

STATE OF ILLINOIS,)
 Lake County,) } SS.
 Town of Shields)

THE TOWN BOARD OF SHIELDS TOWNSHIP met at the Shields Township office for its regular monthly meeting on March 17, 2011 at 6:30 p.m.

PRESENT: <u>Gale Strenger Wayne</u>	Supervisor
<u>David Barkhausen</u>	Town Clerk
<u>Laura Carney</u>	Town Trustee
<u>Mary Woodson</u>	Town Trustee

Trustee Baehr, who was out of town on business, had been expected to join the meeting by telephone, as permitted by Illinois law, but this did not occur. Trustee Bull was absent. Highway Commissioner Bill Goodman was also present.

I. Meeting Called to Order

Supervisor Strenger Wayne called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Supervisor Strenger Wayne opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and requested an attendance roll call which reflected the above absences.

III. Consideration of Minutes from the Previous Town Board Meetings

A motion by Trustee Woodson to approve the minutes of the Board’s monthly meeting of February 24, 2011, which included the Public Hearing on the Fiscal Year 2011-2012 budgets adopted at the meeting, which motion was seconded by Trustee Carney, was approved unanimously on a voice vote.

IV. Payment of Bills

Town Fund Bills: A motion by Trustee Woodson, seconded by Trustee Carney, to approve the payment of Town Fund expenses in the amount of \$166,048.07 passed 3-0 on a roll call vote. Trustee Carney asked about a payment to “Fallor” in the assessor’s expenses. Supervisor Strenger Wayne said this item related to computer services. Trustee Carney also asked about the line item for property tax revenue for the just concluded fiscal year as reflected in the printout trustees had been given, which showed \$1,083,000 rather than what she said she thought was the total amount of \$1,033,000. Supervisor Strenger Wayne said there was a \$50,000 separate levy for contributions to the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund. Trustee Carney and Clerk Barkhausen both said they were quite sure that the total, or “aggregate,” levy was \$1,033,000, as that is what prior documents had reflected, and there was agreement that those numbers would be checked over. Trustee Carney also asked about the fact that the Town Fund balance still shows a \$155,000 loan repayment due from the Road Fund, when \$50,000 of the loan had been forgiven. Supervisor Strenger Wayne said that this discrepancy had been discussed with the auditor and would be changed. The previous motion to approve the Town Fund bills passed 3-0 on a roll call vote.

Road & Bridge Bills: A motion by Trustee Carney, seconded by Trustee Woodson, to approve the payment of Road Fund expenses in the amount of \$23,065.63 passed 3-0 on a roll call vote.

General Assistance Bills: A motion by Trustee Woodson, seconded by Trustee Carney, to approve the payment of General Assistance expenses in the amount of \$9,083.72 passed 3-0 on a roll call vote.

V. Public Comment – Non-Agenda Items

County Board member Susan Gravenhorst mentioned the following items:

- Regarding the Lake County Forest Preserve District: the latest publication of the District’s quarterly Horizons magazine; an exhibit at the District’s Discovery Museum of technology that was that was newly employed in the Civil War; the opening of the Rainbow Trout fishing season on District properties on April 2nd; the movement of the District’s headquarters and the Discovery Museum to property adjacent to the new County Permit Center just west of Winchester House on Winchester Road in Libertyville; and a plant sale at the Independence Grove Forest Preserve site in Libertyville in May.

- The one-stop-shopping nature of services provided at the Permit Center for those with building plans needing County approval;
- The new traffic round-about at the intersection of Everett and Riverwoods Roads in Lake Forest;
- A new dental discount program provided through the National Organization of Counties;
- Work in progress on the County's strategic plan;
- The election of County Board members David Stolman of Buffalo Grove as the new County Board president and Ann Maine of Riverwoods as the new Forest Preserve District president; and
- Plans to redraw County Board district boundaries as required in light of population changes reflected in the new 2010 census figures.

Janice Schnobrich of Lake Bluff mentioned having come to the Township offices at 12:45 on February 28th to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act and finding the doors to the offices locked with a sign saying the offices would be closed from 11:45 to 1:30. She said she waited for them to reopen, which she said happened at 1:45, and that, in the meantime, four other people had shown up also seeking township services of various kinds. She noted that closing the Township offices for lunch had been a unique practice by Shields Township among local governments in the area, and she questioned why the offices were closed for this period of time, considering that the closing of the Township's offices for lunch had been a campaign issue two years ago and that she had understood that they were now supposed to be open all day. She said that, with nine people working in the supervisor's and assessor's offices, she could not understand why the offices would be closed for part of the day.

VI. Community Partner Presentation by LEAD Organization

As part of a series of presentations by social service "partner" organizations in the Township, Betty Frank-Bailey, the Executive Director, and Stephanie Cook, the Development Manager, appeared on behalf of LEAD, the Lake Forest-Lake Bluff organization that seeks to prevent and curb teen drinking, substance abuse and other risky behavior. Ms. Frank-Bailey said LEAD is marking its 25th anniversary. They are currently focused on addressing the risk factors associated with underage drinking, such as easy access, peer pressure, teen anxiety; and an overly accepting attitude towards the practice. A recent program attended by 500 students emphasized the harmful effects of alcohol on athletic and academic performance. LEAD has held seven screenings of the "Race to Nowhere" film, which documents how excessive pressure on teens to perform can harm their mental and physical well-being. Over 2,000 people have viewed and discussed the film. The recent "Parent University" gathering addressed the "24/7 media culture." Most recently, Madeline Levine and Denise Pope, a psychologist and educator, spoke to 300 parents and educators at the Gorton Community Center about reducing stress and anxiety and eating disorders. They stressed the importance of focusing on the intrinsic character of young people and their interests, hopes and dreams, rather than on their outward appearance. Dr. Levine noted that one in five young people are "impaired" in some way and that much of the problem relates to excessive emphasis on acceptance to college, resulting in record levels of anxiety and maladjustment among college freshmen, which problems can carry forward into young adulthood. Ms. Frank-Bailey said that LEAD relies heavily on volunteers and financial contributions from the community and is especially proud of the partnerships they have developed with the schools, religious institutions, police, and parent organizations.

Ms. Frank-Bailey then introduced the related subject of the SpeakUp Prevention Coalition, a separate LEAD-supported organization that has been developing strategies for change to achieve significant reductions in underage drinking and substance abuse and the culture of acceptance of these practices. She noted that she is the Executive Director of both LEAD and the Coalition and that LEAD focuses on creating an awareness of the problems while the Coalition's mission is to change behavior patterns. She then introduced Stephanie Cook to discuss the Coalition further.

Ms. Cook explained that the Coalition initiative was undertaken after local tragedies stemming from underage drinking and surveys that showed the incidence of teen drinking to be much higher than state and national averages. The aim is not only to reduce underage drinking, but also marijuana use and the abuse of over-the-counter and prescription drugs. The Coalition includes, among others, representatives of parents, schools, police, religious and health care organizations. She cited significant progress in the Coalition's four years of existence, with meaningful reductions in the frequency and severity of alcohol use, while conceding that usage levels are still higher than the norm as indicated by rates for use within the past 30 days and binge drinking. As current initiatives, she mentioned youth participation in placing stickers on liquor products in retail stores noting the illegality of service to or use by those under age 21 and also the placement of boxes outside the local police stations for the safe disposal of excess prescription drugs, with ancillary environmental benefits. The Coalition is also involved with a publicity campaign to point out that "Parents Who Host Lose the Most" and thus to encourage parents to monitor and lock up their liquor supplies and otherwise to make sure that it is not served to young people. This campaign is particularly directed towards high school prom and graduation activities. Among ways to help these efforts, Ms. Cook appealed for both direct and in-kind donations. She also welcomed attendance at the Coalition's monthly meetings on the first Thursday of each month at 9 a.m. at the High School's West Campus. She said volunteers can help to distribute materials, host a discussion group, offer their professional services, or donate space for a meeting. LEAD's website is www.LeadWeb.org, and Supervisor Strenger Wayne pointed out that there is also a link to this site on the Township's website.

Trustee Woodson asked for clarification about the organization's service area, which is the same as Lake Forest High School's jurisdiction, with LEAD's activities including private as well as public schools.

VII. Old Business

a. Vote on Corrected Budget

Supervisor Strenger Wayne said that certain figures in the recently approved budget for Fiscal Year 2010-2011 had been corrected, including the addition of cash balances in the Town Fund and a shift of General Assistance overhead expenses from the General Assistance Fund to the Town Fund. Trustee Carney said she was glad to see the itemization of elected officials' salaries and moved the adoption of the corrected budget, with the understanding that it would continue to be checked for any necessary additional corrections, which motion was seconded by Trustee Woodson and approved on a 3-0 roll call vote.

VIII. New Business

a. Identity Protection Policy

Supervisor Strenger Wayne mentioned advice by the Illinois Attorney General's office that all governmental bodies dealing with individual social security numbers are required to adopt an Identity Protection Policy to assure that social security numbers are kept confidential. Trustee Carney moved the adoption of the policy that had been circulated, which motion was seconded by Trustee Woodson, and approved 3-0 on a roll call vote.

b. Discussion and Vote on the Creation of a Separate IMRF Fund

Supervisor Strenger Wayne explained that Township attorney Richard Cowen had recommended that a separate fund be created for tax revenues received and paid out for Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF) purposes. When Trustee Carney expressed concern about the creation of a separate fund, Supervisor Strenger Wayne explained that Mr. Cowen's recommendation was based on the format of the Town Fund levy adopted in December that had a separate \$50,000 IMRF-related levy. She said the fund could be created only temporarily and then consolidated later if future levies for the Town Fund do not have a separate IMRF levy. Trustee Woodson moved to create such a separate fund, which motion was seconded by Trustee Carney and approved 3-0 on a roll call vote.

c.. Vote on the Agenda for the Annual Town Meeting

Supervisor Strenger Wayne explained that state law requires that the Annual Town Meeting be held on the second Tuesday in April (or the first Tuesday after Passover if the second Tuesday falls during Passover) and no earlier than 6 p.m. She asked if the trustees had reviewed the agenda. Clerk Barkhausen noted that certain items can be added to an annual meeting agenda by a petition of registered voters, if submitted in a timely manner, as had occurred last year, but that no such request was received this year. Trustee Carney then moved the approval of the agenda for the Annual Town Meeting that had been circulated and its schedule for Tuesday, April 12th at 6:30 p.m. at the Shields Township Board Room, which motion was seconded by Trustee Woodson and approved 3-0 on a roll call vote.

XI. Public Comments – Agenda Items - None

XII. Township Officials' Reports

a. Highway Commissioner's Report

Highway Commissioner Goodman mentioned that the Road District had been filling potholes and working on upgrading more street signs to meet the new retroreflectivity requirements.

b. Trustees' Report – None

c. Supervisor's Report

In her Supervisor's Report, Supervisor Strenger Wayne mentioned the following items;

- Regarding the Township's food pantry, her appreciation of the following: the recent local Scouts food drive involving Lake Bluff Boy Scout Troop #42, Lake Forest Boy Scout Troop #48, and Cub Scout Troop #148 that brought in 3,400 pounds of food and a generous cash donation from Alan and Lynn Sidman in connection with it; Northwestern Lake Forest Hospital's designation of the Township's food pantry along with the Holy Family Food Pantry in Waukegan as the recipient of a March "Nutrition Month" food drive; weekly donations by the Wisma restaurant in Lake Bluff of their excess bread, food stuffs, and sandwiches; and monthly donations from the Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Kiwanis Club and Union Church of Lake Bluff.

- A follow-up report on the meeting hosted by North Chicago Mayor Leon Rockingham to discuss the impact of the recently announced personnel reductions at Abbott Laboratories. It was attended by about thirty-five community leaders, including those from the local school and park districts. Nineteen hundred positions worldwide will be affected, with 500 of them at the North Chicago Sheridan Road facility where the fermentation plant will be decommissioned, partially as the result of the fact that the antibiotic production that has taken place there has been affected by competition from generic drugs. These local jobs will be phased out by 2014. Abbott will still have 1,000 employees in North Chicago. Among the local concerns in addition to the lost jobs are the impact on sales taxes that Abbott pays to North Chicago, which reportedly exceed all of the City's property tax revenue, as well as the loss of considerable water sales to Abbott, as Abbott apparently purchases 60 percent of all water processed by North Chicago and all of the "raw water." North Chicago has also experienced a 9 percent drop in population according to the new census figures, which is attributable to the privatization of some of the Great Lakes housing, although this reduction is less than had been anticipated. The group will continue to meet to discuss ways to adjust to these challenges.
- A North Chicago Chamber of Commerce gathering to discuss economic development ideas with Congressman Robert Dold and State Representative Rita Mayfield. It included a separate opportunity for business leaders to speak directly with the legislators without the presence of local government officials. State Representative Mayfield held out the possibility of grant money for construction projects.
- Half of the available carbon monoxide detectors available from the Township office have been picked up, and residents are welcome to those that remain on a first-come, first-serve basis.
- The April 21st monthly meeting of the Township Board will take place at the City Council chambers in the North Chicago City Hall, at 1850 N. Lewis Avenue (Lewis and Argonne) at 6:30 p.m.

XIII. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn by Trustee Woodson, seconded by Trustee Carney, was approved unanimously on a voice vote at 7:22 p.m..

Attest

David N. Barkhausen, Town Clerk