CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Supervisor and Board of Trustees of Wheeling Township, for September 22, 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 7:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Administrator Stapleton called the roll and the following members were present, Supervisor Maria Zeller Brauer, Trustee Lorri Grainawi, Trustee Trisha Chokshi, Trustee Sheri Williams.

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

Absent: Trustee John Geier, Clerk Joanna Gauza

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 AUGUST 26, 2026

Motion by Trustee Williams, seconded by Trustee Chokshi, to approve the minutes of August 26, 2026 Regular Board Meeting.

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

AUDIT

MOTION #2: AUDIT FOR ROAD MANAGEMENT FUND

Motion by Trustee Grainawi, seconded by Trustee Chokshi, to approve batch #8/31/26, #9/11/26 and #9/22/26 against the Road Management Fund, in the amount of $13,592.45 to be paid.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Grainawi, Chokshi, Williams, Zeller Brauer

NAYS: None…. Motion #2 Carried.

MOTION #3: AUDIT FOR CEMETERY FUND

Motion by Trustee Grainawi, seconded by Trustee Williams, to approve batch #8/31/26 and 9/22/26 against the Cemetery Fund, in the amount of $1,069.80 to be paid.

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

MOTION #4: AUDIT FOR TOWN FUND

Motion by Trustee Grainawi, seconded by Trustee Chokshi, to approve batch #8/31/26, #9/11/26, #9/21/26 and #9/22/26 against the Town Fund in the amount of $218,407.27 to be paid.

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

REPORTS

SUPERVISOR: Supervisor Zeller Brauer reported:

- Participated in meeting to discuss affordable housing and temporary shelters with Northwest Suburban community partners, hosted by Cook County Commissioner Maggie Trevor on August 28.

Ongoing Meetings and Projects:

- eNewsletter from August had a 72% open rate. This is stable from last month.
- Because of last month's enormous engagement, this month's engagement is down 64.6%, despite more than 21,000 people interacting with the page. Our link clicks are up 34% and we are averaging more than 2,000 page visits each week. Our top posts include the renaming of the RTA to the Northern Illinois Transit Authority (NITA), employment opportunities and the call for grant proposals.

Miscellaneous:

- We are currently working on the next issue of the print newsletter. Please note that while Vicarious will be producing the newsletter for the first time, they will not do the redesign until next year, after the completion of the website.

ASSESSOR: Assessor Jochum reported:

- TAX YEAR 2025
- Tax bills received early September due October 1st.

- The first week we experienced approximately 75 cases per day. Currently traffic is steady at about 50 cases per day. Cases include missed exemptions, exemptions not filed for, Certificates of Error.
- Each case entails about 20 minutes of work on the part of staff plus follow up as necessary.
- A fifty case day entails 16.7 hours of work in one business day in addition to other activities.
- TAX YEAR 2026
- We opened for Cook County Assessor Appeals on September 12 and will close on October 22.
- We currently have approximately 800 appeals on file which are being worked in advance of transmittal to the CCAO.
- Each appeal takes an average of 10 minutes to evaluate, develop comparables and transmit to the CCAO. Thus far we will utilize 2.92 week of manpower to file and it is likely that we are half way thru the appeal process.
- OTHER
- I participated in an Assessor Certification course in order to maintain the CIAO designation, in Peoria. The course covered neighborhood analysis and the process of identifying neighborhoods for assessment purposes.
- In February I will be making a presentation to the senior group at St. Edna Parish, on the assessment and taxation process.

MENTAL HEALTH BOARD: Trustee Grainawi reported:

- The Board has been diligently reviewing applications and responses provided in follow-up correspondence.
- At the last meeting the Board began administrative budget discussions and considerations in preparation for the FY2027-28 levy request.
- The Board President and Executive Director presented a webinar titled "Help, Hope & Recovery: Supporting Mental Health in Wheeling Township".
- The webinar provided a general overview of the CMHB, highlighted resources available through partner organizations, and outlined practical steps for accessing services or assisting others in connecting with available support.
- Feedback received has been very positive.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: Administrator Stapleton reported:

- Website Update: We are in the Site Mapping Phase.
- We hired a new Social Services Caseworker, Lauren Miller, and a Temporary Auxiliary Caseworker, Shakira Acosta; their first day was September 21, 2026.
- The Human and Youth Services Grant Application for 27/28 is now closed, we have 17 applications.

- Please check your Township email account; I have sent you an invite to Submittable. This is where you will be reviewing the applications and completing the Rubric.
- Newsletters will be distributed to households the week of September 28.
- Stats for August 2026:
    - 1,870 rides – 951 non-medical, 919 Medical, (Disabled: 278 rides)
    - 917 - meals delivered
    - 598 visits to the Food Pantry – 1,234 people, 317 Children, and 558 Seniors

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION #5: APPROVAL- AB SANCHEZ, INC SNOW REMOVAL CONTRACT 2026-27 FOR TOWNSHIP'S PARKING LOT AND CEMETERY

Motion by Supervisor Zeller Brauer, seconded by Trustee Grainawi, to approve the AB Sanchez, Inc. Snow Removal Contract 2026-27 for Township's Parking Lot and Cemetery.

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

MOTION #6: APPROVAL OF CHICAGOLAND PAVING FOR 2026 ROAD MAINTENANCE WORK

Motion by Supervisor Zeller Brauer, seconded by Trustee Williams, to approve the Chicagoland Paving for 2026 Road Maintenance Work.

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

MOTION #7: RATIFY THE HIRING OF THE ASST. TRANSPORTATION COORDINATOR – ONYDIA ARREOLA

Motion by Trustee Williams seconded by Trustee Chokshi, to ratify the Hiring of the Asst. Transportation Coordinator – Onydia Arreola.

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

NEW TAX LEVY

Board considering 2.7% increase of Town Levy and no increase of Road and General Assistance tax levies. The 2.7% is the CPI.

LIHEAP will start soon and more people are eligible than last year. Last year, the Township handled some 740 applications and some 98% of applications were eligible. We expect more applicants this year.

Before the October 27 regular Board meeting, at 6 pm the Board will do an agency funding meeting.

MOTION #8: OPEN EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Supervisor Zeller Brauer seconded by Trustee Chokshi, to Open the Executive Session.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Zeller Brauer, Chokshi, Grainawi, Williams
NAYS: None…. Motion #8 Carried.

MOTION #9: CLOSE EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Supervisor Zeller Brauer seconded by Trustee Chokshi, to Close the Executive Session.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Zeller Brauer, Grainawi, Chokshi, Williams
NAYS: None…. Motion #9 Carried.

MOTION #10: APPROVAL OF SEPARATION AGREEMENT

Motion by Supervisor Zeller Brauer seconded by Trustee Williams, for approval of separation agreement.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Zeller Brauer, Williams Garinawi, Chokshi
NAYS: None…. Motion #10 Carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- September 28, 2026 - Appointments for LIHEAP for Seniors and Disabled Begin
- October 14, 2026 - Wheeling Township Mental Health Board Meeting, 7 pm
- October 15, 2026 - Medicare Open Enrollment Begins - Appointments are now available
- October 22, 2026 - You're Not Too Old & It's Not Too Late: Life's Second Half 10 am In-Person
- October 23, 2026 - Medicare Drug & Advantage Plans 10 am In-Person
- October 27, 2026 - Wheeling Township Funded Agency Hearing 6 pm
- October 27, 2026 - Wheeling Township Regular Board Meeting 7 pm
- December 9, 2026 - Holiday Lights Tour 5 pm for registered riders

MOTION #11: ADJOURNMENT

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

VOICE CALL VOTE: All Ayes…. Motion #11 Carried.

The meeting for Tuesday, September 22, 2026, was declared adjourned at 8:02 p.m. The next scheduled regular board meeting is set for Tuesday, October 27, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

Joanna M. Gauza
Wheeling Township Clerk