

Minutes – Shields Township Board of Trustees
April 17, 2014

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 April 17, 2014 at 6:30 p.m.

PRESENT: <u>Cynthia Maloney</u>	Supervisor
<u>Lanelle Collins</u>	Town Clerk
<u>Heather Kerr</u>	Town Trustee
<u>Robert Goshgarian</u>	Town Trustee
<u>Laura Carney</u>	Town Trustee

Also present were Road Commissioner, Scott Anderson and Assessor, Kathy Blahunka.

I. Meeting Called to Order

Supervisor Cynthia Maloney called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

II. Roll Call

The Roll Call established that Trustee Brown was absent. Trustees Kerr, Trustee Goshgarian and Trustee Carney and Supervisor Maloney were present.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

Supervisor Maloney opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. There was a motion to change the order of the agenda by moving Executive Session to Agenda Item IV and move Public Comments to agenda item IX. It was motioned by Trustee Goshgarian and seconded by Trustee Kerr, voice vote, motion carried.

V. Consideration of Minutes from the Previous Town Board Meetings

On a motion by Trustee Carney and a second by Trustee Goshgarian the minutes of the regular meeting of March 20, 2014 were approved as amended.

VI. For Action - Payment of Bills

A. Town Fund Bills: On a motion by Trustee Kerr, and a second by Trustee Goshgarian the Town Fund bills were approved for payment of \$86,062.28, 4 ayes motion carried.

B. Road and Bridge Bills: On a motion by Trustee Goshgarian and a second by Trustee Carney the Road and Bridge Fund were approved for payment of \$19,280.33, 4 ayes, motion carried.

C. General Assistance Bills:

On a motion by Trustee Goshgarian and second by Trustee Kerr the bills for General Assistance were approved for payment in the amount of \$1774.28, 4 ayes, motion carried.

VII. Executive Session:

At 6:41 p.m. Supervisor Maloney called for a motion to suspend regular session and proceed into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing property. It was motioned by Trustee Goshgarian, and seconded by Trustee Carney, roll call, 4 ayes, motion carried.

At 7:00 p.m. Supervisor Maloney called for a motion to reconvene regular session, it was motioned by Trustee Carney, and seconded by Trustee Kerr, roll call, Trustee Kerr, Trustee Carney, Trustee Maloney. Trustee Goshgarian left the meeting at 6:59.

VIII. New Business:

A. Discussion and adoption of contract by and between Mothers' Trust and Shields township for services to township residents.

IX. Township Reports:

A. Trustees:

Heather Kerr - Attended a luncheon on suburban poverty at LCCF, they will be looking for grants to continue the program.

B. Highway Commissioner:

Maintenance work is being done in the garage and spring cleanup is near completion.

C. Supervisor:

On April 7th, we attended the Lake County Community Foundation offered a program on Public and Private Partnerships and a picture of suburban poverty. To start the presentation, Dr. Scott Allard, of the Brookings Institution and the University of Chicago, addressed the rise in poverty levels in the suburbs. Over the past 20 years, population has grown 29% in the collar counties, while the number of people living in poverty has increased by 98%. Transportation is a major issue for people living on the margins, as is food insecurity and access to health care. While the ACA may address some of the financial health care access issues, transportation issues remain.

Even though there have been few cuts to federal programs so far, the recession has hit every revenue source for nonprofit service organizations. State and local government budgets are cutting back, and the largest cuts to government funding for social services and antipoverty programs may be yet to come. In addition, private philanthropy is down and expected to remain down for the foreseeable future. Public and private funding cuts lead to what I refer to in my book as a “subtraction ripple effect.” Funding cuts don’t just translate into fewer clients getting help in the short-term. Instead, these cuts destabilize the operations of the nonprofit sector on which our safety net is founded and depends. Cuts today mean there will be fewer and fewer places to turn to for help next year when poverty rates are still on the rise.

Given the severity of the recession and the slow road ahead, poverty reduction needs to be more prominent on the policy agenda. If the country is to emerge fully from this downturn, we need to ensure that assistance is available to help the unemployed and underemployed deal with their economic troubles, find work, and increase their earnings so they may contribute to the recovery.”

I’d like to point out that this is precisely what Shields Township is here for, and what we are doing in our community, in partnership with other agencies such as Catholic Charities, Mother’s Trust, and the Salvation Army, among many others: Helping the poor find assistance, work, and increase their earnings so that they can contribute to the economy at large and help lift their families out of poverty. We make the most of limited resources...right now, in the suburbs, an average of \$145 per capita per year is being spent on poor people, or 15% less than in the year 2000. Urban areas spend an average of \$421 per person, a stunning difference.

This past month, I had the good fortune to speak with Greg Barnum of Beef for Hunger. Greg and his wife Dawn donated two cases of beef to the food pantry, to continue the generous support from last year. We are looking for ways to work together to further our shared mission to help the poor and feed the hungry. They will be at Rib Fest this year, and at their golf outing on September 6. Thank you Greg & Dawn!

Thursday, April 10, Devon Nelson and I traveled to Rockford to attend a Township Officials of Illinois sponsored workshop on General Assistance. Here we practiced on imaginary, complicated cases to find the best, most cost effective, and legal means of supporting those who come to us seeking aid. We were also interested in presentations by the Department of Human Services, learning more about the TANF program and other forms of State and Federal aid. Highlighted were the important roles played by General Assistance as administered by townships, and township food pantries, in bridging the gap for needy families.

April 14 was highlighted by a meeting with State Representative Rita Mayfield and North Chicago Alderman Carl Evans. At one of our previous board meetings here I mentioned the program developed by the University of Southern California and UCLA to convert corner convenience stores into local markets featuring fresh fruits, vegetables and meats. Alderman Evans found two locations in North Chicago, Isaac's and the TeePee, whose owner is in the midst of enlarging and improving these stores, and who is interested in working with us to bring better produce to the neighborhood. Carl then reached out to Representative Mayfield, who is in the process of helping us access funding, via the Illinois Fresh Food Fund and other sources, to support these improvements to increase availability of fresh food to the community in North Chicago.

On April 15, Mayor Leon Rockingham hosted an Economic Development Partnership Breakfast at Roz Frank. Here we were introduced to officials at Naval Station Great Lakes and learned of ways government and the military are partnering to improve outcomes for military and non-military community residents. The Mayor laid out the challenges and opportunities for North Chicago and outlined ways we could become involved in working toward better economic development.

Last night Annie Gilbert and I attended a "Business After Hours" event through the Lake Forest Lake Bluff Chamber of Commerce at the Mustard Seed, a non-profit fair trade shop in Lake Forest, where we ran into many friends in the not-for-profit community including Diane Quon, who runs a sports foundation for youth, and Ron Taylor, husband of Ann Taylor, one of our very helpful pantry volunteers. Ron works at the Career Resource Center in Lake Forest at Old Mill and Ridge Roads. I urge people who are looking for work or who need help brushing up on interview skills and or resume writing to visit the CRC.

I am looking into the possibility of having the township join the North Shore Electricity Aggregation Consortium to reduce the cost of electricity for Shields residents who are not already eligible for savings through Lake Bluff or Lake Forest. The option, if feasible, would appear on the ballot in November as a referendum for Shields Township residents in North Chicago, Knollwood and Arden Shores North and South. A relevant bit of information is the rate increase coming up for ComEd, expected to be published on May 9. I'll have an update at our next regular board meeting.

D. Assessor:

The Assessor presented her 1st Quarter report. (Attachment)

X. Public Comments:

Jose Ibarrand, 903 Rockland Road, Lake Bluff

Don't have drive way in front of the house. He expressed concerns with potholes in the alley and the information that is coming from employees of the township regarding repairs. In addition he stated that due to medical issues he has problems shoveling the alley. Mr. Ibarrand is requesting gravel to fix the alley.

Road Commissioner, Scott Anderson stated that the alley is public property, and the township is not responsible for the upkeep.

XI. Adjournment:

On a motion from Trustee Kerr and a second from Trustee Carney the meeting was adjourned at 7:27, voice vote, motion carried.

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Lanelle Collins, Town Clerk