

MORAIN TOWNSHIP, LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

May 14, 2020, 7:00 PM

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m., and upon roll call the following members were present via conference call: Supervisor Anne Flanigan Bassi, Trustees Pablo Alvarez, Dwayne Douglas, Cindy Wolfson and Amy Zisook.

Also present: Clerk Gail Feiger Brown and Assessor Mark Lindsay.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Approval of Minutes

Trustee Douglas moved, seconded by Trustee Zisook, Approval of the Minutes of the April 23, 2020 Regular Board Meeting. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Approval of Bills

Trustee Douglas moved, seconded by Trustee Alvarez, Approval of the bills for the period April 24-May 14, 2020 in the following amounts: \$15,177.34 General Assistance Fund, \$22,080.27 Town Fund. Voting Aye by Roll Call Vote: Supervisor Bassi, Trustees Alvarez, Douglas, Wolfson and Zisook; voting Nay: none.

Action Items

- **Adoption of Resolution 051420 Concerning Semi-Annual Review of Closed Session Minutes**

Trustee Douglas moved, seconded by Trustee Zisook, Adoption of Resolution 051420 Concerning Semi-Annual Review of Closed Session Minutes. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

- **Summer Utility Assistance**

Trustee Zisook moved, seconded by Trustee Douglas, Approval of the Summer Utility Assistance program, providing \$175.00 per household of summer utility assistance for income-qualified Moraine Township residents. Voting Aye by Roll

Call Vote: Supervisor Bassi, Trustees Alvarez, Douglas, Wolfson and Zisook;
voting Nay: none.

- **Reports**

- **Assessor's Report** Mark Lindsay

- The 2019 quadrennial assessment resulted in 3,497 resident appeals and 2,946 Moraine Township hearings before the Lake County Board of Review. 1,606 parcels resulted in no change to the Assessor's valuation.
- Assessor staff has been working remotely and on-site since the COVID-19 quarantine, responding to residents' phone calls and emails. Staff is helping seniors navigate Lake County's on-line senior freeze application.
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- **Supervisor's Report** Anne Flanigan Bassi

- Trustees were given the service report for the period February, 2019 through April, 2020. A new category was added for COVID-19 Assistance, and a new line item was added for Food Programs: New Pantry Applications. We're no longer able to track donations of food to the Pantry due to lack of staff and volunteers in the office. Food pantry usage has increased.
- Trustees were given a report of Emergency Assistance Applications. In April and May to date, 29 applications were received for assistance with rent or mortgage.
- In order to facilitate staff working from home during the COVID-19 pandemic, computer equipment was purchased for both Supervisor and Assessor staff.
- On May 13, a Zoom lunch was held for all staff. 16 employees and elected officials attended. Employees were sent Door Dash gift certificates to purchase their lunches.
- Supervisor Bassi and Staff Sanela Abazovic are working remotely on the audit with Accountant Apol Arenas and Auditor Joe Troyer.
- The Moraine Township Charitable Foundation has received almost \$170,000.00 in donations since March 13. Supervisor Bassi expressed gratitude to a generous and caring community.
- Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) co-coordinator Donna Novickas was awarded a City of Highland Park

Character Counts Award; she was nominated by Supervisor Bassi.

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Latino Advisory Committee Report Pablo Alvarez

- Committee members Luis Gonzalez and Paulette Margulies were awarded City of Highland Park Character Counts Awards; they were nominated by the Committee.
- Thanks to the Highwood Bocce Club for collecting food for the Food Pantry. Trustee Alvarez was able to distribute some of that food directly to residents.

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Food Insecurity Issues Report Amy Zisook

- Thanks to members of Am Shalom, Har Shalom, Christ United Methodist Church, First Presbyterian Church. Christ Church and BJBE for their donation of gift cards to Oak Terrace students and their families on May 22.
- Thanks to members of North Shore Congregation Israel for their donation of gift cards to Northwood students and their families on May 22.
- Thanks to Makom Solel Lakeside and to Danna Kriser for their donation of gift cards to Edgewood students and their families on May 22.
- While the above gift cards were being distributed at Oak Terrace School by District 112 staff, the 112 foundation giving out books and supplies.
- The summer vacation breakfast/lunch bag program will not be held this summer as it is too cumbersome for the Pantry staff. Clients are encouraged to register for the Food Pantry.

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Food Pantry Report

- Thanks to Ralph Ortiz for delivering food to 7-10 people a week, including seniors.
- Thanks to Brian Kibletiewski for making wellness calls to seniors. Supervisor Bassi has received positive feedback.
- Supervisor Bassi has arranged a schedule for pantry volunteers that to ensure that only one is present at a time.

They've all been given fobs to allow them to enter the Pantry at their convenience to pack the weekly bags.

- Thanks to Backyard Grill for their donation of 15% of all proceeds from sales on June 1.
- Thanks to North Suburban Synagogue Beth El and Larry Englehart of DejaViews for taking family portraits in members' backyards, and asking for donations to the Pantry in lieu of fees.
- Household bags will be given to clients on alternate weeks from gift cards. Typical items include: paper towels, deodorant, shampoo, bar soap, toothbrushes, dish soap, disinfectant, and laundry detergent.
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Lake County Coordinated Transportation Services Committee (LCCTSC)

- No report.

Human Relations Advisory Group Report (HRAG)

- No report

Cemetery Report

No report

■ **Old Business**

- **Fitness Class Donations** Cindy Wolfson
Thanks to Melissa Kerpel for encouraging her Zumba students to contribute to the Food Pantry; this was featured on a news story on Fox 32 Chicago. Thanks to Katie Hoffman for donating contributions from her yoga students to the Food Pantry.

New Business

None

Executive Session

None

Adjournment

With no further business to conduct, Trustee Douglas moved, seconded by Trustee Alvarez that the meeting be adjourned at 8:11 p.m. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Feiger Brown, Moraine Township Clerk