT

Supervisor Feiger apprised the Board of matters of interest, including a) distributing copies of the revised Scholarship Program policy and the Case Worker job description; 2) a premium increase for Township employee medical insurance plan and change in dental insurance provider; 3) the new website is currently being encrypted and David Ferris will match the current rate the Township pays for website maintenance and updating; 4) a report on comparing West Deerfield Township’s Going Places program to that of PACE will be forthcoming; 5) Whole Foods in Deerfield recently donated complete meals to Food Pantry clients, which were distributed on October 16; 6) the Food Pantry received \$1,400 from CRM Properties/Malk Development, as second place winner of the “Pack the Park” charity event held in October; 7) her recent participation as a panelist on a homelessness forum in Deerfield, 8) SWALCO (Solid Waste Agency of Lake County) will now provide a recycling bin in the Township parking lot for residents’ use and will be in position soon; 9) Whole Foods Deerfield again chose West Deerfield Township Food Pantry as one of its holiday charities for 2014; and

10) she would be discussing with NiCasa representatives ways in which West Deerfield Township may partner with that organization in coming months.

OPEN DISCUSSION OF THE BOARD

Trustee Brown mentioned that he planned to attend some or all of the Township Topics days in Springfield in November, and asked if other Board members were attending, as well; Supervisor Feiger noted that she will be attending the seminar. Trustee Brown also asked if the taxi coupons the Township provides seniors for trips to Highland Park Hospital are also valid for trips to Lake Forest Hospital; Supervisor Feiger replied that they are not, but she would confer with Trustee Brown's contact at Lake Forest Hospital on ways we may become more involved with that facility. Trustee Levitsky reported on the successful pet vaccination clinic co-sponsored by West Deerfield Township on September 20, and thanked Trustee Strom for his assistance; asked Supervisor Feiger to clarify a question regarding the previous Township Assessor's insurance premiums; asked Supervisor Feiger to provide a copy of the updated Case Worker job description; noted that his friend, a pediatrician, has access to a series of questions to ask a sick person to determine if that person should be tested for Ebola; and stated that he would like to discuss NiCasa Behavioral Health Services and NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) in greater detail at the next Board meeting. Clerk Scott reported on the upcoming Halloween Party for children with special needs on October 25, encouraging the Board to attend.

AUDIT AND APPROVAL OF BILLS

After brief discussion, Trustee Levitsky moved to approve the bills as presented. Trustee Schwartz seconded the motion. Roll call was taken: Trustee Levitsky (aye); Trustee Strom (aye); Trustee Brown (aye); and Supervisor Feiger (aye). All being in favor the motion was approved.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Trustee Schwartz 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 9:42 p.m. The next regular Board Meeting will take place on Tuesday, November 18, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. at West Deerfield Township Center, 601 Deerfield Road, Deerfield, Illinois.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Scott
West Deerfield Township Clerk