

Maine Township Board Meeting February 28, 2023

Maine Township Board meeting has been videotaped.

For more detailed reports and discussions please refer to the recorded meeting at:
https://mainetown.com/government/agendas_minutes.php

Board Members Present and other Elected Officials: Supervisor Dimond, Trustees: Jones, Horvath, Maher, Malik, Clerk Gialamas, Assessor Susan Moylan-Krey and Highway Commissioner Beauvais

Others in Attendance: Attorney Kurt Asprooth, Dayna Berman, Marie Dachniwsky, Ruba Al Ayed, Liz Coy, Richard Lyon, Mike Samaan, Austin Kelso, Marty Cook, Nader Ghazaleh, Nick Kanehl, Edward Olewinski, Robert Flinn, Lynne Sirner, Yohanis Younan, Zina Mckay, Naida Hadzic, Dzenana Dzambegovic, Gentiana Bojranovic, Amir Mehmedagic and Eva Magnowski

Supervisor Dimond called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m., led the Pledge of Allegiance and Clerk Gialamas called the roll.

Agenda Item: Approval of Minutes of January 24, 2023 Board Meeting

Trustee Horvath Motion to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the January 24, 2023 Board Meeting.

Trustee Jones Second.

Motion on a roll call vote as follows:

Supervisor Dimond Yes

Trustee Jones Yes

Trustee Horvath Yes

Trustee Maher Yes

Trustee Malik Yes

Agenda Item: Approval of General Assistance Expenditures

Payrolls dated February 3, 2023 and February 17, 2023 and General Assistance checks #54407V through check #54717 in the amount of \$52,682.09.

Trustee Malik Motion to approve.

Trustee Jones Second.

Motion on a roll call vote as follows:

Supervisor Dimond Yes

Trustee Jones Yes

Trustee Horvath Yes

Trustee Maher Yes

Trustee Malik Yes

Motion carried.

Agenda Item: Approval of Road District Expenditures

Payrolls dated February 3, 2023 and February 17, 2023, and Road District checks #22741 through check #22794 in the amount of \$307,577.32.

Trustee Jones Motion to approve.

Trustee Maher Second.

Motion on a roll call vote as follows:

Supervisor Dimond Yes

Trustee Jones Yes

Trustee Horvath Yes

Trustee Maher Yes
Trustee Malik Yes
Motion carried.

Agenda Item: Approval of General Town Fund Expenditures

Payrolls dated February 3, 2023 and February 17, 2023 and General Town Fund checks #59955 through check #59959, and checks #60001 through check #60061, in the amount of \$265,195.51.

Trustee Horvath Motion to approve.
Trustee Jones Second.
Motion on a roll call vote as follows:
Supervisor Dimond Yes
Trustee Jones Yes
Trustee Horvath Yes
Trustee Maher Yes
Trustee Malik Yes

Agenda Item: Public Participation

See video at 4:11

Maine Township resident Amir Mehmedagic along with Dzenana Dzambegovic, Lynne Sirner, Yohannis Younan, Zina Mckay, Nayda Hadzic and Gentiana Bojranovic came to the Maine Township seeking help to move back into their houses. Mr. Amir stated that due to a fire of the building occurred on the opposite street of their houses occurred on January 5, 2023, 4 families are homeless now. He said that after 2 months electricity, gas and water are still shot down in those houses due to safety hazard, and an alley is a disaster. There is a big problem with parking, many cars were towed and people are paying big fines. Mr. Amir stated that they were calling Cook County, City of Des Plaines, Comed, Nicor and the water company. He said that nobody cares. He said that the most helpful people are Maine Township employees: Nader Ghazaleh and Eddie Olewinski.

Dzenana Dzambegovic stated that due to lack of electricity the sump pumps are not working and the houses were flooded.

Yohannis Younan stated that he was told by a Cook County Sheriff to park on the private parking lot and his car was towed, which was very costly.

Trustee Jones stated that Penny Mateck from Cook County Sheriff's Department is working to resolve the parking and towing problem.

Questions and comments.

Code Enforcement Officer Nader Ghazaleh stated that Cook County Building and Zoning ordered that these houses can't be occupied. He said that accordingly to the information that they are getting there is a litigation between attorneys and the insurance companies. He pointed out that the insurance companies which are responsible for demolition of the building where the fire occurred, were holding back.

OEM Director Edward Olewinski stated that Code Enforcement Officer Nader Ghazaleh and he have been in regular communication with local agencies and service companies. He said that there is a lot of miscommunications.

Trustee Jones suggested to reach out to Senator Laura Murphy and the Board agreed.

Trustee Horvath stated that she will call Senator Laura Murphy.

More discussion.

The Board Officials agreed that it is frustrating and unacceptable.

Supervisor Dimond stated that she will talk more to OEM Director Edward Olewinski and Code Enforcement Officer Nader Ghazaleh about this whole situation.

Agenda Item: Old Business
None.

Agenda Item: New Business, Discussion and Vote on Road District Budget & Appropriation Ordinance
See video at 27:42

Supervisor Dimond stated that previously at 7:00 p.m. there was a Budget Hearing for Road District Fund and asked the Board for voting to approve the Ordinance 2023-24.

Trustee Jones Motion to adopt the proposed Ordinance 2023-RB-2, Road District Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for 2023-2024 as presented by Highway Commissioner Beauvais prior to the hearing and waive the reading.

Trustee Maher Second.

Motion on a roll call vote as follows:

Supervisor Dimond Yes

Trustee Jones Yes

Trustee Horvath Yes

Trustee Maher Yes

Trustee Malik Yes

Motion carried.

Agenda Item: New Business, Discussion of Town Fund/General Assistance Preliminary Budget & Appropriation Ordination for 2023- 24

See video at 29:00

Supervisor Dimond stated that a copy of the Town Fund/General Assistance Preliminary Budget & Appropriation Ordination for 2023- 24 was included in the Board Distribution packets. She said that the Legal Notice about availability for public inspection went out to the newspaper.

No questions or comments from the Board.

Agenda Item: New Business, Discussion and Vote on Town Fund/General Assistance Continuing Resolution

See video at 30:37

Supervisor Dimond stated that the Continuing Resolutions for Maine Township need to be approved to allow the Township to continue to pay bills until the new budget is approved.

Trustee Maher Motion to approve the Continuing Resolution 2023-4 for Town Fund and General Assistance.

Trustee Jones Second.

Motion on a roll call vote as follows:

Supervisor Dimond Yes

Trustee Jones Yes

Trustee Horvath Yes

Trustee Maher Yes

Trustee Malik Yes

Motion carried.

Agenda Item: New Business, Approval of April 11, 2023 Annual Town Meeting Agenda
See video at 31:50

Trustee Maher Motion to approve April 11, 2023 Annual Town Meeting
Agenda at 7:00 p.m.

Trustee Jones Second.

Motion on a roll call vote as follows:

Supervisor Dimond Yes

Trustee Jones Yes

Trustee Horvath Yes

Trustee Maher Yes

Trustee Malik Yes

Motion carried.

Agenda Item: New Business, Adoption of Codified Ordinances
See video at 33:52

Supervisor Dimond stated that over a year ago Commissioner Beauvais, Maintenance Director Samaan, Code Enforcement Officer Ghazaleh, Highway Office Manager Hayman and she started to work with Municode to organize Maine Township's Ordinances. She said that Municode just delivered the final product and we have a new Code of Ordinances in a nice binder. Supervisor Dimond mention that a digital copy was emailed to the Board officials.

Trustee Horvath Motion to pass the Ordinance 2023-1 Adopting and Enacting a
New Code for Maine Township.

Trustee Jones Second.

Motion on a roll call vote as follows:

Supervisor Dimond Yes

Trustee Jones Yes

Trustee Horvath Yes

Trustee Maher Yes

Trustee Malik Yes

Motion carried.

Agenda Item: New Business, Discussion and Possible Vote on Annual Code Hosting by
Municode

See video at 35:52

Supervisor Dimond stated that the Board members could find the Online Hosting Quotation Sheet from Municode tonight at their places.

The Board agreed with Supervisor Dimond that it is good idea to post Maine Township's Ordinances on the Municode's website for the benefit of the public to have easy and quick access to view the Ordinances.

The discussion was postponed to the next meeting.

Agenda Item: New Business, Food Pantry – Donor Funded; New Hours
See video at 40:17

Food Pantry director Kanehl stated that starting March 1st, the Food Pantry will be open also on Wednesdays from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. as an extra day for the people who cannot come on Tuesday and Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Supervisor Dimond stated that we work with Chicago Food Depository and we will be able to use their agencies to get food a lot cheaper. Supervisor Dimond mentioned that the donors are great this year, and also she gave a little shout out to our fabulous volunteers for the great help at the Food Pantry.

Agenda Item: New Business, OEM – Smoke Detector Installation Program

See video at 41:53

Supervisor Dimond stated that earlier this month, Administrator Berman, OEM Director Olewinski and she visited the North Maine Fire Department.

OEM Director Olewinski stated that during the meeting with North Maine Fire Department Chief Robert McKay and District Chief Dave Drdla they discussed a grant which enables us to install free smoke detectors in homes for residents who reside in the unincorporated area. He said that Code Enforcement Officer Ghazaleh and he would be installing the free smoke detectors and next month there will be more information to present.

Supervisor Dimond and the Board thanked Mr. Olewinski.

Agenda Item: New Business, Increased Therapist Hours for District 63, Applications for Grants - Maine West - Mainestay

See video at 44:30

Supervisor Dimond stated that District 63 reached out to us to expend our agreement to increase the therapist's hours from 2-3 hours to 10 hours a week at Apollo School, and also to add a couple more schools. She said that the Maine West also asked Maine Township to send the therapist to their school.

MaineStay Director Lyon stated that we are applying to City of Des Plaines, who grants funding for social service organizations. This would help cover the cost of sending a clinician to Maine West for 8 hours per week.

Supervisor Dimond thanked Mr. Lyon for locating the Grant application.

Agenda Item: New Business, Applications for Grants - Climate Resiliency Grant; Invest in Cook; ReBuild Illinois, Community Development Block Grant

See video at 46:57

Supervisor Dimond stated that Trustee Maher brought to her attention the architect and city planner Mike Emerson who was invited tonight to talk about Climate Resiliency Planning for Communities.

Mr. Emerson stated that with the American Rescue Act Plan there is 16 million dollars that Cook County has for distributing among the communities in the County for Climate Resiliency Planning. This plan should minimize the impact of climate events such as rainstorms, tornados, hurricanes, drought or forest fires. Mr. Emerson explained four phases of the Climate Resiliency Grant application.

Supervisor Dimond asked several questions.

Mr. Emerson stated that he can assist and provide his expertise in order to make the Maine Township's Grant more successful.

Supervisor Dimond thanked Mr. Emerson.

Supervisor Dimond briefly talked about Invest in Cook Grant, ReBuild Illinois Grant, and the Community Development Block Grant. She said that there are many more Grants to apply for, but the applications are very time consuming with long essays and lots of attachments. Supervisor Dimond stated that we might benefit hiring a person who specializes in applying for Grants.

Agenda Item: Officials' Reports

Clerk Gialamas stated that the preparation for the Annual Town Meeting started and he is in the process of working on getting our Moderator. He said that it is a pretty straightforward evening and he is hoping that everybody can attend.

Highway Commissioner Beauvais reported that MWRD recently notified us that there is some opposition to the Lake Mary Ann Flood Project and they are not interested to proceed. He stated that MWRD is moving forward with the other areas including Farmer's Creek.

Assessor Moylan-Krey reported that on February 18th, the Maine Township hosted our newly elected Board of Review Commissioner Samantha Steele with six analysts who did a presentation and took resident's applications. She stated that Commissioner Steele has a lot of accreditations for what she does. Assessor Moylan-Krey said that the time is almost up for the Property Tax Appeal.

Assessor Moylan-Krey announced that Cook County Assessor's Office said that the Property Tax Exemption applications are being late and probably available in April. She stated also that this year seniors have to apply to get their Freeze Exemption.

Trustee Malik expressed his thanks to Clerk Iris Martinez for the very helpful and valuable Circuit Court Presentation at Maine Township on February 18th, and also thanked the Board members for attending this event.

Trustee Jones reminded everyone that the Neighborhood Watch meeting takes place every first Wednesday of the month. She extended an invitation to everybody who did not attend a meeting before to come on March 1st, at 7:00 p.m.

Supervisor Dimond reminded the Board that at least two people have to be appointed from the community for the Decennial Committee, and she is waiting for any suggestions.

Trustee Maher thanked Marty Cook and stated that Mr. Cook and he met with the Director of Economic Development for Niles, John Melaniphy who has a lot of ideas about developing Real Estate that could benefit the Township in the future. He said that Mr. Melaniphy probably will be joining us at the next Board meeting. Trustee Maher thanked Circuit Court Clerk Iris Martinez for her presentation.

For more detailed Officials' Reports see the video at 58:11

Agenda Item: Closed Session, Approval & Review of the Closed Session Minutes (ILCS 5-120-2(c)(1) Discussion of the Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance, or Dismissal of Specific Employees

Trustee Jones Motion to go into Closed Session for the sole purpose to review the Closed Session Minutes (ILCS5-120-2(c)(1) and Discussion of the Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance, or Dismissal of Specific Employees.

Trustee Horvath Second.

Motion on a roll call vote as follows:

Supervisor Dimond Yes

Trustee Jones Yes

Trustee Horvath Yes

Trustee Maher Yes

Trustee Malik Yes

Motion carried.

The Board re-convened in Open Session at 9:54 p.m.

Agenda Item: Adjournment

Trustee Maher	Motion to adjourn.
Trustee Jones	Second.

Motion on a roll call vote as follows:

Supervisor Dimond	Yes
Trustee Jones	Yes
Trustee Horvath	Yes
Trustee Maher	Yes
Trustee Malik	Yes

Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Maine Township Clerk