CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Supervisor and Board of Trustees of Wheeling Township, for August 25, 2026 was held in the Paula Ulreich Meeting Room, in the Township of Wheeling, 1616 North Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights, Illinois. Supervisor Zeller Brauer called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Clerk Gauza called the roll and the following members were present, Supervisor Maria Zeller Brauer, Trustee John Geier, Trustee Lorri Grainawi, Trustee Trisha Chokshi, Trustee Sheri Williams and Clerk Joanna Gauza.

Also in attendance: Wheeling Township Attorney Ross Secler, Wheeling Township Assessor Ken Jochum, and Wheeling Township Director of Finance and Administration Regina Stapleton.

Absent: None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Supervisor Zeller Brauer led those assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

None

MOTION #1: APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING ON JULY 28, 2026

Motion by Trustee Williams, seconded by Trustee Geier, to approve the minutes of July 28, 2026 Regular Board Meeting.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Williams, Geier, Chokshi, Grainawi, Zeller Brauer
NAYS: None…. Motion #1 Carried.

AUDIT

MOTION #2: AUDIT FOR TOWN FUND

Motion by Trustee Williams, seconded by Trustee Grainawi, to approve batch #7/30/26, #8/7/26, #7/27/26, #8/24/26 and #8/25/26 against the Town Fund in the amount of $208,030.24 to be paid.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Williams, Grainawi, Chokshi, Geier, Zeller Brauer
NAYS: None…. Motion #2 Carried.

MOTION #3: AUDIT FOR CEMETERY FUND

Motion by Trustee Grainawi, seconded by Supervisor Zeller Brauer, to approve batch #082526 against the Cemetery Fund, in the amount of $4,620.28 to be paid.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Grainawi, Zeller Brauer, Geier, Chokshi, Williams
NAYS: None…. Motion #3 Carried.

MOTION #4: AUDIT FOR ROAD MANAGEMENT FUND

Motion by Trustee Grainawi, seconded by Trustee Chokshi, to approve batch #7/30/26, #8/7/26 and #8/25/26 against the Road Management Fund, in the amount of $3,604.61 to be paid.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Grainawi, Chokshi, Williams, Geier, Zeller Brauer
NAYS: None…. Motion #4 Carried.

REPORTS

SUPERVISOR: Supervisor Zeller Brauer reported:

- Attended MTA virtual training on July 29 on Building a Communications Plan
- Attended the Wheeling Chamber of Commerce Annual Luncheon on August 4. Met with several small businesses owners in Wheeling, resulting in scheduling some tours of our Food Pantry and donations.
- Met with Trustee and CMHB President, Lorri Grainawi on August 18. I would like to thank Trustee Grainawi for her leadership on the MHB and appreciate her transparency and partnership with the Township board.
- Attended the MTA in person training session on General Assistance/Emergency Assistance programs, let by Julie Villarreal, Assistant Administrator of Social Services. I would like to commend Julie for her efforts not only to train the next generation of public servants, but for her level of excellence that is such a positive reflection on the Township.

Ongoing Meetings and Projects:

- eNewsletter from August had a 73% open rate. This is an increase from 68% last month.
- Facebook engagement grew 152% last month. We also gained 60 new followers, an increase of 50%. Our top post highlighted the backpack drive. Other top posts include donations to the food pantry, a job posting and an outreach event.

Miscellaneous:

- Help us grow our eNewsletter list and social media presence by making sure you are following all of our pages and share with your networks.

CLERK: Clerk Gauza reported:

- People are starting to register to vote for upcoming General Election. We also are receiving some questions.
- Eva mentioned that a lot of people are commenting how important it is to vote, especially at this General Election.

ASSESSOR: Assessor Jochum reported:

- TAX YEAR 2025
- Tax Bills are currently being mailed to taxpayers to be paid by October 1, 2026.
- Review Treasurer's recap of 2025 taxation with focus on Wheeling Township and the northern triennial. (Refer to attached report).
- The Assessor summarized the median tax bills in the municipalities within Wheeling Township and the impact on taxpayers. (the report is attached).
- TAX YEAR 2026
- Currently we anticipate opening for Assessor appeals early to mid-September.
- We are currently working pre-file appeals in preparation for opening.
- CCTAA
- Julia Lipka and I attended the Cook County Township Assessor monthly meeting. Monthly meetings provide updates from and contact with the offices of the CCAO. Board of Review and Treasurer. In addition to updates we reviewed exemptions for storm damaged property which is a problem for many areas in Cook County including Township offices.

MENTAL HEALTH BOARD: Trustee Grainawi reported:

The Mental Health Board has approved and distributed its annual 2025-2026 report. The deadline for funding requests has passed and the Mental Health Board received 24 requests for some $1,141,000. The board will ask questions as needed and will do site visits rather than agency presentations.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: Administrator Stapleton reported:

- Website Update: I have approved the design. We are in the Development Phase, then on to Site Mapping.
- We are in the process of hiring an Asst. Transportation Coordinator; I will be asking you to approve the hiring next month.
- We hired a new Asst. Director of Social Services, Lizbeth Melgoza; her first day was August 24.
- Our Social Services Caseworker, Allison Galvan, resigned; her last day was yesterday.
- The Human and Youth Services Grant Application for 27/28 is now available through Submittable. The link is on our website. The application period ends on September 21, 2026.

- The Social Services Department distributed approximately 234 backpacks to children in August. Thank you, Trustee Geier, for your help.
- We completed our IMRF Compliance Audit this month; no significant issues.
    - Stats for July 2026
    - 1,923 rides - 942 non-medical, 981 Medical, (Disabled: 284 rides)
    - 1,036 - meals delivered
    - 609 visits to the Food Pantry - 1,190 people, 266 Children, and 577 Seniors

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION #5: AMEND 2026 LEVY CALENDAR

Motion by Supervisor Zeller Brauer, seconded by Trustee Williams, to Amend the Levy Calendar and Agency Hearings.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Zeller Brauer, Williams, Geier, Grainawi, Chokshi
NAYS: None…. Motion #5 Carried.

MOTION #6: APPROVAL OF 2026 LEVY CALENDAR

Motion by Supervisor Zeller Brauer, seconded by Trustee Chokshi, to approve the amended Levy Calendar.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Zeller Brauer, Chokshi. Williams, Geier, Grainawi
NAYS: None…. Motion #6 Carried.

MOTION #7: APPROVAL OF THE RESOLUTION #26-01: INCLUDE COMPENSATION PAID UNDER AN IRC SECTION 125 PLAN AS IMRF EARNINGS

Motion by Supervisor Zeller Brauer seconded by Trustee Grainawi, to approve the Resolution #26-01: Include Compensation Paid Under IRC Section 125 Plan As IMRF Earnings.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Zeller Brauer, Grainawi, Chokshi, Geier, Williams
NAYS: None…. Motion #7 Carried.

DISCUSSION – FUNDING APPLICATION PROCESS AND DECISION RUBRIC

The board discussed the process for agency submissions for funding and the agencies' presentations in October and/or November. The regularly scheduled board meeting would start after the agencies scheduled that evening completed their presentations. The board is interested in measures agencies use to determine outcomes. Because there is a limited amount of money, the Township will want measures of outcomes in making funding decisions.

DISCUSSION AND COMMENTS FROM TRUSTEES

Trustee Williams informed the board she received a call from the Kingswood Church. The church wants to work more closely with the Township food pantry. The Township already coordinates with the church, but the church wants to let its members know about the Township resources, especially the food pantry. The Township will meet with the church.

The eNewsletter will have a link to newsletters and Township resources.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- September 16, 2026 – Help, Hope and Recovery – Supporting Mental Health in Wheeling Township, 10 am via Zoom
- Kingswood Church also has food pantry.
- October 15, 2026 – Medicare Open Enrollment Begins – Appointments are now available.

MOTION #8: ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Supervisor Zeller Brauer seconded by Trustee Williams to adjourn.

VOICE CALL VOTE: All Ayes…. Motion #8 Carried.

The meeting for Tuesday, August 25, 2026, was declared adjourned at 7:58 p.m. The next scheduled regular board meeting is set for Tuesday, September 22, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

Joanna M. Gauza
Wheeling Township Clerk