

MORAINÉ TOWNSHIP, LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
October 28, 2021

Meeting called to order at 5:34 pm by Supervisor Anne Flanigan Bassi.

The following Board Members were in attendance on site: Supervisor Anne Flanigan Bassi, Trustees Pablo Alvarez, Mark Haggarty, and Christine Peschier; Trustee Nancy Chausow Shafer, attended via video conference.

Also in attendance on site: Clerk Naomi Wexler and Pam Feinberg (Tri-Con Child Care Center). Attending via video conference: Assessor Mark Lindsay, Veronica Accardo (College Bound Opportunities), and residents Janet Freed, Gail Brown, and Amy Zisook.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Agency Presentations

Pam Feinberg, Tri-Con Child Care Center

Executive Director Pam Feinberg thanked Moraine Township for its support and noted that the entire community has been very generous during the pandemic. The grant money awarded to Tri-Con is being used to provide scholarships for those children whose parents do not qualify for state aid due to various factors, yet struggle to make ends meet. Currently, 92% of Tri-Con families live in Highland Park and Highwood and 17.2% of the scholarship program budget is funded by Moraine Township.

Veronica Accardo, College Bound Opportunities

Like Tri-Con, CBO staff member Veronica Accardo stated that the community has been very generous to CBO and that CBO appreciates Moraine Township's support. Despite the pandemic, CBO achieved all its goals: completed standardized test prep; each high school senior sent a minimum of six college applications; 100% of high school seniors graduated; 100% of Scholars persisted in college; 22 students graduated from four-year college or university this spring.

Approval of Minutes

Trustee Peschier moved, seconded by Trustee Alvarez, to approve minutes from the board meeting October 14, 2021. **The motion passed by voice vote.**

Approval of Bills

Trustee Haggarty moved, seconded by Trustee Alvarez, to approve bills for the period October 15 to October 28, 2021 in the amount of \$31,309.60 for Town Fund and \$11,556.94 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 Peschier moved, seconded by Trustee Haggarty, adoption of 2022 calendar year meeting schedule. **The motion passed by voice vote.**

Reports

Assessor's Report

- The County completed hearings for the year on 10/27 which is the earliest they have ever finished. The third year of the quad tends to be quieter.
- There were 12,574 total appeals to the County out of 266,283 total parcels, which represents 4.7% of the total.
- 89% of appeals were filed by attorneys.
- Moraine Township had 1,404 appeals which represents 11.1% of the total County appeals. Moraine Township represents only 4.9% of the parcels in Lake County.
- Majority of Township appeals were filed by attorneys.

Supervisor's Report: Anne Flanigan Bassi, Supervisor

- The Emergency Assistance report was distributed to trustees.
- Open enrollment under the ACA opens November 1, 2021. The Township license and CDO agreement with CMS is current. Most of our CAC volunteers have completed their certification and submitted their licenses; new volunteers will sit in on appointments with returning volunteers until they are comfortable soloing. Supervisor Bassi is going over procedures with new volunteers. NIPR (National Insurance Producer Registry) has been slow to get licenses to our CACs.
- The Township submitted the contract and amended budget to IRS for the \$6,700.00 VITA Grant for the 2022 tax filing season.
- The bottom of the Township sign in front of the office was changed to match the color of the new Township logo.
- Navigation and font for the new website has been finalized. Supervisor Bassi and volunteer Cindy Wolfson are working through all the text for the new website with designer Evelyn Gehrig.
- Gearing up for the VITA 2022 program, Moraine Township Site Co-coordinators Anne Flanigan Bassi and Donna Novickas have taken the IRS site coordinator online training 10/14 and 10/21; Co-coordinator Ron Altman was out of town for the 10/21 training. We are circling back to last year's volunteers for feedback on the remote process and whether they will be volunteering again in 2022.
- Supervisor Bassi and Caseworker Somerville attended the all-day General Assistance training in Rockford on October 22.
- Trustee Peschier and Supervisor Bassi attended the Jocelyn open house event on 10/27.
- The law firm of Elrod Friedman has invited us to join their free training for elected officials at 9:00 on November 5; Supervisor Bassi sent an email reminder with login info to the clerk and trustees.
- Supervisor Bassi reported that with several new staff members in the last five years, she sent a reminder to all staff that they should report any observed unsafe conditions on Township property (facility or vehicle) and complete an accident report of any incidences of injuries on Township property by employees, volunteers, van riders or office visitors.

Latino Advisory Committee Report

- The committee met on October 21.
- Information about the Township was shared with the committee about services offered including the pantry, ACA registration, and holiday gift drive. Committee members were encouraged to reach out to the Township with feedback.
- Pantry coordinator Linda Contreras was present to help field questions.
- Highland Park City Council liaison Andrés Tapia attended the meeting and stated that housing is an issue he wants to address. He offered to participate in a Town Hall meeting on this topic. Moraine Township may act as host of such a meeting.
- Brandon Buchanan, Equity Officer for North Shore University Health Care System, also attended. He shared that his goal is to ensure that the most disenfranchised patients get good care. He plans on enlisting ambassadors from the community to conduct outreach.

Food Pantry Report: Supervisor Anne Flanigan Bassi

- Usage report on re-opened Pantry was distributed to the Board.
- Thanks to volunteer Vic Bassi, we picked up our first food donation at Mariano's in Buffalo Grove this week; we are still looking for a permanent volunteer to pick up donations weekly.
- Chelsea Duggan ran a Halloween candy crush challenge for her clients and raised \$530 for the pantry.
- We have received several large foundation checks (\$1,000, \$5,000) from our end of year regular donors.
- Someone gave NIFB a donation for backpack programs in Highland Park school, but since some schools are not participating, they gave our pantry a \$400 credit to purchase additional food.
- A young girl, Zoe Heller, came in Tuesday with checks totaling \$723 she raised from a Bake sale for her Bat Mitzvah.
- Highland Park High School is again hosting their annual "stuff the bus" food drive the week before Thanksgiving. Food Pantry Coordinator Contreras provided the school with a list of the most needed items.

Food Insecurity Issues Report: Trustee Christine Peschier and Clerk Naomi Wexler

- The District 112 PTO Presidential Council wants to do a food drive for the pantry.
- \$1,500 was raised by volunteer Wendy Dickson to continue the snack program at Red Oak.
- PORCH continues to deliver requested items on a monthly basis.
- Crate & Barrel have completed their quarterly collection and are ready to deliver 150 bottles of dish soap and sponges.

Holiday Gift Drive: Trustee Christine Peschier

- We have commitments to cover 467 children so far; deadline is November 1.
- Ninety parent applications have been submitted so far; deadline is November 12.

Sunset Food December Fundraiser: Trustee Mark Haggarty

- Online registration for volunteers is ready to launch.

Cemetery Report

No report.

Old Business

- The Board discussed the Township Levy for the 2021 assessment year, to be collected in calendar year 2022. After reviewing financial data and options, the consensus among Board members was to freeze the tax levy at the prior year amount. A vote on the ordinance establishing Moraine Township's 2021 tax levy will be scheduled for the November 11, 2021 board meeting.

New Business

- Trustee Haggarty brought up the idea of merchandizing the new Township logo. A committee will convene to investigate.

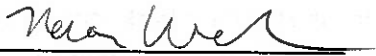
Executive Session

There was no executive session.

Adjournment

Trustee Alvarez moved, seconded by Trustee Haggarty, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed by a voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Naomi Wexler, Moraine Township Clerk