

On October 20, 2016, the monthly meeting of Shields Township was convened at 6:30 p.m. On a motion of Trustee Goshgarian and seconded by Trustee Brown, Don Russ was appointed clerk *pro tempore* in the absence of Lanelle Collins, which passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Roll call was taken and established that Trustees William Brown, Heather Kerr and Richard Goshgarian and Supervisor Cynthia Maloney were present. Highway Commissioner Scott Anderson, Assessor Kathy Blahunka, Township Attorney Bryan Winter and four others were also present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

Minutes of the September meeting were not available and so their consideration was tabled until the next meeting.

Supervisor Maloney presented cash balances by fund.

Trustee Charles January joined the meeting.

On a motion by Kerr, seconded by Brown, bills of the Town Fund were unanimously approved for payment by roll call.

On a motion by January, seconded by Brown, bills of the Road & Bridge Fund were unanimously approved for payment by roll call.

On a motion by Goshgarian, seconded by Brown, bills for General Assistance were unanimously approved for payment by roll call.

Presentations were made by two representatives from Dickinson Hall: Jill Becker who has been Senior Resource Manager for 5 months and Janet Fryer who has been Senior Advocate for 13 years.

There was no public comment.

Salaries for Elected Officials for the term of 2017 through 2021:

Maloney noted that the budget for Elected Officials Salaries is \$116,000 and proposed to divide that amount primarily between the Supervisor, the Assessor and the Highway Commissioner with smaller sums going to the Town Clerk and the four Trustees.

Kerr commented that she will be a candidate for Supervisor and would recuse herself from that discussion. Maloney suggested that Kerr had a duty to participate.

Brown suggested that Maloney was mindful of "hours on the job" and that that was not an appropriate allocation vehicle for elected officials. He further suggested that only \$83,000 be spent and that Trustees receive nothing.

Maloney acknowledged that the township has a \$40,000 budget deficit this year.

Goshgarian, Brown and Kerr discussed specific amounts.

January expressed disappointment. He noted that some of the employees of the township earn \$80,000 and suggested adding an assistant clerk.

Goshgarian replied that the elected jobs are part-time and "figurehead" in nature.

Maloney concurred with January that people without means would be discouraged from serving by low or absent salaries.

Brown and Maloney discussed the duties of the Town Clerk.

January rhetorically asked how qualified people could be attracted to the positions of Supervisor, Assessor and Highway Commissioner at the low proposed salaries. He said that he had surveyed six nearby townships and that Shields is comparably low. He agreed, however, that the Trustees could be without salary.

The Township Attorney counselled on the format of the motion.

Brown proposed that the supervisor be paid \$25,000 p.a.; that the Town Clerk be paid \$3,000 p.a.; that the Assessor be paid \$30,000 p.a.; and that the Highway Commissioner be paid \$25,000 p.a. and that the four Trustees be unpaid.

On a motion by Brown, seconded by Goshgarian, salaries for Supervisor, Town Clerk, Assessor and Highway Commissioner were established for the term from 2017 through 2021 by roll call with Brown, Kerr, Goshgarian and Maloney favoring and January objecting.

There were no Trustee reports.

The Highway Commissioner reported on the status of a paving contract and responded to Trustee January on salt stockpiles.

The Assessor reported that they are finishing the appeals process and will now have the opportunity to replace their five year old computers.

The Supervisor reported that the Town Clerk will resign as of the first of November because she is moving from the township.

After an hour, on a motion by Brown, seconded by Kerr, the meeting was adjourned by a unanimous voice vote.