

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 December 13, 2012 at 6:30 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 6:34 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 during the discussion of item VII(a.) below.

**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 November 15, 2012 was approved on a voice vote.

**IV. Payment of Bills**

**Town Fund Bills:** A motion by Trustee Woodson, seconded by Trustee Anderson, to approve the payment of Town Fund expenses in the amount of \$64,724.58 passed 4-0 on a roll call vote.

**Road & Bridge Bills:** A motion by Trustee Anderson, seconded by Trustee Woodson, to approve the payment of Road Fund expenses in the amount of \$7,946.24 passed 4-0 on a roll call vote.

**General Assistance Bills:** A motion by Trustee Carney, seconded by Trustee Anderson, to approve the payment of General Assistance expenses in the amount of \$4,106.96 passed 4-0 on a roll call vote.

**V. Public Comment**

Janice Schnobrich of Lake Bluff mentioned the assistance that personnel from the Great Lakes Navy base provided in helping with a food bank distribution of the Northern Illinois Food Bank on two occasions. She suggested focusing food pantry activities directly for North Chicago residents in this kind of constructive manner.

**VI. Old Business – None**

**VII. New Business**

**a. Discussion and Adoption of Tax Levies for Town Fund, IMRF and Road District**

**Town Fund and Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund:** Supervisor Strenger Wayne said that that the levies for the Town Fund, Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund, and the Road District need to be approved. She mentioned the levy amounts for the past year and said the maximum levy that could be approved for the Town Fund under the Illinois tax cap law was \$854,999.84. She noted the amounts spent to date and that there are unpaid bills for utilities, taxes, and grants to the Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Senior Center and for the Emergency Assistance partnership line item. (Trustee Baehr arrived at this point). Trustee Carney pointed out that the tax extension (property tax revenues actually billed) was

once again greater than the levy that had been approved by the Board. Supervisor Strenger Wayne said the proposed budget would be about \$850,000 for the next fiscal year. Trustee Anderson pointed out that the annual savings from the reductions in compensation and benefits for elected officials will be about \$150,000 once they are fully realized, and Supervisor Strenger Wayne said that amount would only be about \$70,000 in the next fiscal year. Trustee Anderson suggested a levy of \$600,000 or \$625,000. He said a levy of that amount would only draw down the reserves by \$100,000 and there would still be a full year or more of expenses in reserves. Trustee Carney said these calculations should include the revenues from the personal property replacement tax, and Supervisor Strenger Wayne said that this revenue source for local governments was in possible jeopardy because the state legislature could divert it to help with Illinois' financial problems. Trustee Baehr said she agreed with Trustee Anderson about reducing the levy. The low water mark for reserves during the year is about \$700,000, said Supervisor Strenger Wayne. Trustee Carney said she didn't think reserves were lowered last year. Trustee Woodson noted that there are about \$1.1 million in reserves currently. Trustee Anderson moved to approve a General Fund levy of \$600,000, which was seconded by Trustee Baehr. He then amended the motion to increase the amount to \$625,000, which motion was also seconded by Trustee Baehr, and Trustee Anderson further clarified the motion to note that, of the \$625,000 total, \$30,000 would be for the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund levy and the balance of \$595,000 for the General Town Fund levy. Supervisor Strenger Wayne suggested that the reductions in the General Fund levy approved by the Board mean only very small savings for typical Shields Township property taxpayers, claiming that the tax reductions over the past four years in Lake Forest, Lake Bluff, and North Chicago for median home values, respectively, of \$850,000, \$650,000, and \$125,000, have been just \$60, \$12.97 and \$6, respectively. Trustee Anderson's motion was approved 5-0 on a roll call vote.

**Road Fund:** Highway Commissioner Goodman requested the maximum levy increase permitted by the Illinois property tax cap law, for a proposed levy of \$516,116, approval for which was moved by Trustee Anderson and seconded by Trustee Woodson. When Supervisor Strenger Wayne suggested that the levy should be reduced because of adequate reserves in the Road Fund, Commission Goodman said he thought it would be "ludicrous" not to levy the maximum amount permitted by the tax cap law because, even with the maximum allowable levy, there are never enough resources to address all the needs of the Road District. Trustee Anderson renewed his motion, which was seconded this time by Trustee Carney and approved 4-0 on a roll call vote with Supervisor Strenger Wayne voting no.

#### **b. Discussion and Adoption of 2013 Meeting Schedule**

Supervisor Strenger Wayne proposed that monthly Board meetings continue to be held on the third Thursdays of the month at 6:30 p.m., with the exception of the December meeting, to be held on the second Thursday and the January meeting to begin at 4:30 to allow for a discussion of the budget for the next fiscal year. There was a discussion as to whether to have any meetings in North Chicago as the Board has occasionally done in the past. Trustee Carney said it is confusing for members of the public wishing to attend a meeting to determine whether the meeting is at its normal location or somewhere else. Trustee Baehr suggested either having all meetings at the Township office or holding occasional meetings in all communities in the Township. With agreement as to the dates and times of the meetings, Trustee Carney moved that all meetings for the coming year be held at the Township office, which motion was seconded by Trustee Anderson and approved 3-2 on a roll call vote with Supervisor Strenger Wayne and Trustee Woodson voting no.

#### **c. Discussion and Approval of Appointment of Deputy Clerk**

Clerk Barkhausen mentioned that he would be out of town for a few hours on one of the days during the filing period for candidates for township office. His request to have Jan Gibson of Lake Forest approved as a deputy clerk to handle the filing of candidacy papers for any candidates who might wish to file during this period was approved on a voice vote on a motion made by Trustee Anderson and seconded by Trustee Baehr.

### **VIII. Township Officials' Reports**

#### **a. Trustees**

Trustee Carney mentioned the important work done by many not-for-profit social service agencies in the Township, many of which have links on the Township's website, examples of which mentioned by her were Mother's Trust, Youth Build, Samaritan House, PADS and Lake County Cares. She emphasized that this was not an all-inclusive list and made an appeal for end-of-year voluntary private financial support for these kinds of agencies.

#### **b. Highway Commissioner**

Highway Commissioner Bill Goodman said he is still waiting for snow, the absence of which thus far he has been grateful, and that the Road District is working on fixing right-of-ways in the wake of the recent road repairs.

**c. Supervisor's Report**

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

- Marta Brenner left as a part-time employee in the supervisor's office, and Debbie Kiddle has replaced her.
- With regard to the Township's food pantry: calls from residents looking to "adopt" families and children for support during the holidays; support for three families provided by members of the Knollwood Fire Department; the following donations to Phoenix Rising to support the food pantry: several cash donations; 175 pounds donated by the Beef-4-Hunger organization as part of its commitment of 10,000 meals (at a quarter of a pound each) of high quality beef; the provision of 4,000 cans of food by the Lake Forest High School sophomore class study hall; Activator Cycles' food drive raising 250 pound of food; donations by Lisa Hathaway's bridge club, the Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Kiwanis Club, the Union Church of Lake Bluff, the Gannon and Wilson families, and Judy Noble; the assistance of 9 volunteers from among Hospira employees the previous Saturday to help stuff bags; the donation of candy from young members of the First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest to send to troops overseas; and donations by area chambers of commerce and the staff at the Lake Bluff School District 65 consisting of a flatbed of food and supplies.
- Happy Holidays to all

**IX. Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn by Trustee Baehr, seconded by Trustee Woodson, was approved on a voice vote at 7:44 p.m..

Attest

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David N. Barkhausen, Town Clerk