

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 November 15, 2012 at 5:00 p.m.

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

Highway Commissioner Bill Goodman and Assessor Yakes were also present.

I. Meeting Called to Order

Supervisor Strenger Wayne called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Supervisor Strenger Wayne opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and requested an attendance roll call. All Board members were present other than Trustee Baehr, who arrived at the beginning of the discussion of Old Business.

III. Consideration of Minutes from the Previous Town Board Meetings

A motion by Trustee Anderson, seconded by Trustee Woodson, to approve the minutes of the Board's monthly meeting of October 18, 2012 was approved on a voice vote.

IV. Payment of Bills

Town Fund Bills: A motion by Trustee Carney, seconded by Trustee Anderson, to approve the payment of Town Fund expenses in the amount of \$64,571.08 passed 4-0 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 \$158,387.20 passed 4-0 on a roll call vote. Bill G. explained that the large amount this month was attributable to a payment of about \$144,000 to Peter Baker & Sons for road improvements and that another \$8,000 was for drainage work.

General Assistance Bills: A motion by Trustee Anderson, seconded by Trustee Woodson, to approve the payment of General Assistance expenses in the amount of \$2,864.60 passed 4-0 on a roll call vote.

V. Public Comment

Janice Schnobrich of Lake Bluff mentioned that Supervisor Strenger Wayne promotes township government without explaining the townships have only a very limited role in assisting those in need, as she noted that the sole state-mandated service for a township supervisor is the administration of General Assistance. She maintained that the overhead expense of the supervisor's office is fourteen dollars for every dollar given out General Assistance. She suggested that the supervisor's position be part-time with a reduced salary and that this should be kept in mind when the Board sets salaries for the next term of office.

VI. Old Business

a. Discussion of North Chicago Taxi Program

Supervisor Strenger Wayne mentioned that that the Board has previously discussed the North Chicago taxi program and that \$35,756 in payments to the taxicab companies has been approved by Board. She said that participants in the program have all been recertified and that there are currently 91 of them; that vouchers worth \$2,750 are outstanding, and the program is already over budget by about \$5,700.

She noted that the accountant has said money can be transferred between line items to cover the excess cost of the program. Trustee Carney said she didn't think eligibility for the program should be changed during the winter months and suggested that the Board continue to monitor the program over the coming months and address it again at budget time.

b. Discussion and Vote on Compensation for Elected Officials for Next Term of Office

Supervisor Strenger Wayne mentioned that the current board has to set compensation for elected officials for the next term of office and asked the trustees where they wanted to start the discussion.

Trustees: Trustee Carney said she thought trustee salaries should be eliminated, mentioning that village trustees in Lake Bluff and city council members in Lake Forest have more time-consuming positions but are not compensated. There was some discussion of a payment of \$200 for a budget meeting, which idea was then dropped as Trustees Baehr and Anderson also said they thought there should be no compensation. A motion to that effect by Trustee Carney, seconded by Trustee Anderson was approved 5-0 on a roll call vote.

Highway Commissioner: Trustee Anderson said he had continued to research the compensation for township highway commissioners and noted a rough correlation between the salaries and the mileage for which they are responsible. Given the limited mileage of roads in the unincorporated areas of Shields Township, he suggested a salary of \$25,000 or \$30,000. When Trustee Baehr asked which one, Trustee Anderson said \$30,000. His motion to approve that amount, seconded by Trustee Baehr was approved 4-1, with Trustee Woodson voting no.

Supervisor: Trustee Carney said she had been researching salaries for township supervisors in various jurisdictions and cited an article from the Daily Herald that indicated that salaries for supervisors in Lake County are among the highest in the State. She said she had then looked at townships in the general area. She noted that townships in rural areas take on the role of local government and that Shields Township has a relatively small unincorporated area. She pointed out that the previous board had set the current salaries and that Supervisor Strenger Wayne was not responsible for the current amount of the supervisor's compensation, and she mentioned her respect for Supervisor Strenger Wayne and the job she does. She referred to a website, www.openthebooks.com, which documents the compensation of public officials in Illinois. She then cited a number of supervisor salaries in Cook County townships ranging between \$15,000 and \$35,000 where the supervisors are part-time and receive no benefits. Trustee Carney noted that the administration of General Assistance is the one state-mandated activity of township supervisors and that Shields Township has an average of only two individuals on General Assistance at one time. She added that Emergency Assistance is not mandated, that individuals receiving it can only qualify for it once every 18 months, that eight people received it this month but that there are some months when no one does. She also suggested that the operation of the Shields Township food pantry is not very efficient, that there are great fluctuations in the number of individuals served by it (from 86 families most recently but just 32 last February, and that, by contrast, 297 people were served through the Township's support of the Northern Illinois Food Bank's mobile food pantry in just a few hours). Trustee Carney observed that there are few limits as to what townships are allowed to do and that what they should do is really a philosophical question. With a full-time office manager and caseworker, she said the position should be part-time with a salary of \$25,000 to \$30,000. Trustee Anderson suggested an analogy of a mayor or village president who hires someone to run the unit of government on a daily basis and oversees its operation. Trustee Woodson suggested looking at what the Township does and what the Board wants it to do and said Supervisor Strenger Wayne does more than provide mandated services and brings good will to the community. Trustee Baehr said she agreed with the position that Trustee Carney had outlined and the reasons for it. Supervisor Strenger Wayne said she had heard a number of inaccurate statements about what supervisors do and observed that "ignorance is the foundation of error." She noted that the trustees had not come into the office to see what activities occur on a daily basis. She said the volume of those seeking assistance is higher than ever, that a great deal of time is spent by her as well as staff in reviewing the applicants' circumstances, as well as their activities in seeking employment and on outreach in the community. She maintained that money is saved by partnering with other social service agencies and that she had brought money into the Township that is greater than her salary. She maintained that the supervisor's position is not, and should not be considered, part-time. Trustee Baehr said the position is not part-time only because Supervisor Strenger Wayne has interpreted it that way and said she agreed that it should be part-time. A motion by Trustee Baehr, seconded by Trustee Anderson, to set the supervisor's salary at \$30,000 was approved on a 3-1-1 roll call vote with Trustee Woodson voting no and Supervisor Strenger Wayne abstaining. A subsequent motion by Trustee Anderson, seconded by Trustee Carney, to set a salary of \$1,000 for the supervisor to serve as treasurer of the Road District was approved 4-0-1 on a roll call with Supervisor Strenger Wayne abstaining.

Clerk: After Trustee Carney mentioned the salaries for township clerks in a number of other townships, a motion by Trustee Baehr to set the clerk's salary at \$6,000, seconded by Trustee Carney, was approved 4-0-1, with Trustee Woodson abstaining.

Assessor: A lengthy discussion took place about the assessor's position. Assessor Yakes explained the nature of her work and the statutory requirements to be able to be a candidate for the assessor's position. She noted that she had been in the office for 25 years and that the assessment process has become largely computerized. Trustee Carney observed that Assessor Yakes had attempted to groom a successor who would be willing to run for the position and had not been able to do so. She suggested that the chances of finding someone to take on the position might be better if the assessor's position was part-time and the assessor hired someone to help run the office on a day-to-day basis. Assessor Yakes said there is a lot to learn about the office and that there would be a loss of accountability with a part-time assessor. Trustee Baehr complimented Assessor Yakes on her record but also suggested that it would be easier to find a candidate who could hold the position on a part-time basis and then to have professional people running the office who would not have to stand for election. Trustee Anderson also suggested having a part-time assessor and a full-time staff. Supervisor Strenger Wayne said she deferred to Assessor Yakes on the advisability of this approach and had not discussed it with her. Assessor Yakes said she could not say for certain that the part-time approach would not work and noted that the West Deerfield Township assessor is considered part-time, is paid \$70,000, and is spending much more time in the job than was anticipated. Trustee Anderson said he agreed with the part-time approach and made a motion to set the salary at \$30,000, for which there was no second. Trustee Baehr noted that there would be the better part of a year to plan a transition before a new assessor would take office. She asked about the handling of appeals, and Assessor Yakes replied that they are handled by Kelly. Trustee Woodson said she thought a \$30,000 was too low, and Supervisor Strenger Wayne expressed her disappointment with the view that the supervisor's and assessor's positions should be part-time. Assessor Yakes said the West Deerfield Township approach of a part-time assessor might possibly work, but that the salary would need to be higher and that residents would still want to talk to the elected assessor who would need to be accountable. After further discussion, Trustee Carney moved to set the salary at \$50,000, which was seconded by Trustee Woodson and approved 4-1 on a roll call vote with Supervisor Strenger Wayne voting no.

Trustee Anderson then made a motion to clarify that there would be no employer-paid benefits for any of the elected officials' positions other than reimbursement for expenses, which was seconded by Trustee Baehr and approved 4-0-1 on a roll call vote with Supervisor Strenger Wayne abstaining.

VII. New Business

a. Discussion and Vote on Intergovernmental Agreement for Election-related Filings of Candidacy Papers

Clerk Barkhausen mentioned the possible complication with his being out-of-town for the last day of the filing period for candidates for township offices in the April election. He said that he had discussed the possibility of making arrangements with another area unit of local government to assist in handling the filing for candidates during the day of the scheduled filing period when he would be unavailable, but added that, instead, he would likely ask the Board to appoint a deputy clerk for that purpose at the December meeting.

IX. Township Officials' Reports

a. Trustees - None

b. Highway Commissioner

Highway Commissioner Bill Goodman said that the Road District had been involved with completing recent improvements and clearing some ditches along with preparing equipment for the winter weather.

c. Supervisor's Report

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

- A video developed by the Township's videographer, B.J. Coleman, was shown documenting the activities of last summer's summer youth employment program that could be used to raise money for the Township's Phoenix Rising Foundation that would support a future program of this kind, as the Foundation had paid for the program this past summer. Six students were hired through the program with additional participants taking part in the activities of "Free-style Fridays."

- Her participation in a Lake Bluff District 65 focus group, helping the District form a strategic plan.
- Her attendance at a Youth Build appreciation event, as young adults are often referred to this program to pursue GED degrees and to develop skills for work.
- Her attendance at a Lake County Workforce Development presentation promoting high school completion and job-related skills.
- The donation of 100 holiday meals for Thanksgiving from the Phoenix Risking Foundation and her thanks to those who contributed to them: PJ Micelli, Bill Wignot, John Weglarz, Dawn Barnum and her brother Tony, Jack and Kathy Sheppard, Ann Taylor, Wilhemena Cater, and Kevin Conroy.
- The presence of the Township at the North Chicago Library this coming Saturday morning, November 17th.
- Donations to the Phoenix Rising Foundation from the Butler Family Foundation, Lake Forest Baseball Association, Heather Kotlarz and her children, Lake Bluff Elementary School, and Chase Bank in Lake Bluff.
- Thank you notes from students and families who participated in the recent health and wellness educational programs, conducted in partnership with the North Chicago Partners/Gorter Family Foundation and designed to be educational and fun family events that were held on October 23rd at Forrestal School and October 25th at A.J. Katzenmaier School.

X. Adjournment

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

Attest

David N. Barkhausen, Town Clerk