

Minutes - Board of Town Trustees

STATE OF ILLINOIS,)
WILL County) ss. REGULAR MEETING
Town of New Lenox)

THE BOARD OF TOWN TRUSTEES met at the office of the Town Clerk at 1100 South Cedar Road on February 13, 2014.

PRESENT:	Michael Hickey	Supervisor
	Annette Boyd	Clerk
	Martin Boban	Trustee
	Barb Kaupas	Trustee
	Larry Wennlund	Trustee
	David Medema	Trustee

The following official business was transacted:

I. CALL TO ORDER

The New Lenox Town Board of Trustees Meeting was called to order on February 13, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. by Supervisor Hickey.

II. ROLL CALL

Also present:

Highway Commissioner, Dennis McPartlin
Township Assessor, Bonnie Hernandez
Attorney Cass Wennlund, Wennlund and Associates

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Trustee Boban, seconded by Trustee Kaupas to approve the January 9, 2014, minutes of the Regular Meeting. No further discussion; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried.

IV. SPECIAL GUESTS / PUBLIC COMMENTS

Old Plank Trail Bank presentation of \$10,000 donation to Township Food Pantry – unable to attend. However, the check presentation was on TV at a Village Meeting. Supervisor Hickey wished to thank the bank for their generosity. This is the third time the Bank has made this type of donation.

Chief Mead, New Lenox Fire Department – RE: March Referendum

Mr. Joe Levy, Secretary of the New Lenox Fire Protection District's Board spoke on behalf of Chief Mead, and laid out the goals of the NLFPD with the upcoming Referendum. Mr. Levy explained that the Fire District received 890 calls in 1990, and received 3,398 calls in 2012. The FPD hasn't had an increase in the rate even though they do receive alternate funding from sources such as ambulance service fees. There has been a 31% increase in calls in just the last 3 years. The NLFPD is asking for a rate increase from .36 to .489, which is estimated to be \$86.00/year on a house valued at \$200,000. By contrast, Frankfort's rate is .72, with a 9.5 million dollar levy, and the NLFPD has almost the same call volume. Mr. Levy explained the new ladder truck had to be financed, as well as having the need to purchase tankers, ambulances, etc.

Trustee Wennlund pointed out for the Board that the need for the taller ladder truck is the height of the new Silver Cross Hospital.

Attorney Wennlund inquired about the IAFF union and the ramifications pensions and salaries on the New Lenox Township Taxpayer. Mr. Levy explained at this time, the employees were not members of the unions, and has explained that their demands cannot be met. At this time, the NLFPD doesn't pay enough for a paramedic to live in New Lenox, with a starting salary of \$34,000.

Mr. Levy explained that the NLFPD remains partially subcontracted.

Mr. John Nania – Intergrys Energy

Mr. Nania explained to the Board that since the program has began, there has been a savings of approximately \$250,000 for the residents of the Township, about 2,900 participants. Mr. Nania explained to new members of the Board that they assembled an “opt out” program, and communicated the benefits of the program to the community, as well as provided a website and a call center to answer calls. In the end, there were only 57 people who decided not to participate in the program.

Mr. Nania also explained there are various components that go into the rate, one is called “capacity” which deals with backup generation for peak needs, which is going up. Coal plants have been shuttered, which reduces capacity, and there haven’t been any new plants built. This could result in an estimated 5 fold increase in the “capacity” costs. This winter was an “epic” cold winter and strained almost all supplies. Mr. Nania informed the Board that he would be monitoring rates because the current rates would be expiring in June. Mr. Nania also suggested that the Township position themselves with a committee charged with being able to make a decision to lock in a rate should the decision time frame not coincide with a meeting, especially if there’s a pullback. There are options to be considered, like a shorter term commitment, or even a month to month contract until the market corrects. Mr. Nania also mentioned that this market may open to natural gas in the fall. Supervisor Hickey suggested that Trustee Wennlund work with him and make themselves available to make a decision should a pullback or a more advantageous rate come available.

Mr. Gary Cheney – Sharefest – Mr. Chaney announced that there would be a Sharefest Kickoff on Tuesday, 2/25/2014, at the Standard Bank and Trust from 12:00-1:00, and lunch would be provided.

V. BOARD ISSUES – ACTIONS

None.

VI. REPORT FROM TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS

A. SUPERVISOR

1. Senior Housing Attorney General Issues

Supervisor Hickey reported that he had received 3 different quotes for various patio doors, with a wide range of prices, each having particular issues with the designs. Supervisor Hickey noted the tracks for the various doors are of concern, however, the door must be able to be opened or closed from inside or outside with a fist. Compounding the problem is the fact the Attorney General’s office will not confirm whether a door is/is not in compliance. .

Attorney Wennlund advised that the Township should request ratification of compliance with the Illinois Accessibility Code from the Architect. Attorney Wennlund also suggested the Township could consider purchasing 1 compliant door for this unit, and remove the screen from the Community Room door, which would achieve compliance while the Township determines a long term solution. Attorney Wennlund said he would be communicating the Township’s progress and difficulties to the Attorney General’s office.

2. Supervisor Hickey presented the Budget for review explaining the differences they would see are the Assessor’s staff increases, due to the fact they hadn’t received an increase in over 3 years, and more money was allocated for ADA compliance changes.

3. Supervisor Hickey reported that among the different conversations regarding the Township’s Bonds on the Senior Housing building, it appears that the Township will not be pursuing an option to redeem.

B. TRUSTEES

1. Trustee Boban

Trustee Boban reported the intergovernmental agreement between the Township and Will County was reviewed by Attorney Wennlund and found no problems. Will County would also be granting \$1,000 to the Township to apply toward signs and additional drums for paint. Trustee Boban also reported that there is a student graduating from the vocational program, and a new student would be arriving soon.

Supervisor Hickey noted that the Township has been receiving “commercial” size drop offs, when this was meant to be for residential drop offs. Supervisor Hickey also suggested giving Mr. Cheney a key to the gate so his volunteers could come and retrieve the paint when needed.

Trustee Boban suggested a time frame between 1:00pm and 4:00pm for recyclable drop offs.

2. Trustee Kaupas

Trustee Kaupas reported that the TRIAD had an open house meeting *at the Police department and the Chief Deputy Assessor from the Assessor's office* was present, as were Meals on Wheels and the Medical Center.

Trustee Kaupas reported that Kathy Johnson has 140 families registered, however some have not returned, and a rough count of 410 people total. Jewel is still continuing to provide a vast amount of food to help the families. Supervisor Hickey noted that Kathy helps distribute some foods to Morning Star Mission and others in the area if the Northern Illinois Food Pantry is unable to pick up their load.

Trustee Kaupas reminded everyone the Family Foundation would be having an ice-cream social on March 20th, at the VFW.

3. Trustee Wennlund

Trustee Wennlund noted the Willow Road property sale was advertised, and bids would be due before the March meeting.

Supervisor Hickey reported that there was a price increase on the granite caps for foundations, which will result in increased costs.

4. Trustee Medema

Trustee Medema reported that he was looking into the purchase of a bus, and that the Township would receive approximately \$350-\$500 for a trade in and would tow the nonfunctional vehicle. The Township could expect approximately \$2,000 for the 1995, and \$2-3,000 for the 1998 vehicle. However, the cost of another bus is approximately \$40-\$45,000. Anything under this amount would be sold rapidly and the Township wouldn't have an opportunity to bid. Trustee Medema said he would go back to the vendor and inquire about a used vehicle. Attorney Wennlund suggested that the vehicles be declared as surplus, and auctioned. Supervisor Hickey noted that the buses need inspections; a steering repair for one could exceed \$1,500; and the other lift repair could also be \$1,500, so there is a high probability the buses would remain parked.

C. CLERK

None.

D. HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER

Highway Commissioner McPartlin wished to thank his crews for putting up with him and for all their work. They've held up well and have done a great job. Highway Commissioner McPartlin reported that there was already 540 hours of overtime logged this year, and winter wasn't over yet. Supervisor Hickey also thanked Highway Commissioner McPartlin for all his continued help in moving the massive piles of snow from the Township's parking lot. Trustee Wennlund also complimented Highway Commissioner's work on the Township Roads.

E. ASSESSOR

None.

VII. REPORT FROM ATTORNEY

None.

VIII. APPROVAL OF BILLS

Motion by Trustee Kaupas, seconded by Trustee Wennlund, to accept all bills and late bills as presented and approve for payment (\$21,971.49 for the Township General Fund, \$574.97 for the Maplewood Cemetery Fund, \$9,138.32 for the Senior Housing Fund, \$102,525.07 for the Road District Road and Bridge Fund). No further discussion; Trustee Boban, Trustee Kaupas, Trustee Wennlund, Trustee Medema and Supervisor Hickey in favor; none opposed; motion carried.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Pending Litigation

Motion by Trustee Wennlund, seconded by Trustee Boban to move Executive Session for the purposes of discussing Pending Litigation. No further discussion; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried.

Regular Meeting resumed at 8:50pm

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Trustee Medemia seconded by Trustee Kaupas, to adjourn the meeting at 8:51p.m. No further discussion; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried.

Respectively submitted,

Annette Boyd
Town Clerk