



NEW TRIER TOWNSHIP
Cook County

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Board Minutes of New Trier Township Board Meeting

Tuesday, October 12, 2021

The October board meeting took place in person at the township office. The public could participate by attending in-person or joining a zoom meeting. Recordings of the full meeting are available on the township's YouTube Channel, NewTrierTwp.

PRESENT: Gail Schnitzer Eisenberg, Supervisor
Nicole Capretta, Clerk
Stefan Mozer, Trustee
Elliott Robbins, Trustee
Danielle Ruben, Trustee
Jan Churchwell, Assessor
Julie Koenigsberger, Communications & Social Services Support
Diane Tye, Director of Administration & Finance

ALSO PRESENT:
Mary Lawler, League of Women Voters' of Wilmette
Laurie Leibowitz, League of Women Voters' of Wilmette

ABSENT: John Thomas, Trustee

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL: Following a roll call of attendees, Clerk Capretta announced that a quorum for conducting official business had been established. Supervisor Schnitzer Eisenberg called the Meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. and then led in the reciting of the *Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America*.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Trustee Robbins moved, and Trustee Mozer seconded a motion to approve August 3, 2021 minutes; approved on a unanimous voice vote.

Trustee Robbins moved, and Trustee Mozer seconded a motion to approve September 14, 2021 minutes amended as to the following:

Assessor's Report Amendment: Assessor Churchwell's corrections as emailed to Clerk Capretta and read to the board;

Supervisor's Report Amendment: correcting to "Represented Johnathon Carroll's district will now include parts of New Trier Township;"

Financial Report: Diversifying Township Banking Amendment: correcting “next month” to “after the next set of agency allocations;”

approved on a unanimous voice report.

SUPERVISOR’S REPORT: Gail Schnitzer Eisenberg

Supervisor Schnitzer Eisenberg reported the following:

October is Domestic Violence Awareness month. The township is focusing much of the month’s communications, especially in the Dispatch, on the agency partners who focus on DV.

- The first Dispatch of the month focused on the YWCA. Supervisor Schnitzer Eisenberg was able to attend the opening of their new campus, including the new domestic violence shelter. The shelter now has capacity for 60 individuals. The facilities are super impressive, state of the art buildings with family and youth areas inside and out.
- The upcoming Dispatch will focus on North Suburban Legal Aid clinic. The township’s inhouse clinic with North Suburban Legal Aid has been very successful with much more utilization that previous years. The success may be due to increased outreach efforts through the Courier, Dispatch, and social media channels. The meetings with clients are still virtual. Appointments are preferred. Supervisor Schnitzer Eisenberg does the intake and provides the resident with a computer in a private meeting area and connects them virtually with a lawyer appropriate to their legal matter.

Monday was National Coming Out Day. Supervisor Schnitzer Eisenberg focused her personal social media channel on peer services and also in the Dispatch.

NAMI Walks event with Yoga Six on Saturday. There was gorgeous weather and they raised about \$100. Many people were interested, but attendance was less than the interest. in theory more than practice.

Supervisor Schnitzer Eisenberg attended the Winnetka/Glencoe/Northfield Chamber of Commerce lunch event last month. She hopes to continue to be more active and let businesses know that the food pantry is now open to the working community. She will be attending a Wilmette Chamber event.

For a staff update, she reported that Lorrecia is back after an unexpected family leave. She was impressed with how other staff kept the office functioning during Lorrecia’s absence. During that time, Niles Township took the township passport appointments. It is good to keep those relationships with neighboring townships.

She had another supervisors’ meeting with neighboring townships

Julie Koenigsberger, Communications & Social Services Support, has been on boarded.

Supervisor Schnitzer Eisenberg reminded the board to look at the Dispatch for upcoming events which include the TOI Bootcamp, Nov 15-17, 2021. She asked the board to let Lorrecia know by

the end of the month if any board member is interest in attended the virtual event. She reported that the TOCC has gone back to in-person which has made it more complicated to participate.

Supervisor Schnitzer Eisenberg also reminded the board to please check their mailboxes every so often.

She notified the board that the League of Women Voters' of Wilmette has a State of the Village dinner on November 10, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. if the board was interested in attending.

Audit Report –

Diane Tye provided a summary of the audit for the township's FY 2021 ended on February 28, 2021. The auditors were on site for only two days, instead of four. Ms. Tye had prepared in advance by sending them documents in advance. There will be a report shared soon with the board. It would have been due at the end of September, but we got an extension from the comptroller's office. Ms. Tye pointed out that extension can be routinely granted.

CLERK'S REPORT: Nicole Capretta

Clerk Capretta reported that the League of Women Voters' of Wilmette had a voter registration drive at New Trier High School. She sent those registrations on to the county clerk.

ASSESSOR'S REPORT: Jan Churchwell

Assessor Churchwell asked the board to refer to the document that she provided in advance. See, Attachment 1 – 3rd Quarter Statistics.

The third quarter report includes dates through October 1, instead of ending on September 30 which was the third quarter end date, because October 1 was the deadline to appeal tax bills. Assessor Churchwell did not receive all of the data from the county through the end of the quarter. She hopes by years end that it will be up-to-date.

Assessor Churchwell also reported that New Trier Township, as well as all the other townships, have not heard from the county regarding any of the appeals. Supervisor Schnitzer Eisenberg asked if she had heard from the Board of Review. Assessor Churchwell clarified that the appeals have not even reached the Board of Review yet. She described the situation as unprecedented during her 7-year tenure as township assessor and a resident of Cook County of most of her life. She speculated the reasons for the delay to include the computer upgrade that started in 2018 and hasn't yet been finished. She explained that there has been a real lack of communication from the county to township offices including even if there is a delay. The township assessor's office is fielding a lot of phone calls with residents asking if they have missed "doing something."

She reported that it is unprecedented for her 7-year tenure as assessor and longer as a resident that the county clerk hasn't – A real lack of communication to township offices about delays or if

there is a delay. They are fielding a lot of phone calls asking if they had missed “doing something.” Assessor Churchwell cannot even provide an estimation on a date to residents.

BUILDING OPERATIONS UPDATE: Diane Tye

Ms. Tye reported that the building is fully operational and completed. Last month the board had requested to know the final cost, she reported that it was \$44,525 and that insurance continues to be amazing. The township’s deductible is \$500.

Discussions ensued including referencing the age of the building.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Diane Tye

Discussion of Levy –

Ms. Tye reported that it is time soon for the levy to be submitted to the county clerk. The levy needs to be submitted by the clerk by the end of December, no later than December 31, 2021. It is a 4-page document.

Since there had been a discussion at last month’s board meeting, Ms. Tye prepared a quick document comparing the levied rates of previous years. See, Attachment 2 - Tax Levy Ordinance #2021-01. Ms. Tye provided an explanation of previous years’ levy amounts.

Discussion: a long discussion between the board and Ms. Tye ensued. Towards the end of the conversation, the board asked Ms. Tye to prepare an additional document for next month’s board meeting that provided two options to be considered for the future levy amount to include the following options: 1) following the CPI at 1.4%, and 2) half of the CPI at 0.7%. There was some discussion if Ms. Tye should also include 0% and 1% as options.

NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Review

The board packet included three applications for committee membership including Rose Barnard, Karen McCormick, and John Nichols, III.

Discussion: Trustee Robbins commented that once again there was an exceptionally well qualified crop of candidates that were seeking participation at the township level including a resident that has been here less than a year. Trustee Ruben’s added her assent. Trustee Mozer commented that one of the applicants had already attended a committee meeting. Trustee Mozer reported that he seemed personable and a stand-up kind of guy. Supervisor Schnitzer Eisenberg also commented favorably on the other candidates and the range of residency in the township though she’d love to have applications from other villages.

Approval of New Members –

Trustee Mozer moved, and Trustee Robbins seconded a motion to approve all three candidates; approved by a unanimous voice vote.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

Coast2Coast Rx Discount Program Participation –

Supervisor Schnitzer Eisenberg asked to table until next month.

See, Attachment 3.

NEW BUSINESS

Trustee Robbins moved, and Trustee Ruben seconded a motion to formally adopt an IMRF Resolution appointing Supervisor Schnitzer Eisenberg as an agent in replacement of Alan Goldberg, previous supervisor; approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Discussion: Trustee Mozer asked for clarification. Ms. Tye responded that the supervisor of the township must be appointed as the agent.

Ms. Tye reminded that cleaning people staff are in the office two days per week and notified Ms. Tye that the door isn't always being secured. She asked the board, whoever is the last one out, to make sure to lock the door.

STAFF REPORTS

Community Services Administrator – Brian Leverenz

- Supervisor Schnitzer Eisenberg acknowledged the staff report of Mr. Leverenz. See, Attachment 4.

Social Services Administrator – Jeanne Rosser

- Supervisor Schnitzer Eisenberg acknowledged the staff report of Ms. Rosser. See, Attachment 5.

Communications and Support Services Associate – Julie Koenigsberger

- Supervisor Schnitzer Eisenberg acknowledged the report of Ms. Koenigsberger. See, Attachment 6.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS

Trustee Mozer moved, and Trustee Robbins seconded to approve Payroll dated September 2021, including Checks #7884 - #7900 in the amount of \$25,237.71; approved unanimously on a roll call vote.

Trustee Mozer moved, and Trustee Robbins seconded to approve Town Fund dated September 1 to September 30, 2021, including Checks #1034 - #1067 in the amount of \$61,859.69; approved unanimously on a roll call vote.

AMEND AGENDA

Supervisor Schnitzer Eisenberg motion, and Trustee Robbins seconded a motion to amend the agenda to include an agenda item for Committee Reports; unanimously approved on a voice vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Trustee Mozer - Money Follows the Person

He provided a report to include that it was a very invigorating committee and they had analyzed various reports that had come in, but there was some missing information that had previously been requested.

Trustee Ruben – Agency Oversight

She provided a report which included that new liaison assignments had been given and that there were two sessions in October and three hearings set for November 3, 10, and 17.

Trustee Robbins – Peer Jury

He provided a detailed report about last month's peer jury activity including information that there was one new case and one returning case last month. The board added discussion about the Peer Jury program.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Trustee Robbins moved, and Trustee Ruben seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting; approved on a unanimous voice vote.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:24 p.m.