

MORAIN TOWNSHIP, LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
August 22, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 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, Christine Peschier.

Absent: Trustee Nancy Chausow Shafer.

Also in attendance: Deputy Clerk Sanela Abazovic.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Motion to Change the Order of Business

Trustee Alvarez moved, seconded by Trustee Peschier, to move item VII e to item V on the agenda. **The motion passed by voice vote.**

Pantry Plants Garden Report: Sam Piro

Sam Piro, head Garden volunteer for the last 15 years, since its inception, updated Trustees on the 2023 garden season. This has been a wonderful season at the garden yielding almost 150 pounds of produce to date. Much of the success is thanks to Master Gardeners Sandy Washburn and Linda Mihel, volunteer Fortino Hernandez who has helped other Pantry families when they were ill or unable to maintain their plot for a short period, stalwart volunteer Michael McRae, who also donated plants, and to Dan Voss of the Park District of Highland Park for the land and annual tilling. Of the garden's 30 plots, 22 are maintained by 13 families.

Sam requested a new deer fence for the 2024 season, and requested that we ask the Park District of Highland Park if we can make the garden larger next year when the new fence is installed.

The Board expressed its gratitude to Sam for his years of dedication to this valuable project.

Approval of Minutes

Trustee Haggarty moved, seconded by Trustee Peschier, approval of the minutes from the board meeting of July 18, 2023.

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Approval of Bills

Trustee Haggarty moved, seconded by Trustee Alvarez, to approve bills for the period July 19 to August 22, 2023 in the amount of \$62,970.10 for the Township Corporate Fund and \$19,120.59 for the General Assistance Fund.

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

Reports

Assessor's Report: Supervisor Bassi

Assessor Lindsay was not present, but asked that Trustees be notified that Moraine Township's Quadrennial Assessments will be published and mailed to taxpayers Thursday, August 24, 2023. Taxpayers should contact the Assessor's office with questions, and the deadline for taxpayers wishing to appeal must be filed by September 25, 2023.

Supervisor's Report: Supervisor Bassi

- a. A copy of the July 31, 2023 bank balance report was distributed to Trustees.
- b. A copy of the 15-month service report through July, 2023, was distributed to Trustees.
- c. A copy of the Emergency Assistance/General Assistance report for the current fiscal year through August 22, 2023, was distributed to Trustees.
- d. A copy of the Moraine Township website visits report through July, 2023, was distributed to Trustees.
- e. Supervisor Bassi apprised the Board regarding ongoing research she, Trustee Peschier, Administrator Abazovic and West Deerfield Township Supervisor Alyson Feiger have been doing on 708 Mental Health Boards. A summary will be prepared for the Board for review at a future meeting.
- f. Supervisor Bassi reported that the Township is exploring ideas with the City of Highland Park regarding a possible transportation partnership.
- g. The Township has hired a new employee, Sylvana Osorio, who will work about two half days a week covering the office work portion of Rosa Machabanski's job; Rosa will continue to help in the Pantry.
- h. The new Lake County Clerk conducted an internal audit and became aware of funds that had not been distributed to local taxing bodies; Moraine Township will receive a small distribution of less than \$50.
- i. The audit for Fiscal Year ended March 31, 2023 is ongoing; the draft report indicates a clean position indicating that financial statements present fairly the financial position of the Township. Supervisor Bassi is reviewing and clarifying issues with the auditor; the report which should be distributed to the Board before the next Board meeting. Trustees indicated they prefer electronic copies.
- j. Effective 1/1/24, a new law, HB3424, includes changes to the Township Code allowing Townships to pay for health services for residents. We will get clarification from the attorney about how the changes could impact our residents.
- k. The Moraine Township Charitable Fund, Inc. Board of Directors (Anne Flanigan Bassi, Gail Feiger Brown, Mark Haggarty and Lupe Somerville) will meet to discuss moving funds from the brokerage account to the First Bank of Chicago.
- l. Supervisor Bassi and Administrator Abazovic are researching solar panels for the Pantry roof.
- m. The contract with Keyth Security did not provide for the cost of prevailing wage. Administrator Abazovic is getting cost comparisons on a scaled down project.
- n. Supervisor Bassi shared a lovely thank you note from a van rider.
- o. The Township is partnering with Family Focus, The Alliance for Human Services, and the Highland Park Community Foundation to sponsor a Poverty Simulation Event Saturday, September 9th, from 9:30 am to 11:30 am. Trustee Peschier attended one of these and found it worthwhile; trustees and staff are encouraged to attend, if possible.
- p. Trustee Haggarty will schedule a meeting with the Supervisor, Clerk, and Trustee Shafer to update the 2024 grant application.
- q. The start time for the October 24 meeting is changed from 7:00 to 5:30. Trustee Haggarty will be teaching a class at Loyola Tuesday nights and will work with the Clerk about possibly changing start times for other meetings this fall.

Latino Advisory Committee Report: Trustee Alvarez

Committee members had a lovely dinner and concert at Ravinia Festival on August 15 and appreciates Ravinia's support for the community.

The committee will meet August 24, 2023.

Food Pantry Report: Supervisor Bassi

- a. The Food Pantry usage report was distributed to Trustees.
- b. The Levine Family, and the Levinia performers, held a concert at Teddy O'Brien's on August 9 raising over \$1,200 for the Food Pantry.

Food Insecurities Report: Trustee Peschier

Thanks to Clerk Brown and Trustee Peschier:

- Delivering food bags to the nurse at each school in the district;
- Delivering food to the Highland Park High School Drop-In Center;
- Working with Oak Terrace on a backpack program to provide a bi-weekly opportunity for free-reduced lunch families to pick up extra food at the Pantry.

Old Business

None.

New Business

None.

Executive Session

There was no executive session.

Adjournment

Supervisor Bassi adjourned the meeting at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Gail Feiger Brown, Moraine Township Clerk