

Maine Township Board Meeting November 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 Moylan-Krey and Highway Commissioner Beauvais

Others in Attendance: Attorney Robert Hoban, Senator Ram Villivalam, Dayna Berman, Jenny Raffé, Ruba Al Ayed, Marie Dachniwsky, Liz Coy, Kathy Sabbini, Richard Lyon, Mike Samaan, Nader Ghazaleh, Nick Kanehl, Marty Cook, Eddie Olewinski, Evan White, Emily Toomey, Stephanie Janas, Martin McAlpin, and Eva Magnowski.

Supervisor Dimond called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m., led the Pledge of Allegiance and Clerk Gialamas called the roll.

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

Trustee Horvath Motion to waive the reading and approve minutes of the October 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

Motion carried.

Agenda Item: Approval of Minutes of November 9, 2023 Agency Funding Special Meeting

Trustee Jones Motion to waive the reading and approve minutes of the November 9, 2023 Agency Funding Special Meeting.

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 Abstain

Motion carried.

Agenda Item: Approval of General Assistance Expenditures

Payrolls dated October 27, 2023, November 10, 2023 and November 24, 2023 and General Assistance checks #55140 through check #55190 in the amount of \$46,208.34.

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 Road District Expenditures

Payrolls dated October 27, 2023, November 10, 2023 and November 24, 2023 and Road District checks #23142 through check #23184 in the amount of \$144,286.69.

Trustee Maher Motion to approve.
Trustee Malik 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 October 27, 2023, November 10, 2023 and November 24, 2023 and General Town Fund checks #60621 through check #60687 in the amount of \$334,304.67.

Trustee Maher Motion to approve.
Trustee Malik 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: Public Participation

None

Agenda Item: Congratulations to staff - AITCOY Staff Award to Emily Toomey; Edward Olewinski and Nader Ghazaleh -One hundred smoke detectors; Eva Magnowski – FOIA compliments; etc.

See video at 4:52

Supervisor Dimond stated that she received a very nice thank you letter with a compliment to Eddie Olewinski and Jessica Fox who helped a lady to get her purse back that she accidentally threw into a recycling bin during the Paper Shredding and Electronics Recycling event.

Supervisor Dimond said that a couple of emails were sent about Eva Magnowski referring to her as the best FOIA Officer ever seen. Supervisor Dimond explained that she had been filmed by the First Amendment Auditors and the video was posted on YouTube. She complimented Ms. Magnowski and said that she was very professional about it.

Supervisor Dimond congratulated OEM Director Eddie Olewinski and Code Enforcement Nader Ghazaleh on the pretty significant achievement of smoke detector installation. The work was done in over one hundred private homes in the Maine Township's unincorporated area with all the requirements of State Law. She pointed out that they are still continuing to work on it.

MaineStreamers Director Marie Dachniwsky stated that on December 6th, about 20 volunteers will decorate Christmas Trees at Lutheran General Hospital. Supervisor Dimond said that the Board officials should let Ms. Dachniwsky know if they would like to participate in this event.

Supervisor Dimond congratulated Youth Program Coordinator Emilly Toomey and handed her the 2023 AITCOY Staff Award. Supervisor Dimond pointed out that Emilly Toomey was awarded at the TOI Conference earlier this month for her commitment and outstanding dedication to helping youth in our community and her innovative and fresh ideas.

Supervisor Dimond introduced and welcomed Stephanie Janas as the new Office Manager of General Assistance.

Agenda Item: Senator Villivalam's update from Springfield

See video at 15:10

Supervisor Dimond welcomed Illinois State Senator Ram Villivalam, representing the 8th District.

Senator Ram Villivalam gave an update from Springfield and shared some legislations that were particularly relevant. Senator Villivalam stated that the most fundamental responsibility that they have is the budget which is \$50.6 billion on behalf of 12.6 million Illinois residents. Senator Villivalam briefly discussed funding public education, public safety, and pensions. He said that he worked to sponsor about 37 pieces of legislation in the Senate and said that they can be found on his website. Senator Villivalam stated that they worked with the Township Association of Illinois and passed House Bill 3424 which expands the eligibility for Townships to provide more services that include mental health, daycare, dental and so many other different types of services that people are looking for.

Questions from the board.

Senator Ram Villivalam thanked the Board for the invitation and for all that Maine Township does for its residents. The Board thanked Senator Ram Villivalam.

Agenda Item: Old Business, Discussion and Possible Vote on Adoption of Town Fund, General Assistance and Road & Bridge Levies

See video at 33.20

Administrator Berman stated that the 2023 and 2022 Town Fund and General Assistance Tax Levies were included in the Board packet for comparison. Administrator Berman pointed out that the 2023 Tax Levy will provide a 4.9% increase equal to \$239,413.00 from 2022 and does not require a hearing.

Trustee Jones Motion to adopt the 2023 Tax Levy for Town Fund and General Assistance Fund, Ordinance 2023-3 as presented in the total amount of \$5,532,967.00.

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.

Supervisor Dimond stated that the Road & Bridge Tax Levy will remain flat into the next fiscal year and asked the Board to vote on it.

Trustee Horvath Motion to adopt the 2023 Tax Levy for Road District Fund, Ordinance 2023-RB-3 as presented by Highway Commissioner Beauvais with the total amount of 2,605,553.00.

Trustee Malik 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: Old Business, Discussion and Vote on Lion contract for skylight repair work

See video at 38:20

Supervisor Dimond said that the Maine Township Attorney did add some sort of provisions to the Lion contract for the skylight repair work that was suggested by the Board at the last meeting.

Maintenance Director Samaan stated that he reached out to the company and they did not have any objections regarding the additional clauses, but unfortunately, they did not return the written contract back to us.

Supervisor Dimond postponed this topic to the next meeting.

Under the Old Business item that was not on the agenda:

Supervisor Dimond stated that the new law, the Paid Leave for All Workers Act has to be adopted by January 1, 2024. She mentioned that as of now, Townships are not excluded. She asked the Board officials if the Maine Township's policy should grant our part-time employees one hour of paid leave for every 40 or 38 hours.

The Board officials agreed to one hour of paid leave for every 38 hours.

Topic postponed to the next meeting.

Agenda Item: New Business, Preliminary Discussion of Agency Funding Allocation

See video at 43:52

MaineStay Agency and Program Coordinator Evan White stated that the 2024-2025 Agency Funding allocation spreadsheet with recommendation amounts from the Administrator and Department Heads were included in the Board packet. He asked the Board of Trustees to submit their recommendations by December 8th. Mr. White stated that the Trustees' recommendations will be added to the chart and then the average from the Board and Staff will be calculated. He stated that the 2024-2025 Grant will be presented for discussion and approval at the next Board meeting in December.

Agenda Item: New Business, Upcoming Events

See video at 46:20

Supervisor Dimond announced upcoming events:

- December 2nd Paper Shredding Event at Maine Township's parking lot;
- December 4th Meeting with Wheeling Township Officials regarding their bus service;
- December 6 Neighborhood Watch Meeting;
- December 6th Tree Decorating at Lutheran General;
- December 12th MaineStreamers Holiday Lunch;
- December 18th Employee Holiday Lunch at 12:00 p.m.;
- January 3rd Neighborhood Watch Meeting;
- January 12th Blood Drive;
- January lights recycling drive/possible Styrofoam recycling drive.

Under the New Business item that was not on the agenda:

Supervisor Dimond briefly discussed the Illinois Funds that allow public bodies to invest their funds at very attractive rates. Supervisor Dimond encouraged the Board Officials to look at the Illinois Funds website and asked for their opinions because there will be more discussion on this topic in the future.

Agenda Item: Officials' Reports

Assessor Krey stated that lately, her office has been very busy because they are overlapped with the Tax Bills coming out, Appeals, and Exemptions especially for the Senior Freezes. She mentioned that her office was a little bit short on staff and thanked Jenny Raffe for her help. Assessor Krey stated that on December 5th, the Board of Review Property Tax Appeal Workshop will take place at Maine Township. She said that many people registered to attend this workshop because they were upset that their tax bills were increased. She added that the 2023 appeal will not affect this installment but next year's tax bill. Assessor Krey mentioned that on December 13th, TOCC will be holding a virtual educational session on First Amendment Audits.

Highway Commissioner Beauvais stated that Assessor Krey, Directing Chief Deputy Assessor Coy, and their Staff do incredible work and offered to bring lunch. Highway Commissioner Beauvais stated that he attended the very nice Veteran's Day Event at Prairie Lakes and the Turkey Giveaway Event at the Maine Township. He thanked everybody who was involved. Highway Commissioner Beauvais announced

that the Highway Department is organizing Toys for Tots for December 9th, and said that any donation will be appreciated. He thanked Trustee Malik for his toy donation. Highway Commissioner Beauvais wished Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to everybody.

Clerk Gialamas mentioned that along with the other Board members he went to the Township Officials of Illinois conference. He said that it was nice and enjoyable to go back after several years to see old friends and attend some classes. Clerk Gialamas acknowledged his Chief Deputy Clerk, Eva Magnowski, as well as Maine Township's FOIA Officer, and said that he is very proud of her.

Trustee Jones stated that she also attended the very informative TOI conference and it was good to be back after several years. Trustee Jones said that she also was at the well-attended Turkey Giveaway Event. Trustee Jones invited everyone to the next Neighborhood Watch meeting next Wednesday at 7:00 pm. Trustee Jones wished everybody a healthy, happy, and safe holiday.

Trustee Horvath stated that she enjoyed coming out to the Turkey Giveaway and thanked everyone who worked hard to set it up. Trustee Horvath mentioned that last week she came to the Clerk's Office with her family to renew the passports. She said that the Staff was wonderful and made the whole process really easy.

Trustee Maher congratulated everyone who got acknowledged including Eva Magnowski, but especially Eddie Olewinski and Jessica Fox for getting back the lost purse to the resident at the Recycling Event he also attended. Trustee Maher stated that he attended another great meeting of Marty Cook's Recovery Connection with an exceptional speaker whose inspiring story changed his life.

Trustee Malik expressed his gratitude to Manoj Jakhar and Empowering Women NFP for organizing the Turkey Giveaway Event. Trustee Malik extended his thanks to Maine Township's employees, especially Mike Samaan, Monika Jaroszewicz, Jessica Fox, Eddie Olewinski, and also his colleagues from the Board.

For more detailed Officials' Reports see the video at 51:12

Agenda Item: Closed/Executive Session for the purpose of discussing (1) litigation which is probable or imminent; (2) security procedures, and the use of personnel and equipment to respond to an actual, a threatened, or a reasonably potential danger to the safety of employees, students, staff, the public, or public property and (3) discussing the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees

Trustee Horvath Motion to go into Closed/Executive Session for the purpose of discussing (1) litigation which is probable or imminent; (2) security procedures, and the use of personnel and equipment to respond to an actual, a threatened, or a reasonably potential danger to the safety of employees, students, staff, the public, or public property and (3) discussing the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees.

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 Board re-convened in an Open Session at 9:03 p.m.

Clerk Gialamas called the roll.

Agenda Item: Adjournment

Trustee Maher Motion to adjourn.

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 meeting was adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

Maine Township Clerk