

# Minutes - Board of Town Trustees

STATE OF ILLINOIS,  
WILL County  
Town of New Lenox

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ss. REGULAR MEETING

THE BOARD OF TOWN TRUSTEES met at the office of the Town Clerk at 1100 South Cedar Road on November 10, 2011.

PRESENT:	William McCollum	Supervisor
	Annette Boyd	Clerk
	Michael Hickey	Trustee
	Martin Boban	Trustee
	Larry Wennlund	Trustee

The following official business was transacted:

## I. CALL TO ORDER

The New Lenox Town Board of Trustees Meeting was called to order on November 10, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. by Supervisor McCollum.

## II. ROLL CALL

Also present:

Attorney Cass Wennlund

Absent: Barbara Kaupas, Trustee

## III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Trustee Hickey requested that Section 5, B. of the October 13, 2011 minutes referencing the Insurance Costs be amended to reflect the Employee costs will go up.

Motion by Trustee Wennlund, seconded by Trustee Hickey to approve the October 13, 2011 minutes as amended. No further discussion; all in favor, none opposed; motion carried.

## IV. SPECIAL GUESTS / PUBLIC COMMENTS

Trustee Wennlund, in honor of Veterans' Day, wished to thank all of our Veterans' for their service.

Mr. Gary Cheney – Sharefest 2011 – Was unable to attend

Mr. Chuck Kozielski, United Methodist Church – Donation to Food Pantry

Mr. Kozielski on behalf of the Methodist Men's Friendship Group told the Township Board of the group's tradition of passing a basket around for missions and other organizations, and this year, wished to make a \$400.00 contribution to the New Lenox Food Pantry. In Trustee Kaupas' absence, Trustee Hickey accepted the very generous donation. Trustee Wennlund thanked Mr. Kozielski and his group for the generous donation during this tough year. Mr. Kozielski hoped this helps let the community and other organizations know that this help is needed. Supervisor McCollum remarked that not a month goes by when the Township isn't contacted and is very grateful for their ongoing support.

Mr. Nick Oles, Boy Scout Troop #49 Eagle Project

Eagle Scout Nick Oles prepared a PowerPoint presentation for the Township which featured how he earned his Eagle Scout badge. Eagle Scout Nick Oles has been involved in the Scouts since the age of 5, as a tiger scout. The Eagle Scout badge is the highest rank attained. Its name bears the meaning of "Once an Eagle, Always an Eagle." Eagle Scout Nick Oles explained his project at the Senior Living Community center. He set out to create a handicap accessible landscaping project. He

came up with his project proposal, the project description and contacted Supervisor McCollum to discuss dates, donations and time lines. He created his design with Auto Cad, He sent his project to Counsel for approval, and it took him 1 week to raise the money for his project with donations. Eagle Scout Nick Oles set an October 1<sup>st</sup> date to begin, and started at 7:00am and went until 4:00pm.

Eagle Scout Nick Oles said he learned to double check all details of plans, because there aren't any "small" details, and also noted it took longer than planned.

Trustee Hickey inquired into the number of Eagle Scouts from the New Lenox area. Eagle Scout Nick Oles said at least 5 were from his troop. Trustee Hickey noted there were a higher percentage of young men reaching this achievement from the New Lenox community.

Eagle Scout Nick Oles wished to thank Owen Sowatzke and Nikie Sowatzke for their help in accomplishing this project. Supervisor McCollum wished to point out that Eagle Scout Nick Oles always wore his uniform and was an exemplary representative of the Eagle Scouts throughout every stage of the project.

V. BOARD ISSUES – ACTIONS

A. Senior Housing Automatic Door Service Agreement

Motion by Trustee Wennlund, seconded by Trustee Boban to accept the Automatic Door Service Agreement as presented. No further discussion; Trustee Hickey, Trustee Boban, Trustee Wennlund and Supervisor McCollum in favor; none opposed; motion carried.

VI. REPORT FROM TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS

A. SUPERVISOR

1. 2011 Levy; Enterprise Fund

Supervisor McCollum noted for the board that the 2011 Levy will be on the Agenda next month. A proposal was made in committee with Trustee Hickey that the Township capitalize on the new growth, with .0085% of total assessed valuations which would provide approximately \$10,000 additional dollars over last year's Levy. New Lenox Township was the only *taxing body in the Township* last year that froze its Levy which was reflected for residents.

Trustee Hickey noted that while the Township would like to hold the freeze like last year, the costs have increased, and the Township would like to capture the costs of the insurance increases, in addition to the fact the Township is not at 100% collection, with the number of vacant homes, which will of course be collected later, but has an immediate impact now.

Supervisor McCollum also reported that the Auditor recommended the Township have an Enterprise Fund for the Senior Housing Project, to reflect the true activity, and to receive all rents to pay all costs and maintenance and debt service.

The Board also discussed the Audit Fund and the Insurance Fund and how best to administer those various aspects.

Supervisor McCollum advised the Board that the Ordinance and adoption would be on the Agenda next month and would include the Enterprise Fund in the Budget.

Supervisor McCollum also advised the Board that based on the communications at the Board meeting last month with Mr. Lohman, someone has become interested in purchasing the small Township parcel on Willow Road. Supervisor McCollum suggested a committee to handle this for the Township, and Trustee Wennlund would be more than capable of handling this communication.

Supervisor McCollum also suggested adding Trustee Boban to the ad hoc committee to handle the annual compensation review for staff and would be looking for recommendations for next month.

Supervisor McCollum also extended the invitation the Township received from Silver Cross Hospital for everyone to attend on November 17<sup>th</sup>, a preview of the state of the art Hospital.

B. TRUSTEES

1. Trustee Hickey

Trustee Hickey reported that after the final lawn cutting, the whip markers in Marshall Cemetery would need to be installed for the winter, before the ground freezes.

2. Trustee Boban

Trustee Boban wished to point out that there was a newly honored veteran on the Township's Veterans' page.

Trustee Boban then gave a run down on the annual TOI educational conference.

Trustee Boban will also be contacting Andromeda and obtain a cost estimate for getting a job bulletin board set up.

Trustee Boban also reported on the problem with Willow Road. Trustee Boban took a ride, and noted that even in his truck, he could not turn around on that road. He had spoken to Highway Commissioner McParlin, and was also informed there wasn't any feasible way for the Highway Commissioner to back in his equipment. He must pull down the road, and then back out. Unfortunately, the split rail fence that was installed narrowed the area further. A smaller piece of equipment isn't feasible either. The Township property on that road is not accessible from the road for using as a snow removal repository. Attorney Wennlund noted the homeowners could get together and have the Highway Commissioner vacate the road, and it would then become a private road, in which case, the Road District would no longer be plowing this road.

Trustee Boban also wished to recognize our nation's Veterans in honor of Veterans' Day, and thanked everyone for their dedication and service.

3. Trustee Kaupas

None.

4. Trustee Wennlund

Trustee Wennlund advised the Board that during his tenure in the Illinois House of Representatives, he wasn't ever contacted by TOI or their representatives. And during this time, it has become even more important to inform the community of the services available through the Township, and the values available to the residents. He was contacted by a woman who inquired about rides, and she wasn't aware that the Township could assist her. Trustee Wennlund again emphasized the newsletter was a valuable tool to let the community know about the Township services.

The Board discussed the ongoing conversation in the papers about abolishing Township Government entities.

C. CLERK

None.

D. HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER

None.

E. ASSESSOR

Assessor Hernandez reported that the Township's gross EAV prior to the Board of Review decisions was \$1,469,000,000, with approximately \$12,500,000 in new constructions which is included in the previous number. Assessor Hernandez reported that now that the residential

assessments are decreasing, some of the Senior Freezes will go down also. The numbers of exemptions for the Township will be very similar this year to last year. \$4,000,000 of the new construction is the Walmart property going from a partial assessment to a full assessment.

Trustee Hickey inquired as to a couple of developments that were still being developed. Assessor Hernandez pointed out that Foxburrow and Waterchase were still in development and still building houses.

Assessor Hernandez also reported that there were a couple of residential properties that had requested reductions of over \$100,000. While the appraisals that are being written reflect the current markets, the Sales Ratio Study that is used by the Illinois Department of Revenue will go down in increments each year with the markets.

The Board of Review numbers were not reflected in the numbers Assessor Hernandez provided to the Township, however the informal appeals that Assessor Hernandez has handled in her office were reflected in the numbers.

Everyone in the Township received a notice, but the large commercial entities are filing appeals with the Board of Review.

VII. REPORT FROM ATTORNEY

None.

VIII. APPROVAL OF BILLS

Motion by Trustee Boban, seconded by Trustee Wennlund, to accept all bills and late bills as presented and approve for payment (\$19,949.49 for the Township General Fund, and \$700.00 for General Assistance Home Relief, \$25,851.65 for the Road District General Fund. No further discussion; Trustee Hickey, Trustee Boban, Trustee Wennlund and Supervisor McCollum in favor; none opposed; motion carried.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

Trustee Boban wanted to let everyone know that Highway Commissioner McPartlin's father was in the hospital and was not doing well and wanted to send their best wishes to Highway Commissioner McPartlin and his family and hoped for a speedy recovery for his father.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Trustee Wennlund, seconded by Trustee Hickey, to adjourn the meeting at 8:16p.m. No further discussion; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried.

Respectively submitted,

Annette Boyd