

MORAIN TOWNSHIP, LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
December 19, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Supervisor Anne Flanigan Bassi.

The following Board Members were in attendance in person: Supervisor Anne Flanigan Bassi, Trustees Pablo Alvarez, Mark Haggarty, Allison Levin and Nancy Chausow Shafer.
Also present: Clerk Gail Feiger Brown, Assessor Mark Lindsay, Moraine Township resident Dan Adelman, and Amy Kaufman (Community Partners for Affordable Housing).

Pledge of Allegiance

Clerk Brown led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Agency Presentation

Amy Kaufman, Community Partners for Affordable Housing (CPAH)

The Township was thanked for its grant which supports owned and leased affordable housing, and related services that assist our residents with obtaining and retaining housing, as well as financial counseling and foreclosure prevention. Assessor Lindsay was thanked for his understanding how the sale restrictions affect the value of CPAH properties.

Approval of Minutes

Trustee Alvarez moved, seconded by Trustee Shafer, approval of the minutes from the board meeting of November 14, 2023.

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Approval of Bills

Trustee Haggarty moved, seconded by Trustee Levin, to approve bills for the period November 15 to December 19, 2023, in the amount of \$90,706.76 for the Township Corporate Fund and \$21,068.41 for the General Assistance Fund.

Voting Aye by roll call vote: Supervisor Bassi, Trustees Alvarez, Haggarty, Levin and Shafer.

Voting Nay: none. **The motion passed.**

Action Items

Appointment of Dan Adelman to a 3-year-term, and Re-appointment of Julie Stark Gordon to a 2-year-term, on the Moraine Township Ethics Commission

Trustee Alvarez moved, seconded by Trustee Haggarty, to appoint Dan Adelman to a 3-year-term and re-appoint Julie Stark Gordon to a 2-year-term on the Moraine Township Ethics Commission.

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Adoption of a tax levy ordinance in the amount of \$1,320,000 for all town purposes for Moraine Township, Lake County, Illinois, for the tax year 2023, to be collected in calendar year 2024. This tax levy ordinance supersedes the tax levy ordinance passed November 14, 2023, which is hereby repealed.

Trustee Shafer moved, seconded by Trustee Haggarty, adoption of a tax levy ordinance in the amount of \$1,320,000 for all town purposes for Moraine Township, Lake County, Illinois, for the

tax year 2023, to be collected in calendar year 2024. This tax levy ordinance supersedes the tax levy ordinance passed November 14, 2023, which is hereby repealed.

Voting Aye by roll call vote: Supervisor Bassi, Trustees Alvarez, Haggarty, Levin and Shafer.

Voting Nay: none. **The motion passed.**

Approval of 2024 Regular Board Meeting Schedule

Trustee Alvarez moved, seconded by Trustee Levin, approval of the 2024 Regular Board Meeting Schedule.

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Reports

Assessor's Report: Assessor Lindsay

Appeals of assessments finished on December 19. A summary from Lake County Board of Review will follow in January, 2024. There were 120 commercial appeals; of that, 99 were handled at hearings. Lake County purchased a trial subscription to True Roll, determining unqualified exemptions, resulting in worthwhile savings for our residents.

Sunset Foods Fundraiser Report: Trustee Haggarty

Thanks to Sunset Foods management and staff, generous donors, and fabulous Township volunteers for an outstandingly successful fundraiser collecting a total of \$14,393.00 in donations over a 3-day period. Volunteers included Highland Park High School students. Supervisor Bassi expressed huge thanks to Trustee Haggarty for his tireless efforts.

Holiday Gift Drive Report: Clerk Brown

The holiday gift drive this year was a huge success. Over 300 client households/472 individuals received gifts and Jewel gift cards for their holiday meals. Many thanks to the staff, and volunteers Cindy Wolfson, Christine Peschier, Amy Zisook, Bonnie Wegner, and more. The success of the Drive was made possible by generous community sponsors. Feedback from clients has been glowing.

Supervisor's Report: Supervisor Bassi

- a. A copy of the November 30, 2023 Bank Balance Report was distributed to Trustees.
- b. A copy of the Emergency Assistance/General Assistance report for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 was distributed to Trustees.
- c. A copy of the 15-month service report through November, 2023 was distributed to Trustees.
- d. A copy of the website analytics report through November, 2023 was distributed to Trustees.
- e. The Moraine Township Corporate Fund has been sued for excess accumulation of assets. Supervisor Bassi is working with the attorney who has helped us in the past.
- f. Moraine Township and other local taxing bodies have been sued by large commercial properties for a return of property tax based on a lower assessed valuation than the value upheld by the Lake County Board of Review. Lake County Government State's Attorney is taking the lead on defending the suit on behalf of the Township and other local taxing bodies.
- g. Supervisor Bassi has an interview scheduled on January 8, 2024 with a potential new Township auditing firm.
- h. Security equipment has been installed in the Township offices and Pantry; Supervisor Bassi and staff are working on protocols.

- i. IT discussions are underway addressing cybersecurity issues.
- j. The VITA program begins February 4, 2024. Thanks to last year's volunteers, all of whom are returning, and three new volunteers, all in the process of certifying with the IRS.
- k. A replacement check from the State of Illinois in the amount of \$16,778.19 was issued and has been received.
- l. The Lake County Treasurer is working on answering questions on 2020 and 2021 final settlement statements for the Township.

Latino Advisory Committee Report: Trustee Alvarez

The Committee met November 16 at the Chicago Botanic Garden to discuss the equitable partnership program.

Food Pantry Report: Supervisor Bassi

- a. The Food Pantry usage report was distributed to Trustees.
- b. A copy of the 2023 cash donations spread sheet was distributed to Trustees. Thanks to the Highland Park High School Class of 1973 for their \$2,000.00 donation, and to the many residents who responded to the article in the October Highlander.
- c. Thanks to Ceres Ridge Farm for their donations of produce in 2023 valued at \$13,180.55.
- d. Supervisor Bassi discussed the Charity Navigator rating of Moraine Township Charitable Fund, Inc.

Food Insecurities Report: Supervisor Bassi and Clerk Brown

- a. 45 Oak Terrace parents signed up for a program distributing weekend food bags for children, but participation has been spotty. The program will be adjusted.
- b. Clerk Brown delivered food to Sherwood School, Edgewood School, and the Highland Park High School Drop-In Center.

Old Business: Supervisor Bassi

- a. The Decennial Committee will hold a meeting on Wednesday February 21, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. Trustees were asked to review the draft report and provide comments to Supervisor Bassi.
- b. Supervisor Bassi shared with Trustees' staff thanks for holiday gifts.
- c. The staff holiday lunch will be held Tuesday January 9, 2024. Thanks to Trustees Levin and Shafer for covering the office, enabling all staff to attend.

New Business: Supervisor Bassi

- a. Food Pantry inventory will be conducted December 28, and the 29th if necessary. Thanks to Trustees Levin and Shafer for offering to help.
- b. A civility pledge proposed by Townships of Illinois was discussed.
- c. A photo of the Board will be taken on January 10 prior to the Board Meeting.
- d. Trustee Haggarty discussed the impact on residents of the February, 2024 trial of the Fourth of July Parade shooter.
- e. Trustee Alvarez, liaison to the Human Relations Advisory Group, will determine whether the City of Highland Park Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service will include a food drive in the Target parking lot.

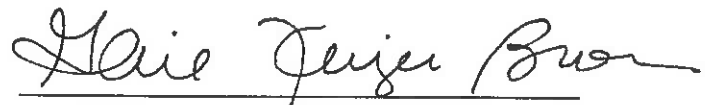
Executive Session

There was no executive session.

Adjournment

Supervisor Bassi adjourned the meeting at 7:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Gail Feiger Brown, Moraine Township Clerk