

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING  
APRIL 12, 2016

The Annual Town Meeting for Maine Township was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Clerk Gary K. Warner. Clerk Warner welcomed everyone in attendance to the Maine Township 166<sup>th</sup> Annual Town meeting. He asked everyone to extend their prayers and wishes for the safe return of our armed forces, who are risking their lives for our freedoms.

Clerk Warner asked everyone to rise and Park Ridge Boy Scouts Troop #50 presented the Colors and lead everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Clerk Warner announced that the purpose of the meeting was to inform the electorate of our Township's financial status and to act upon certain resolutions to be presented at the meeting.

Clerk Warner introduced Deputy Clerks Rosalind Luburich and Annette Galante. He added that Jerry Jaworsky has been sick but we all wish him a healthy recovery. He also introduced his Chief Deputy Clerk Wiesia Tytko and stated that his staff is responsible for making the Clerk's office operate so efficiently. Clerk Warner stated that the Maine Township offices serve the residents in the best of our ability. He added that the passport services provided in the Clerk's office since 2002 grew tremendously. Clerk Warner stated that he is proud to announce that in the fiscal year 2015-2016 his office collected over \$63,000 for passport applications fees and over \$15,000 for processing fees for selling the Cook County vehicle stickers.

Next he introduced Maine Township Elected Officials, starting with Trustees: the Honorable Walter Kazmierczak, Laura Morask, Peter Gialamas and Kimberly Jones, Highway Commissioner, Honorable Robert Provenzano, and Assessor, Honorable Susan Moylan Krey. Lastly Clerk Warner introduced Maine Township Supervisor, Honorable Carol Teschky.

Clerk Warner recognized Trustee Jones for the purpose of making a nomination for a moderator. Trustee Jones nominated Park Ridge Park District Board Commissioner Mel Thillens to serve as Moderator of the meeting. There were no other nominations and it was seconded by Mr. Wayne Serbin. The motion was approved and passed by a show of hands with voting cards.

Clerk Warner administered the Oath of Moderator to Park Ridge Park District Board Commissioner Mel Thillens. Moderator Thillens stated that he is honored to be a part of this special meeting and he thanked Clerk Warner and all for being invited. He appointed Maine Township Attorney Dan Dowd as Parliamentarian.

Moderator Thillens asked Clerk Warner to present the minutes of the 2015 Annual Town Meeting for approval. Clerk Warner stated that the minutes were distributed earlier and requested that the minutes be approved and that the reading be waived. John Ulrey made a motion to approve the 2015 Annual Town meeting minutes and it was seconded by Trustee Laura Morask. The motion to waive the reading and approve the minutes passed, by a show of hands with voting cards.

Moderator Thillens stated that as required by statute, asked if there were any special town meetings held during the year.

Clerk Warner stated that there were two special meetings. The first Special Board meeting was held on March 16, 2015. This meeting was held for the purpose to discuss and call a vote to approve the CDBG Resolution 2015-4. The second Special Board meeting was held on June 9, 2015. This meeting was held for the purpose to discuss the three open employment positions.

Moderator Thillens asked Clerk Warner if the Annual Financial Reports for the General Town, General Assistance and Road & Bridge Funds were distributed prior to the Annual Town meeting.

Clerk Warner stated that the Annual Financial Reports were distributed before the Annual Town meeting and they are displayed and available for reviewing.

Moderator Thillens asked Supervisor Teschky to present her Annual Report and introduce the Maine Township staff. Supervisor Teschky presented the Supervisor's Annual Report:

"I want to welcome everyone here tonight to Maine Township's 166<sup>th</sup> Annual Town Meeting. It is my pleasure to report to you the wonderful things that took place in and outside this building from March 1, 2015 to February 29, 2016. Much was accomplished which I attribute to our dedicated and loyal staff and elected officials. I am extremely proud of our Administrator, Department Heads and Staff. They do their jobs day in and day out and have earned my respect and the respect of the residents that they deal with on a daily basis.

First I would like to acknowledge my Administrative Assistant, Doriene Prorak. Doriene embodies professionalism and integrity. She goes well beyond normal duties and always had a positive attitude. She handles residents' concerns with care and compassion.

Doriene, please rise.

Next I would like to introduce our capable Administrator, Dayna Berman. Dayna has been Administrator for 11 years now. She has performed with the utmost professionalism and has earned the respect of both the staff and the elected officials. Dayna, will you please rise and introduce our administrative staff and then the department heads?

Thank you one and all for your service to the Township. It is certainly a pleasure to work with each of you on a daily basis. This evening we would like to give special recognition to the following staff for their years of service and dedication to Maine Township.

10 Years

Assessor Susan Moylan Krey, Tracy Cummings, Jerry Jaworsky, Richard Lyon

15 Years

Trustee Walter Kazmierczak, Trustee Laura Morask, David Gnutek, Mary Swanson, Therese Tully

20 Years

Dayna Berman

We once again offered residents an opportunity to destroy important, no longer needed documents. We contracted with Secure Data Destruction which employs mentally and/or physically handicapped adults. We had 255 cars come through our parking lot and 5650lbs. of paper was shredded. We have scheduled another date for this year also.

We also partnered with the Park Ridge Chamber of Commerce and Maine Township Highway Department for an electronics recycling event at the Park Ridge Public Works building. Over 400 cars came through to drop off various electronics which are banned from landfills in Illinois.

Our busy Clerk's office registered 33 new voters this past year. They also processed 11,905 Cook County vehicle stickers, 20 handicapped parking cards, 141 Hunting and Fishing licenses and 296 RTA passes. The "no appointment necessary" passport applications totaled 3261. They also processed 880 Mainelines tickets which are subsidized cab rides for the disabled and low income seniors. They also mailed 780 Neighbor to Neighbor letters.

At the Township Officials Annual Conference in November, Maine Township was the recipient of two "Mighty Message" awards. We received for the first time, the "Best Newsletter Award." We also received for the third time the "Best Photo" award. Special thanks go to Dick Barton of the Barton Marketing Group for his efforts in producing both of these "messages."

Our busy Assessor's office answered 5,870 phone calls and saw 10,563 walk-ins. They assisted in completing Homeowner's, Senior, Senior Freeze, Disabled Persons and Disabled Veterans exemptions. A total of 1389 appeals were processed to either the Cook County Assessor or the Cook County Board of Review. They processed over 1100 Certificates of Error applications ensuring Maine Township taxpayers are refunded monies for exemptions not previously claimed.

MaineStay Youth and Family Services continued their excellent sliding scale family counseling services to 1279 families which consisted of 4489 individuals. Clinical groups offered included Anger Management, Anxiety, Couples Workshop, Depression, Parenting Class and self-esteem groups. Non clinical groups included Art In The Town, the 4-week at risk Youth Summer Camp, Community Education night, and Student Government Days. Under Maine TRAC/ Peer Jury, a total of 442 hours of community service was performed.

The MaineStreamers Seniors have increased their membership by 263 individuals this past year. They have continued their popular day trips totaling 59. They sponsored 14 long distance trips including a 10-day Italy Excursion. They offered a variety of classes from Tai Chi, Yoga, Senior Zumba to Rules of the Road and Book Reviews.

At the Township Officials of Illinois Conference last November, ITASCC presented two awards to the MaineStreamers program: Senior Staff Member of the Year to Monica Jaroszewicz, and Innovative Program of the Year to our Annual Swing into Spring Senior Expo. Congratulations!

The General Assistance Department once again saw a record number of township residents as they interviewed 8117 residents seeking help. They were able to provide assistance which included Senior, Disabled and Veterans' Advocacy along with the General Assistance program. They also assisted residents who qualified for state and federal programs such as LIHEAP, Benefit Access and special referrals to the Social Security Administration for possible disabled individuals. The Maine Township Food Pantry assisted 2835 families this past fiscal year. Thanks to the generosity of the community we were able to purchase turkeys for Thanksgiving and Christmas and fresh eggs last spring.

We initiated a partnership with the Police Departments of Park Ridge, Niles and Des Plaines called Cops for Coats. These local departments collected gently used coats, hats, mittens and scarves. They have them cleaned and then Maine Township serves as a distribution center for one Saturday in the fall. This past year we were able to help over 250 families.

Our popular Coast2Coast Pharmaceutical Assistance Program has filled 2877 prescriptions this past year. The total savings by the residents amounted to \$17,407. Maine Township received \$2,509 in royalty payments. This is a win-win program for all.

The Office of Emergency Management gave assistance to 59 separate events in the community. They logged a total of 2162 hours

which translates to an economic value of close to \$54,000 if the Township or another municipality were to pay for these services.

Our new initiative which is called the Maine Township Recovery Connection seeks to connect young adults who want to stay clean and sober with non-alcoholic social events. The department works collaboratively with health, vocational, governmental, educational and behavioral experts to connect participants to community resources that meet their needs. There were a total of 1269 visits to the programs' weekly Friday night socials. The Maine Township Recovery Connection has been awarded the #1 new recovery program in the Greater Chicagoland Area by PEER Services.

We said good-bye to MaineStay Director Evelyn Fennell. We wish her all the best in her retirement. Assistant Director Richard Lyon has been promoted to Director of MaineStay. We welcome Anna Dziekonski as Assistant Director. We wish them both long and successful tenures in their new positions.

Long time General Assistance Case Worker Kathy Sabbini has been promoted to Assistant Director of General Assistance. We also wish her well in her new position.

Former Code Enforcement Officer Larry Bunyon has left for new employment elsewhere. We welcome as our new Code Enforcement Officer, long time maintenance staffer, Michael Samaan. We also wish him a long tenure in his new position. Part time MaineStay therapist Susan Guenther has left to pursue a new venture. We welcome Robert Barder as our new evening MaineStay therapist and wish him a long association with Maine Township.

Our newest addition to our maintenance staff is Jessica Fox. Jessica has already left her own unique mark on town hall in the short time she has been here. Welcome aboard, Jessica.

Last but not least we welcome another new part timer, Jonathan Kaehn. Jonathan joins the Maine Township Recovery Connection. We also wish him a long association with Maine Township.

So we have completed another successful year in service to our residents. We are operating under the tax cap and we have no debt. We continue on a sound fiscal direction and we are building up our reserves. Once again we have demonstrated that Township Government, being the closest to the people, is also the most efficient and effective form of government.

Thank you and may God Bless everyone here tonight and May God Bless America!"

Moderator Thillens asked OEM Director Dagmar Rutzen to present the William (Bill) Cox Memorial Award.

OEM Director, Dagmar Rutzen stated that in 1989 the Town of Maine Emergency Services and Disaster Agency was founded. Allen Graber was the agency Coordinator, William (Bill) Cox the Chief Deputy Director and Bob Cohen was the Training Officer. William (Bill) Cox loved life and everything it had to offer. He was very enthusiastic about this new agency and put his heart and soul into it.

The Maine Township OEM volunteers come from all walks of life to participate on behalf of the residents. We were fortunate to have Adam Greenberg join the agency in September 2003. He was eager to learn what we were all about and fortunately for us, he came to us with a wealth of experiences that he shares every time he teaches a class. He is retired from the Army, he is a registered nurse, has served on Saint Francis Hospital's Safety Committee and Emergency Preparedness Committee, served as their Stroke Coordinator, is their EMS Coordinator and has assumed the role of the hospital's Safety Officer.

All these experiences have benefited our agency tremendously. Adam's expertise was greatly appreciated when he became involved with our Medical Reserve Corps. He is also the one who spear-headed our REHAB unit that supports emergency workers at disasters. He was a natural fit to become our Training Officer for OEM. In this role he has made sure that we stay NIMS compliant and that we are always prepared. He is an excellent teacher and sprinkles his lessons with a sense of humor. In addition, Adam has taken on the initiative to learn how to operate all of our equipment and vehicles.

We are so lucky to have Adam as one of our officers of OEM. His drive, devotion and passion to help people have greatly enhanced our agency benefited the residents of Maine Township.

Ms. Rutzen stated that she is honored and privileged to present the fourth William (Bill) Cox Award for Excellence in Emergency Management and Commitment to Maine Township to Adam Greenberg.

Moderator Thillens requested that Supervisor Teschky present the resolutions for approval by the electors.

Supervisor Teschky presented Resolution 2016-3 to establish the township fiscal year to begin March 1, 2016 and end February 28, 2017 and Mr. Serbin moved its approval. The motion was seconded by Trustee Morask and passed by a show of hands with voting cards.

Supervisor Teschky presented Resolution 2016-4 setting the next Annual Town Meeting for April 18, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at the Maine Township Town Hall, 1700 Ballard Road in Park Ridge. Trustee Morask moved its approval. The motion was seconded by

Trustee Gialamas and passed by a show of hands with voting cards.

Supervisor Teschky presented Resolution 2016-5 to approve compensation for the Moderator in the amount of \$75.00 and Mr. Serbin moved its approval. The motion was seconded by Trustee Jones and it passed by a show of hands with voting cards.

Moderator Thillens stated that it was his pleasure to conduct the Maine Township Annual Town meeting and he would donate \$75 to the Maine Township Emergency Food Pantry.

Moderator Thillens asked Trustee Peter Gialamas to present the Sgt. Karen Lader Memorial Good Citizen Award.

Trustee Gialamas stated that Mrs. Kimberly Ann Kuhlman has been a resident of Park Ridge since 2002. Shortly after moving to Park Ridge, she sought to serve her community by applying her knowledge and skills in architecture to serve the community. She chose to do so by being a member of the Appearance Commission for the City of Park Ridge.

Kim has served on this commission since 2004. She attends meetings regularly and in preparation for these meetings, she spends several hours reviewing proposed plans for those who are interested in constructing new building/residences or demolishing and rebuilding on existing homesteads in the City of Park Ridge.

Kim is a member of St. Ann's Guild, of St. Paul of the Cross Church. She is also active in supporting the Boy Scout Troop 24. Service is not a new endeavor for Kim. She is a veteran of the United States Navy and served our country for five years as an Officer in the Civil Engineer Corp. In the Navy, she was stationed in Bermuda and Washington, DC. This service was part of her continued commitment having received a Naval ROTC Scholarship to the University of Notre Dame. During her time in the Naval ROTC, Kim served in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba and on a Navy vessel in the Pacific Ocean. Service to her nation and community is part of who Kim is.

Trustee Gialamas stated that it is his distinct honor to present the Sgt. Karen Lader Memorial Good Citizen Award to Kimberly Ann Kuhlman.

Moderator Thillens extended his thanks to Clerk Warner and Supervisor Teschky for inviting him to conduct the Maine Township Annual Town Meeting. He added that he enjoyed hearing what was going on in the township in the last year.

Moderator Thillens announced that the business of the meeting was now concluded and asked if there were any more comments.

Moderator Thillens entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Serbin moved its approval. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dick Barton and the motion passed on a voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

---

Town Clerk