

MORAIN TOWNSHIP, LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
May 24, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. by Supervisor Anne Flanigan Bassi.

The following Board Members were in attendance: Supervisor Anne Flanigan Bassi, Trustees Pablo Alvarez, Mark Haggarty, Christine Peschier and Nancy Chausow Shafer.
Also in attendance: Clerk Gail Feiger Brown.

Pledge of Allegiance

Clerk Brown led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Citizen Grant Advisory Committee Report

Trustee Haggarty, liaison to the Committee, presented the Citizen Grant Advisory Committee Report to the Board on behalf of Chair John Ropiequet and Committee Members Laura Biagi, Rosemary Espinosa, Janet Freed, Bill Laegeler, Ginny Schulte and Amy Zisook, and Township Board liaisons Trustee Haggarty, Trustee Shafer and Clerk Brown. The Committee recommended funding grants to 15 agencies (16 programs) that complement the mission of the Township in the amount of \$175,000.

Approval of Minutes

Trustee Peschier moved, seconded by Trustee Alvarez, to approve minutes from the board meeting on April 19, 2022.

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Approval of Bills

Trustee Shafer moved, seconded by Trustee Alvarez, to approve bills for the period April 20, 2022 to May 24, 2022 in the amount of \$79,691.16 for the Town Fund and \$40,178.20 for the 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 Item

- **Approval of Fiscal Year 2022-2023 grants to agencies**

Trustee Haggarty moved, seconded by Trustee Shafer, approval of Fiscal Year 2022-2023 grants to agencies in the amount of \$175,000.00

Voting Aye by roll call vote: Supervisor Bassi and Trustees Haggarty, Peschier and Shafer. Voting Nay: none. Trustee Alvarez voted Aye to approve all grants except for The Josselyn Center; as a Josselyn Center Board member, he abstained from voting Aye or Nay. **The motion passed.**

- **Summer Senior Utility Assistance of \$250.00 per household**

Trustee Peschier moved, seconded by Trustee Haggarty, summer senior utility assistance of \$250.00 per household, for income-qualified Township seniors who do not reside in buildings that have cooling rooms.

Voting Aye by roll call vote: Supervisor Bassi and Trustees Alvarez, Haggarty, Peschier, and Shafer. Voting Nay: none. **The motion passed.**

Reports

Assessor's Report

There was no Assessor's Report.

Supervisor's Report: Supervisor Bassi

- The Moraine Township April 30, 2022 cash balance by Fund report was distributed to trustees.
- The Moraine Township 15-month service report February, 2021 – April, 2022 was distributed to Trustees.
- The Moraine Township Emergency Assistance report from May, 2020 to present was distributed to Trustees.
- Summer intern Leslie Barranco, a rising senior at Southern Illinois University, started on May 18.
- The annual audit is underway. Township accountant Apol Arenas has worked with Township bookkeeper Sanela Abazovic to prepare materials for the audit.
- Public Act 102-0519 is an add-back that has caused the Township's portion of our residents' real estate tax bills to increase, even though our Levy has been frozen.
- A volunteer recognition event will be held on July 28 at the Highland Park Art Center. This is the first opportunity we have had to thank our volunteers personally since 2019. Supervisor Bassi, Trustee Peschier, Clerk Brown and Volunteer Coordinator Sara Hoffman will work on the event.
- Trustees were invited to attend a Township Officials of Illinois educational program on May 26.

Latino Advisory Committee Report: Trustee Alvarez

- The Committee met virtually with Highland Park Police Chief Lou Jogmen and Highwood Police Chief Dave Wentz, Highland Park Police Department Social Worker Cynthia Plazas, and Highland Park City Council Member Andres Tapia on March 31 to discuss issues facing the Latino communities in Highland Park and Highwood.
- The Committee met on May 12 with leadership at Ravinia Festival to discuss Latino staff and Latino customers. Committee members are invited to attend the Rodrigo and Gabriela event to be held June 16.

Food Pantry Report: Supervisor Bassi

- The usage report on the re-opened Pantry was distributed to Trustees.
- Supervisor Bassi discussed with Trustees a recent client incident at the Pantry.

Pantry Plants Garden Report: Supervisor Bassi

Due to rain, the garden planting took place on May 22. 8 volunteers helped head garden volunteer Sam Piro. Thanks to the Park District of Highland Park for providing the land and tilling the soil in preparation of planting.

Food Insecurities Report: Trustee Peschier

- The District 112 school food programs have ended for the summer. District 112 will be providing food while summer school is in session through July 28 to summer school students.
- Trustees Peschier and Haggarty are continuing to work with high school students on developing a snack program for Indian Trail and other District 112 schools in the fall.
- Trustee Peschier and Clerk Brown are working on assembling snack bags for income-qualified students attending District 113 summer school. Thanks to Wilmot Elementary School for their donation of 80 bags that will be supplemented by the Pantry.

Lake County All-Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Report: Trustee Shafer

Lake County mitigation projects were awarded significant funds for improvements.

Letter Carrier Food Drive Report: Trustee Haggarty

Thanks to Volunteer Coordinator Sara Hoffman, co-chair Wendy Dickson and 75 volunteers on Saturday May 14 and Monday May 16 for helping receive and sort over 300 bags of donations. Thanks to Joe Cholewa from the local chapter of the National Association of Letter Carriers for coordinating with the Highland Park Post Office and partnering with the Township. The only promotion of the event was a postcard delivered by letter carriers.

Old Business

- **Poverty Simulation: Trustee Peschier**

Trustee Peschier reported on a 3-hour poverty simulation workshop she attended.

- **Juneteenth: Trustee Haggarty**

Trustee Haggarty is talking to Highland Park City Manager Ghida Neukirch and TikTok Historian Sherman "Dilla" Thomas about a potential Juneteenth program.

- **July 4th parade: Supervisor Bassi**

The Board concurred that the Township will participate in the City of Highland Park/Park District of Highland Park July 4th parade. One of the van drivers will drive the Door-to-Door Van, Trustees will carry the Township banner and wear Food Pantry t-shirts, and small giveaways will be distributed to children.

New Business

- **Employee Health Insurance Renewal: Supervisor Bassi**

Supervisor Bassi discussed employee health insurance options with the Board. There was a consensus for employer/employee premiums to be 85%/15% for both the HMO and PPO plans. The insurance plans will be voted on at the June 14 Regular Board Meeting.

Executive Session

There was no executive session.

Adjournment

Trustee Shafer, seconded by Trustee Haggarty, that the meeting be adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

The motion passed by a voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gail Feiger Brown". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Gail Feiger Brown, Moraine Township Clerk