

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

THE TOWN BOARD OF SHIELDS TOWNSHIP met at the North Chicago City Hall for its regular monthly meeting on April 21, 2011 at 6:30 p.m.

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

Highway Commissioner Bill Goodman and Assessor Teresia Yakes were also present.

I. Meeting Called to Order

Supervisor Strenger Wayne called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and requested an attendance roll call. All Board members were present.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Supervisor Strenger Wayne opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and thanked Mayor Rockingham and his staff for the use of the North Chicago City Hall chambers for the meeting.

III. Consideration of Minutes from the Previous Town Board Meeting

A motion by Trustee Woodson to approve the minutes of the Board’s monthly meeting of March 17th, seconded by Trustee Bull, was approved unanimously on a voice vote.

IV. Payment of Bills

Town Fund Bills: A motion by Trustee Bull, seconded by Trustee Woodson, to approve the payment of Town Fund expenses in the amount of \$94,893.36 passed 5-0 on a roll call vote. Trustee Carney asked whether the balance in the Town Fund included funds in the General Assistance account, and office manager Arona Landsman said that it did.

Road & Bridge Bills: A motion by Trustee Woodson, seconded by Trustee Carney, to approve the payment of Road Fund expenses in the amount of \$9,432.29 passed 5-0 on a roll call vote. Trustee Woodson asked for and received clarification about the TDS Metrocom bill.

General Assistance Bills: A motion by Trustee Baehr, seconded by Trustee Bull, to approve the payment of General Assistance expenses in the amount of \$2,789.91 passed 5-0 on a roll call vote.

V. Presentation by the “I Have A Dream” Program

As part of the Board’s series of presentations by social service agencies and programs in the Township, Jenae Denton, the Program Coordinator of the “I Have A Dream” North Chicago college scholarship program spoke to the Board. Ms. Denton has been in her position for seven years. “I Have a Dream is an “age-specific,” long-term scholarship program that provides academic, social, cultural enrichment with guaranteed financial support for college. The program adopted students in 2001 who were originally in a kindergarten class and are now high school sophomores. Thirty students are currently in the program. It is not merit-based but is open to all motivated students. It includes a strong parent network and involves monthly meetings. The “Dreamer” students and their parents commit to the program on an ongoing basis. Ms. Denton appealed for support for the program, saying that they can use volunteers for tutoring and college and career exploration programs throughout the year, one-time job shadow and connections with colleges. They are also working on building additional support for their scholarship fund.

Ms. Denton introduced two program participants, Charles Jones and Courtney Murray. Charles, a North Chicago High School student, said he hopes to attend Wheaton College. He expressed his appreciation for help with tutoring and the use of computers. Courtney currently attends Loyola Academy and is interested in Illinois Wesleyan or DePaul University. Charles has started a poetry workshop, while Courtney is working with peers on safe driving habits.

Supervisor Strenger Wayne asked about volunteer needs and opportunities. Ms. Denton said that they ask for a commitment from tutors for the school year, with an hour to 2.5 hours per week. Volunteers can otherwise help with pre-college counseling, college visits, job shadowing, and service learning initiatives. Thirty students currently in the program. Trustee Bull, a volunteer in the program, said she has known both Courtney and Charles since kindergarten and is very proud of the participants. Trustee Carney, another volunteer, said she has known the students since kindergarten also. Trustee Baehr noted that she had been involved as a mentor with the first program and has stayed in touch with the girl she tutored. That first group started in 1991 and graduated in 1997 with a 97% graduation rate. The organization's website and phone number are www.dreamassociates.org; 847-644-1632. Supervisor Strenger Wayne said the Township would have a link to the organization on its website.

VI. Public Comment – Non-Agenda Items

VII. Old Business - None

VIII. New Business - None

IX. Other Public Comments

County Board member Audrey Nixon from North Chicago thanked the trustees for coming to the City for a meeting and suggested that about three meetings per year be held in North Chicago, given the difficulty many North Chicago residents have. She also asked if the Township's social worker is continuing to come to North Chicago. Supervisor Strenger Wayne said that they had been holding office hours at the North Chicago library on the first and third Mondays in the afternoon. However, she noted that there has been limited traffic and the opportunity to see the social worker on the third Monday is now by appointment. Mrs. Nixon speculated that perhaps there had not been sufficient notice of the Township's presence in town and suggested putting out notices through the community's churches. Supervisor Strenger Wayne said that efforts have been made to get the word out by various means, including through the churches. Mrs. Nixon added that Charles Jones is a member of her church and plays the saxophone with the choir.

Mayor Leon Rockingham echoed what County Board member had said in appreciation of the presence of the Board in North Chicago and said that the City's door are always open to visitors. He suggested that holding more Township meetings to make the residents more aware of Township program and activities. He said that the City had made an effort to publicize the Township's presence in North Chicago through the City's website and newsletter. He also said the City would help to publicize the Township's effort to expand food pantry resources in North Chicago. He closed by congratulated the Dreamers on their progress. Supervisor Strenger Wayne thanked Mayor Rockingham for all the cooperation extended by him and the City.

Bobby Allen, alderman, May 25th food pantry Eternal Flame, 1412 Greenfield, 10-3. Food pantry. He also asked about the possibility of \$10,000 in financial assistance for food pantry assistance.

X. Township Officials' Reports

a. Assessor:

Assessor Yakes handed out a sheet explaining the "State Equalization Factor" being applied this year to assessments in Shields and other Lake County townships. She said state law requires the assessment of property at one-third of its fair market value. The County Supervisor of Assessment may apply a multiple or factor to adjust a township's assessments if, on the whole, they are too low or too high. She said the Lake County Board of Review heard about 17,000 taxpayer complaints about assessments from throughout Lake County with about 650 of them coming from Shields Township. As a result of adjustments by the Board of Review, Lake County's total assessed valuation of about \$30 billion was reduced by \$600 million, which, Assessor Yakes explained, had brought the aggregate County-wide required assessment percentage of 33.3 percent down to 32.68 percent. The Illinois Department of Revenue then applied a "State Equalization Factor" of 1.99 percent to bring the assessments back up to the required one-third of fair market value. Assessor Yakes went on to explain that this will not alter tax bills since they are largely a function of the total amount of local government spending, that a tax bill is determined by a combination of the assessment and the tax rates of the various local governments, and that a uniform adjustment in assessments would mean an offsetting change to the tax rates so that the tax bills should remain the same. Assessor Yakes added that tax bills will be mailed on May 6th with payments due by June 6th.

b. Highway Commissioner's Report

Highway Commissioner Goodman said that it had been a relatively quiet month involving patching potholes and upgrading signs. Supervisor Strenger Wayne asked about an application for assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and Commissioner Goodman said the amount sought is for

\$3,800 to \$4,000 for reimbursement for overtime hours and salt used as the result of the severe snowstorm in early February.

c. Trustees' Report

Trustee Carney mentioned a recent meeting of the Township's "Phoenix Rising" charitable foundation and an arrangement with Chief Linda Leverett at the Great Lake Navy Base to pay for a mobile food bank for all of North Chicago to take place at the base. It will be held on Saturday May 7th, and Chief Leverett is supplying 20 volunteers. The mobile food pantry will be able to serve 250 families on a first-come, first-serve basis. It will be located at the Forrestal Village Chapel from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon. Individuals are asked to bring bags or boxes in which to hold the food. Trustee Baehr questioned the need to provide this kind of assistance for military personnel. Trustee Carney responded that many military personnel are paid very little, and there are many single parents with spouses serving overseas who are struggling financially. She had also pointed out that the food pantry was going to be open to all North Chicago residents, and Navy personnel were providing the volunteers to help make this possible for the whole town. Trustee Carney noted that it has been a goal to provide additional food pantry resources for North Chicago residents and that this initiative is only using the charitable donations made to the Phoenix Rising Foundation. She explained that the mobile pantry is provided by the Northern Illinois Food Bank and that they make nine pounds of food available for every dollar contributed dollar. She said the Food Bank charges \$650/day if this service is provided during the week and \$750 on a Saturday. Supervisor Strenger Wayne pointed out that they supplement what the Township can do in that they offer perishable food items. In response to Trustee Baehr's additional concern about the use of a church facility for the food pantry activity, Trustee Carney responded that they are simply using the chapel's parking lot and that the building is not open that day. Mayor Rockingham asked for copies of the flyer to distribute about the food pantry and said information about it would be on the City's website.

Trustee Woodson mentioned a May 21st health fair at Mt. Sinai Baptist Church from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., focusing on education and awareness about leading healthy lives and dealing with such subjects as safe routes to schools and community gardening

d. Supervisor's Report

In her Supervisor's Report, Supervisor Strenger Wayne mentioned:

- The following relating to the Township's food pantry: the postal carriers food drive planned for May 14th, the largest such effort of the year; donations in April by Joe Rafferty, sons of the White family in lieu of exchanging their own birthday gifts, and food from Wisma in Lake Bluff aided by a volunteer who picks up these items, and the monthly food drive by the Union Church; and a planned Phoenix Rising golf outing at the Lake Bluff golf course scheduled for July 22nd to aid the food pantry.
- Her appreciation of the Lake Forest Village Optical Shop's assistance in fitting a young man with a new pair of glasses, including an optical exam provided by Hillary Morrow. Mother's Trust also helped with this matter.
- The availability of a Lake Forest College sophomore, beginning May 9th, to explore a summer youth program with measurable outcomes, whether for Shields Township or other communities. Trustee Carney and Baehr questioned the possible outcome in light of the absence of money in the budget to support such a program. Trustee Woodson said she thought it is worth researching since there is no cost and said that children need some constructive activity in the summer and this effort will simply be focused on research at no cost to the Township.
- Her attendance at the Township Officials of Illinois annual "Topics Day" in Springfield to discuss issues affecting townships and other local governments and to meet with legislators.
- Her participation in the Green Bay Elementary School "Readers Day" program in North Chicago during which she and North Chicago Fire Chief Wilder joined a second grade classroom.
- A reminder about the Township's food pantry hours on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 8:30 to 4:30 and information about Township case manager Devon Nelson's visits twice monthly at the North Chicago Library and consideration of expanding those hours if the need warrants it.

XIII. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn by Trustee Bull, seconded by Trustee Baehr, was approved unanimously on a voice vote at 7:28 p.m..

Attest

David N. Barkhausen, Town Clerk