

Maine Township Board Meeting July 25, 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](https://mainetown.com/government/agendas_minutes.php)

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

Others in Attendance: Attorney Kurt Asprooth, Vicky Rizzo, Jenny Raffe, Ruba Al Ayed, Marie Dachniwsky, Liz Coy, Kathy Sabbini, Richard Lyon, Nader Ghazaleh, Nick Kanehl, Marty Cook, Eddie Olewinski, Robert Flinn, Robert “Bud” Phillips and Eva Magnowski.

Supervisor Dimond called the meeting to order at 7:22 p.m., led the Pledge of Allegiance and Clerk Gialamas called the roll.

Agenda Item: Approval of Minutes of June 27, 2023 Board Meeting

Assessor Krey stated that she would like to make an addition to the Minutes under the “New business, Auditor Report of 2023 Annual Financial Report by Lauterbach & Amen”, page 3 that her office budgeted expenses of \$832.73 for the 2022-2023 year were carried over to the 2023-2024 budget, which caused a surplus in the 2022-2023 budget and a deficit for their 2023-2024 budget.

Trustee Maher Motion to waive the reading and approve minutes of the June 27, 2023 Board Meeting with the addition of Assessor Krey comments on Assessor’s budget.

Trustee Malik Second.

Motion on a roll call vote as follows:

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

Motion carried.

Agenda Item: Approval of General Assistance Expenditures

Payrolls dated July 7, 2023 and July 21, 2023 and General Assistance checks #54956 through check #55005 in the amount of \$39,266.86.

Trustee Malik Motion to approve.

Trustee Horvath Second.

Motion on a roll call vote as follows:

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

Motion carried.

Agenda Item: Approval of Road District Expenditures

Payrolls dated July 7, 2023 and July 21, 2023 and Road District checks #22972 through check #23015 in the amount of \$106,542.67.

Trustee Horvath Motion to approve.

Trustee Maher Second.

Motion on a roll call vote as follows:

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

Motion carried.

Agenda Item: Approval of General Town Fund Expenditures

Payrolls dated July 7, 2023 and July 21, 2023 and General Town Fund checks #60336 through check #60405 in the amount of \$318,484.97.

Trustee Maher	Motion to approve.
Trustee Malik	Second.

Motion on a roll call vote as follows:

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

Motion carried.

Agenda Item: Public Participation

None

Agenda Item: Old Business, Discussion on Anticipated Capital Fund Expenditures

See video at 6:45

Supervisor Dimond stated that Maintenance Director Samaan prepared the list of some future projects and estimates pertaining to Capital Fund but because of his absence, more discussion on this matter will be postponed to the next meeting.

Supervisor Dimond stated that on Monday, July 26<sup>th</sup>, due to some electrical problems and lack of backup, the Maine Township experienced difficulty in working properly. She pointed out that this is the reason how very important is to keep the physical plant in working order.

Agenda Item: Old Business, Discussion and Possible Vote on Facility Lease Agreement

See video at 9:48

Supervisor Dimond stated that Trustee Maher mentioned before that he did not have the opportunity to work on the Facility Lease Agreement and she postponed it to the next Board meeting.

Agenda Item: Old Business, Update on Little Library/Little Food Pantry

See video at 9:55

Trustee Horvath stated there was a meeting with Ethan Osterka and his father and some arrangements were made with Boy Scout Troop 6 from Des Plaines who will help us to build the Little Library/Little Food Pantry.

Agenda Item: Old Business, Discussion and Vote on 12-month Maintenance Agreement for Copiers & Printers

See video at 11:26

Deputy Administrator Rizzo reminded the Board that Maine Township owns three black and white copiers, one color copier, eleven printers, and two multipurpose fax machines, and that the annual maintenance agreement is necessary to operate the devices. She stated that at the last meeting quotes from four vendors were presented and today she is presenting the revised quotes. Deputy Administrator Rizzo stated that after the research her recommendation is Pulse Technology with the cheapest and easiest to manage out with the quotes: \$700 per month, \$8,400 per year.

Trustee Maher	Motion to approve entering into a 12-month Annual Agreement with Pulse Technology starting August 1, 2023.
Trustee Malik	Second.

Motion on a roll call vote as follows:

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

Motion carried.

Agenda Item: Old Business, Update on Explosion Site  
See video at 15:37

OEM Director Olewinski stated that Code Enforcement Ghazaleh and he are closely monitoring the Noel fire property. He said that they have proactively addressed fencing-related issues and provided assistance to expedite the demolition process. OEM Director Olewinski stated that to ensure transparency and awareness, both Code Enforcement Ghazaleh and he attended court meetings with Cook County to update the Township on the legal action proceedings and the status of the property on Noel where the explosion occurred.

Agenda Item: Old Business, Update on Native Prairie Garden  
See video at 16:31

MaineStay Director Lyon gave an update on Maine Township's Native Prairie Garden and he pointed out that after 15 years the Maine Township's Native Prairie Garden is a weed garden. MaineStay Director Lyon stated that in the past couple of weeks Supervisor Dimond, Maintenance Director Samaan and he met with an environmental science and biology teacher Shelby Riha from Maine East Highschool. Mr. Lyon said that Ms. Riha talked about how we will be able to partner with them plus she gave the ideas on how to restore the garden from the past. He pointed out that it would be a long process.

Comments from the Board members.

Agenda Item: New business, Discussion of Agency Funding Dates for September/October  
See video at 20:06

Supervisor Dimond stated that the dates for the Agency Funding Hearings need to be scheduled. After discussion, everyone was in favor of prescheduling said hearings for Tuesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, and Thursday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, starting at 6:30 p.m.

Agenda Item: New Business, Discussion and Possible Vote of Education & Training Reimbursement Program  
See video at 23:54

Supervisor Dimond stated that in the board packet, the Board officials could find the Education & Training Reimbursement Policy that was in a previous Personnel Policy Manual. She stated that we have had several inquiries from staff wanting to take classes or courses that would enhance their positions here at the township. Supervisor Dimond pointed out that now we are paying for training such as workshops, seminars, and classes that employees need to take to do their current jobs. She stated that this provision used to provide tuition reimbursement for undergraduate or graduate degrees.

Supervisor Dimond asked the Board members for a discussion about whether they would be interested in reinstating this policy or a similar policy in our current PPM.

Comments from the Board officials who agreed that it would be a good idea to implement that program under some circumstances.

Supervisor Dimond thanked the Board for all the comments and asked the Board members for samples of the policy that they would be receptive to and stated that she would work on this matter.

Comments from the Board members.

Agenda Item: New Business, Discussion of Maine Township Recovery Connection budget and policy

See video at 31:15

Supervisor Dimond stated that in fairness to Maine Township taxpayers and to other Maine Township Departments, Recovery Connection clients had been asked to pay for their tickets when they attended comedy clubs or ballgames. However, if a participant lived in Maine Township and was indigent that participant would still get a free ticket. And all participants, regardless of whether they lived in Maine Township or were indigent, would continue to get a free dinner every night at the Recovery Connection meetings.

Supervisor Dimond stated that this requirement would be more consistent with requirements imposed on other Departments - such as General Assistance, Food Pantry, MaineStreamers, and MainStay - where all participants must (1) establish that they live in Maine Township and (2) pay the cost of the service they receive or establish that they are indigent and unable to pay. As an example, Supervisor Dimond pointed out the MainStreamers had to pay the cost of attending a Chicago Dogs ball game while the Recovery Connection was asking the township to send them all to the same game for free and that this was inconsistent and unfair.

Recovery Connection Director Cook stated that in 2015 the Maine Township Trustees implemented the Recovery Connection and every subsequent year they received 100% approval from all the Trustees and two past Supervisors were all supportive of the program. He talked about the importance of this program. Mr. Cook said that Supervisor Dimond cut the program without consulting it with the Board and he would like to hear from the Trustees if they agree with the decision. Recovery Connection Director Cook explained that the expenditures have decreased because of COVID all the programs were canceled. He pointed out that the baseball flyer is asking for a donation of \$25, and money is collected from the Recovery Connection clients, plus every meeting there is a donating box for food.

He stated that there is an old analogy that the cure for addiction is to build the community and this is what we are doing every Friday at the Maine Township, we are building the community. Mr. Cook said that we have been recognized throughout the State for this program. He stated that right now we are in the middle of the worst opioid crisis in the country.

Recovery Connection Director Cook pointed out that this is an anonymous program.

Many comments from the Board officials.

Clerk Gialamas stated that Recovery Connection is an investment in keeping these people sober and on the right path.

Trustee Maher stated that Recovery Connection is the most important department for rehabilitating adults with addiction problems. Trustee Maher said that Recovery Connection Director Cook has a better opinion of whether this program helps people fight addiction since Mr. Cook has been at the Maine Township for almost ten years and the Board officials have been here for only a few years. He pointed out that the Recovery Connection program is known everywhere with many awards.

Trustee Horvath stated that this is a very difficult and sensitive issue to discuss but we have to find some kind of balance. She said that we have to come up with a sort of guiding principle that we can honor all the different groups in the same way.

Trustee Malik stated that the Board is approving so much money for the Funding Agency program and we do not have proof that clients of these Agencies are Maine Township's residents. He mentioned that the salaries of the Agencies' directors are huge. Also, Trustee Malik said that every month the Board officials approve a lot of money for General Assistance.

Trustee Malik pointed out that Recovery Connection Director Cook is saving lives.

Highway Commissioner Beauvais stated that it is very valuable what Mr. Cook is doing.

Assessor Krey also stated that Recovery Connection is a great program.

Agenda Item: New Business, Discussion of CPR classes for elected officials  
See video at 1:10:07

Supervisor Dimond stated the CPR classes are provided to the Maine Township employees. She said that if the Board officials would like to sign up for these classes, they have to contact OEM Director Olewinski and make arrangements.

Agenda Item: New Business, TOI conference attendance - Nov. 12-14  
See video at 1:11:13

Supervisor Dimond stated that if the Board officials would like to attend the TOI conference on November 12<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup>, they should let know Administrator Berman as soon as possible because the Early Bird to sign up is early August.

Agenda Item: New Business, Discussion of Upcoming Events  
See video at 1:11:42

Supervisor Dimond announced some of the upcoming events and said that the full list was included in the Board packet. She stated that on August 1<sup>st</sup> National Night Out will take place at Dee Park and the Garage Sale is back on September 9<sup>th</sup> at the Maine Township's parking lot. She said that on September 30<sup>th</sup> the International Festival is scheduled, on October 14<sup>th</sup> the Rabies Vaccination Day, on October 27<sup>th</sup> the Trick or Treat and on October 28<sup>th</sup> the Paper Shredding and Electronics Recycling events are coming up at our parking lot. Supervisor Dimond informed everyone that on November 3<sup>rd</sup> the Secretary of State Mobile Unit will be again at the Maine Township.

Agenda Item: Officials' Reports

Assessor Krey stated that she had an excellent 4<sup>th</sup> of July and she wished everyone a safe rest of the summer.

Highway Commissioner Beauvais thanked everyone who came out to the Taste of Park Ridge which was a great event and said that he got many compliments on the Beer Tent.

Clerk Gialamas gave a quick update on the National Night Out event on August 1<sup>st</sup> at Dee Park and said that he looks forward to seeing everybody there.

Trustee Maher thanked Highway Commissioner Beauvais for his outstanding volunteers who worked really hard at the Beer Tent during the Taste of Park Ridge.

Trustee Malik extended his invitation to everybody for the India Festival on August 12<sup>th</sup>, and the Pakistan Festival on August 13<sup>th</sup>, at Dee Park from 3:00 p.m. until 9:30 p.m.

Clerk Gialamas announced that the Cook County Board of Commissioners passed an ordinance sunsetting the wheel tax after the 2022-2023 tax year.

For more detailed Officials' Reports see the video at 1:13:58

Agenda Item: Closed Session/Executive Session for the purpose of discussing (1) the appointment, employment compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, (2) Litigation which is probable or imminent, and (3) Review and Approval of Closed Session Minutes

Trustee Horvath	Motion to go into Closed Session/Executive Session for the purpose of discussing (1) the appointment, employment compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, (2) Litigation which is probable or imminent, and (3) Review and Approval of Closed Session Minutes
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Trustee Maher	Second.
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Motion on a roll call vote as follows:

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

Motion carried.

The Board re-convened in Open Session at 9:24 p.m.

Clerk Gialamas called the roll.

Agenda Item: Possible vote on Litigation matter

See the video at 1:18:49

Supervisor Dimond stated that the Board is not ready to make a motion tonight on the Litigation matter.

Agenda Item: Adjournment

Trustee Horvath	Motion to adjourn.
Trustee Maher	Second.

Motion on a roll call vote as follows:

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

Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:26 p.m.

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Maine Township Clerk