

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Supervisor and Board of Trustees of Wheeling Township, for April 22, 2008, was held in the Community Center, of the Township of Wheeling, 1616 North Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights, Illinois. Supervisor Schroeder called the meeting to order at 8:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Clerk Ulreich called the roll and the following members were present: Supervisor Michael Schroeder, Trustee Michael Domrzalski, Trustee Ruth O’Connell, Trustee Kathy Penner and Trustee JoAnne Schultz.

Also in attendance: Wheeling Township Assessor Dan Patlak, Township Attorney Nanci Rogers and Wheeling Township Director of Administration and Finance Josephine Stellato.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Those assembled joined in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOTION #1: APPROVAL OF MEETING – MARCH 25, 2008

Motion by Trustee O’Connell, seconded by Trustee Domrzalski, to approve the minutes from the March 25, 2008 board meeting, as presented.

VOICE CALL VOTE: All Ayes...Motion #1 Carried.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

None.

OFFICIALS’ REPORTS

Assessor: Assessor Dan Patlak reported:

- There has been a consistent high volume of property owners seeking assistance with assessment appeals.
- From March 1 through April 21, 2008, 1,042 people visited the Township Assessor’s office and 2,200 telephone calls were taken.
- 166 appeals to the Board of Review were submitted.
- A total of 585 exemption applications and 453 for the Senior Freeze applications were processed.

Highway Commissioner: In the absence of Highway Commissioner Saewert, Clerk Ulreich reported:

- Demolition on the 209 Graylynn house began and will be completed this week.
- Drainage improvements on the east side of Woodland Drive are about 80% completed.
- Cook County inspectors were met with to review projects being done in the Forest River Subdivision.
- The Highway Commissioner participated in the Des Plaines River Feasibility Study (Phase II) Plan Formulation Meeting.
- Plans for 2008-2009 road drainage and re-surfacing projects were worked on.
- Two permits were completed.
- Permit revenues amounted to \$35.00.
- One permit violation to complete grading and drainage is pending in the Forest River Subdivision.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

- Michelle Miller of Arlington Heights was a contestant in the “Little Give” program on the Eric and Kathy Show on WTMX 101.9. Mrs. Miller raised more than \$7,000 for the Wheeling Township Food Pantry. An article was featured in the April 16th Daily Herald and one will appear in the next Township newsletter.
- After hearing Mrs. Miller on the radio program, Aldi Foods donated \$500 in gift certificates to the Food Pantry.
- Two “elected officials” salary surveys, one from local townships and the other from Township Officials of Cook County are available for board review.
- Salaries must be set for officials for the next term of office. Deadline is November 19, 2008.
- The Township is in need of new chairs and tables for the new meeting room. The price range for sturdy, stackable chairs is \$70-\$125 each. The price range for tables is \$300-325 each. The intent is to purchase 10-12 tables and 30-50 chairs. Salvageable tables and chairs will be moved to the lower level meeting room. Most of the folding chairs will be scrapped. Total purchase could be from \$7,700 to \$10,000 which has been included in the 2008-09 budget.
- Judy Walther and Joe Vlack from McClure, Inserra, will be starting the audit on Thursday, April 24, 2008. The 2007-08 books have been balanced and reports issued.
- Statistics for March 2008: 2,087 bus rides; 1,600 Meals on Wheels.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

PROSPECT HEIGHTS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Fire Chief Donald Gould, Jr., provided an update of the Prospect Heights Fire Protection District. He began by explaining that the Fire Protection District was established in 1944 and paramedics began in 1973. There are two fire stations, with 74 employees. They cover seven square miles, making 1,700 emergency calls in 2007. The Fire Protection District belongs to a mutual aid system and a state wide municipal aid system, dispatching an enhanced 911 system.

Chief Gould then explained what a fire protection is. It is a special service district established to protect the public safety and welfare of the residents, by providing emergency services in the form of fire protection, emergency medical services, special rescue teams, fire prevention and public educations to a community of rural area – and in this case it is Prospect Heights. They provide the same level of service as a municipal fire department but receives funding mainly through a levy on all property located within the Fire District’s geographic boundaries.

He then recommended Mr. Robert Arends for the reappointment as a trustee for the Prospect Heights Fire Protection District, for a three year term. He felt the Mr. Arends experience and ongoing commitment to community service makes him an asset to the Fire District Board.

MOTION #2: APPOINTMENT OF PROSPECT HEIGHTS FIRE TRUSTEE

Motion by Supervisor Schroeder, seconded by Trustee Schultz, to reappoint Mr. Robert Arends as trustee to the Prospect Heights Fire Protection District for a three-year term, effective May 1, 2008.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Schroeder, Schultz, Penner, O’Connell, Domrzalski
NAYS: None...Motion #2 Carried.

HEALTH INSURANCE APPROVAL

Mr. Bill Bradish, Bradish Insurance, was present to explain comparisons in Hospital/Medical/Rx/Life insurance for the township staff. Quotes were attained.

<u>Carrier</u>	<u>Monthly Premium</u>
Existing United Healthcare	\$7,681
United Healthcare of IL	\$7,407+\$18 monthly fee

Aetna	\$5,037*
Blue Cross	\$5,530*
Humana	\$4,559*

*These are general rates. Once underwritten, the rates can increase up to 67%. Also, the quotes from Blue Cross and Humana do not include life insurance.

The Township's existing carrier, United Healthcare, provided a very attractive renewal offer. The first quote from United Healthcare, the existing plan, had a 10.5% increase. Their second quote was the same plan with minor exclusions and slightly higher Rx costs. This premium amount increase was 7% from last year. The staff recommendation was to accept the second quote from United Healthcare of IL.

Discussion followed. Mrs. Stellato explained that the recommended insurance quote will separate doctor visit co-payments from in-office tests and injections, which is a departure from the former policy.

MOTION #3: APPROVAL OF HEALTH INSURANCE

Motion by Supervisor Schroeder, seconded by Trustee Domrzalski, to accept the health insurance quote from United Healthcare of IL, as described, effective May 1, 2008, in the total amount of \$7,425.00, per month.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Schroeder, Domrzalski, Schultz, Penner, O'Connell
NAYS: None...Motion #3 Carried.

TENTATIVE FY2008-09 BUDGET DISCUSSION

Further budget discussion took place on specific line items in the proposed FY2008-09 budgets.

Town Fund Budget – Mrs. Stellato explained:

- Line 33 was been increased by \$1,000 because a crashed computer in the Senior/Disability Department had to be replaced.
- Line 46 includes replacing part of the sidewalk in front of the building. The horrific winter caused part of the sidewalk to sink.

Supervisor Schroeder expressed concern about being over-budget and would like to see a balanced budget. As discussed at prior meetings, he does not want to have any duplication of services within the township boundaries.

Transportation - The Supervisor reviewed the transportation services provided by the Township. He feels that this program sets us apart from other communities and it is critical not to turn away any clients in need of acute care/medical transportation.

Plan A, which includes increasing bus service five days a week, with two 4-day-a-week drivers becoming full-time was revisited. This plan would accommodate all the clients on our bus waiting list, with a tenth bus to be obtained through PACE.

New buses obtained through PACE are at a cost of \$100 per month and includes bus repairs as long as the township keeps it in service. The TRIP program \$250,000 grant will also help provide more transportation.

Supervisor Schroeder was pleased that the deficit is trending in the direction of a balanced budget. The current deficit is \$275,000; last year it was \$500,000, and the projected deficit is \$175,000-200,000. He also reported that the budget has been reduced by \$310,000, even with the increase in the bus budget.

Trustee O'Connell asked the board to set their priority – the bus service or the agencies.

Supervisor Schroeder reminded the board that we should always be mindful of the fact that we need to work to reduce the deficit and balance the budget. Although we are making headway, this undertaking cannot be accomplished overnight, it will take a number of years. Mrs. Stellato was requested to: review the upcoming budget to see if any more cuts can be made; to adopt policies where we can more closely scrutinize the agencies; prepare charts to show our progress on reserves, budgets, expenditures and levies; and report on the efficiency of the services we provide here at the Township.

Trustee Domrzalski asked how we are going to provide funding for transportation without taking funding from the agencies. Supervisor Schroeder answered that we need to improve in areas where necessary because we can't keep spending down our reserves, while not letting the agencies suffer.

Trustee Penner stated that we have complete control of the bus program but we don't have the same kind of control of the agencies, which makes it better for our in-house program. She also thinks we are working in the right direction to obtain a balanced budget.

General Assistance Budget – Supervisor Schroeder recommended Line 30 – Access to Care and Line 32 Dental Clinic stay at the same funding level as last fiscal year because all the funding goes to Wheeling Township residents in need of health and/or dental care. Lines 1-3 reflect salary and benefit raises, including the new part-time employee. The extra employee is needed because General Assistance clients coming into the office have doubled and they are coming in for services in addition to GA, such the Dental Clinic and Access to Care.

There is a great need for the Dental Clinic and Access to Care and all funding is used on a yearly basis. The board discussed whether these two agencies should be funded at a higher level.

Supervisor Schroeder will present some General Assistance recommendations at the next meeting.

No other recommended changes were felt necessary at this time.

MOTION #4: TENTATIVE TOWN FUND BUDGET FOR FY2008-09

Motion by Trustee Domrzalski, seconded by Trustee Schultz, to approve the tentative FY2008-09 tentative budget for the Town Fund, in the amount of \$2,662,575.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Domrzalski, Schultz, Penner, O'Connell, Schroeder
NAYS: None...Motion #4 Carried.

MOTION #5: TENTATIVE GENERAL ASSISTANCE BUDGET FOR FY2008-09

Motion by Trustee Domrzalski, seconded by Trustee Schultz, to approve the tentative FY2008-09 tentative budget for General Assistance, in the amount of \$550,350.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Domrzalski, Schultz, Penner, O'Connell, Schroeder
NAYS: None...Motion #5 Carried.

MOTION #6: TENTATIVE ROAD DISTRICT BUDGET FOR FY2008-09

Motion by Trustee Domrzalski, seconded by Trustee Schultz, to approve the tentative FY2008-09 tentative budget for the Road District, in the amount of \$395,850.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Domrzalski, Schultz, Penner, O'Connell, Schroeder
NAYS: None...Motion #6 Carried.

MOTION #7: AUDIT FOR CEMETERY FUND

Motion by Trustee Penner, seconded by Trustee O'Connell, to approve Batch #042208, against the Cemetery Fund, in the amount of \$351.75, to be paid.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Penner, O'Connell, Domrzalski, Schultz, Schroeder
NAYS: None...Motion #7 Carried.

MOTION #8: AUDIT FOR ROAD FUND

Motion by Trustee Penner, seconded by Supervisor Schroeder, to approve Batch #136 and 137, against the Road Fund, in the amount of \$11,181.35, to be paid.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Penner, Schroeder, Schultz, O'Connell, Domrzalski
NAYS: None...Motion #8 Carried.

MOTION #9: AUDIT FOR TOWN FUND

Motion by Trustee Penner, seconded by Trustee Domrzalski, to approve Batch #216, 217, 218 and Manual, against the Town Fund, in the amount of \$39,028.64, to be paid.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Penner, Domrzalski, O'Connell, Schultz, Schroeder
NAYS: None...Motion #9 Carried.

MOTION #10: ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Trustee Domrzalski, seconded by Supervisor Schroeder, to adjourn.

VOICE CALL VOTE: All Ayes...Motion #10 Carried.

The regular meeting for Tuesday, April 24, 2007, was adjourned at 9:14 p.m. The next scheduled board meeting will be on Tuesday, May 27, 2008, following the 8:00 p.m. public hearing.

Paula L. Ulreich
Wheeling Township Clerk