

Maine Township Board Meeting July 29, 2025

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 Jones, Trustees: Horvath, Maher, Malik, Lynch, Clerk Gialamas, Assessor Moylan Krey and Highway Commissioner Beauvais.

Others in Attendance: Attorney Megan A. Mack, Vicki Rizzo, Liz Coy, Marie Dachniwsky, Kathy Sabbini, Marty McAlphin, Marty Cook, Mike Samaan, Nader Ghazaleh, Richard Lyon, Michael Pitzafferro, Jack Wisniewski, Rex Parker and Eva Magnowski.

Supervisor Jones called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., led the Pledge of Allegiance and Clerk Gialamas called the roll.

Agenda Item: Approval of Minutes of June 24, 2025 Board Meeting

Trustee Horvath Motion to waive the reading and approve minutes of the June 24, 2025 Board Meeting.

Trustee Lynch Second.

Motion on a roll call vote as follows:

Supervisor Jones Yes

Trustee Horvath Yes

Trustee Maher Yes

Trustee Malik Yes

Trustee Lynch Yes

Motion carried.

Agenda Item: Approval of General Assistance Expenditures

Payrolls dated July 3, 2025 and July 18, 2025 and General Assistance checks #57515 through check #57546 in the amount of \$47,469.25.

Trustee Maher Motion to approve.

Trustee Lynch Second.

Motion on a roll call vote as follows:

Supervisor Jones Yes

Trustee Horvath Yes

Trustee Maher Yes

Trustee Malik Yes

Trustee Lynch Yes

Motion carried.

Agenda Item: Approval of Road District Expenditures

Payrolls dated July 3, 2025 and July 18, 2025 and Road District checks #25433 through check #25475 in the amount of \$127,022.53.

Trustee Malik Motion to approve.

Trustee Lynch Second.

Motion on a roll call vote as follows:

Supervisor Jones Yes

Trustee Horvath Yes

Trustee Maher Yes

Trustee Malik Yes

Trustee Lynch Yes

Motion carried.

Agenda Item: Approval of General Town Fund Expenditures

Payrolls dated July 3, 2025 and July 18, 2025, and General Town Fund checks #62763 through check #62837 in the amount of \$396,579.90.

Trustee Lynch	Motion to approve.
Trustee Maher	Second.

Motion on a roll call vote as follows:

Supervisor Jones	Yes
Trustee Horvath	Yes
Trustee Maher	Yes
Trustee Malik	Yes
Trustee Lynch	Yes

Motion carried.

Agenda Item: Public Participation

Marthy McAlphin reported that several grants have been reapproved and awarded in Springfield, including funding for the Highway Department specifically for infrastructure, flood mitigation, and new flooring in the Township building – benefiting programs like MaineStreamers. Additional grants support future infrastructure projects and the Recovery Connection. While the funds have been approved, they are still awaiting formal release by the Governor’s Office of Management and Budget.

Agenda Item: New Business, Discussion and Possible Vote on Prints by Rex Parker Design

See video at 5:45

Mr. Rex Parker, with over 40 years of design experience expressed his gratitude for working on exceptional architectural renderings and projects. He described the township’s building as truly amazing and inspirational. During his presentation, he shared some of the work that he has been involved in.

Supervisor Jones reminded everyone that the Maine Township building is a designated landmark – a former church designed by Lloyd Wright, son of the famed architect Frank Lloyd Wright. She stated that Mr. Parker would create two commissioned prints for us: one of the interior and the other of the exterior of the Township’s building. He will be providing 100 signed copies of each, which we plan to use as fundraisers for the Food Pantry, kids’ camp, or Christmas cards.

Trustee Lynch	Motion to discuss and possibly vote on entering a contract with Rex Parker Design.
Trustee Maher	Second.

Trustee Lynch expressed her excitement about the beautiful Township’s building, emphasizing the privilege of serving the community from it. She highlighted the value of commemorating the community and its history, and praised the involvement of a talented local artist from Maine Township in the project.

Questions from the Board officials were answered by Mr. Parker.

Supervisor Jones asked the Board to vote.

Motion on a roll call vote as follows:

Supervisor Jones	Yes
Trustee Horvath	Yes
Trustee Maher	Yes
Trustee Malik	Yes
Trustee Lynch	Yes

Motion carried.

Some questions from the Board officials answered by Mr. Parker.

Agenda Item: New Business, Discussion and Possible Vote to Amend Compensatory Time Off Policy

See video at 19:08

Supervisor Jones indicated that employees often earn comp time by working various evenings and weekends. However, the current six-month period for utilizing accumulated comp time can be challenging for employees due to their busy schedules, and the Board officials have decided to extend their period to twelve months. This change will provide employees with a more reasonable opportunity to take advantage of their accumulated time. She noted that we have a great staff who generously contribute their commitment, and we want to ensure they have a chance to benefit from their efforts.

Trustee Lynch	Motion to discuss and possibly vote on amending the
	compensatory time off policy.
Trustee Malik	Second.

Questions and comments from the Board members.

Supervisor Jones asked the Board to vote.

Motion on a roll call vote as follows:

Supervisor Jones	Yes
Trustee Horvath	Yes
Trustee Maher	Yes
Trustee Malik	Yes
Trustee Lynch	Yes

Motion carried.

Agenda Item: New Business, Discussion of Elevator Modernization

See video at 23:59

Supervisor Jones reported that the elevator was out of service during the two extremely hot weeks. Despite the challenges, the Food Pantry staff and volunteers went above and beyond to ensure uninterrupted food distribution to our residents. Also, all food deliveries had to be manually carried up and down the stairs by them. Supervisor Jones stated that Otis, our elevator service provider, responded multiple times under our service agreement. Due to the elevator's age, repairs required retrofitting parts from another unit.

Maintenance Director Samaan obtained estimates for elevator modernization and reported that the upgrade would cost approximately \$100,000. He stated that he will draft and present an RFP to the Board for approval regarding the elevator project.

Agenda Item: New Business, Discussion and Possible Vote on OEM Part-Time Position

See video at 28:21

OEM Director Wisniewski discussed the necessity of hiring an additional OEM as needed part-time employee to provide coverage for essential functions. Mr. Wisniewski pointed out that he is not asking for an additional budget, he can augment what he has.

Some questions from the Board officials answered by OEM Director Wisniewski

Trustee Lynch	Motion to approve the part-time OEM position.
Trustee Malik	Second.

Motion on a roll call vote as follows:

Supervisor Jones	Yes
Trustee Horvath	Yes
Trustee Maher	Yes
Trustee Malik	Yes
Trustee Lynch	Yes

Motion carried.

Agenda Item: New Business, Discussion and Possible Vote on Digital Board Packets

See video at 38:21

MaineStay Director Lyon made a presentation on transitioning from paper-based board packets to digital board packets to reduce time and paper usage. Director Lyon outlined the Township's current process, which has been in place for several decades and each department prepares a report, which is then printed and delivered as a physical copy to the Clerk's Office. The Clerk's Office subsequently photocopies each report, collates, and assembles the board packets, which are then manually distributed to elected officials' homes. The new plan suggests that departments submit reports electronically, which would be compiled into a single PDF document and uploaded to the Allshare file. This digital packet would be emailed to elected officials while any non-public supplemental information could be distributed separately via email. Mr. Lyon mentioned the cost of tablets would range from \$300 to \$450 each.

Discussion.

Trustee Horvath	Motion to approve moving forward with the digital Board packets.
Trustee Lynch	Second.
Motion on a roll call vote as follows:	
Supervisor Jones	Yes
Trustee Horvath	Yes
Trustee Maher	Abstain
Trustee Malik	Yes
Trustee Lynch	Yes

Motion carried.

Agenda Item: New Business, Discussion of Agency Funding Dates

See video at 49:22

Supervisor Jones asked the Board officials to choose two dates for the Agency Funding Hearings.

After a short discussion, everyone was in favor of scheduling said hearings for Tuesday, September 16th, and Tuesday, October 7th, starting at 6:00 p.m.

Agenda Item: New Business, Discussion of TOI Conference Attendance – November 10, 11, 12, 2025

See video at 51:43

Supervisor Jones noted that every year, TOI hosts a very informative conference over the Veterans Day holiday. It takes place over several days in Springfield and includes numerous breakout sessions covering topics related to townships and township governance. These sessions provide valuable learning opportunities for officials. Last year, we not only gained a lot of insight but also received several awards for our MaineStreamers and MaineStay programs.

Deputy Administrator Vicki Rizzo gave some information regarding the TOI Conference registration.

Agenda Item: Old Business

None

Agenda Item: Officials' Reports

Assessor Krey provided an update regarding the current status of property tax bills. At this time, the exact date for the issuance of the bills is still unknown. The expected timeline may be delayed until as late as October. This delay is primarily due to complications with transitioning data into a new system. Additionally, Assessor Krey reported that Certificate of Errors were issued as of last Friday, and as a result, residents will be receiving revised tax bills to reflect the corrected information. Assessor Krey provided some statistics: during June and July they processed 2,400 appeals to the County Assessor's office and received nearly 3,800 phone calls and visits in the township. Also, they handled Certificate of Errors during that time, which amounted to over a quarter of a million dollars.

Highway Commissioner Beauvais announced that the Bid Opening for the Church Street and Western Avenue Sidewalk Extension and Bike Lane project will be available tomorrow. He stated that we have received \$400,000 for that project from the Investing Cook Fund. Regarding Gregory Street, concrete and asphalt paving should begin soon. Additionally, they are finalizing the intergovernmental agreement with the Village of Niles to improve drainage in the Greenwood Circle area. He added that he is glad these projects are moving forward, as they will greatly improve the neighborhood.

Clerk Gialamas confirmed that he will be here tomorrow at 9:30 am, for the Bid Opening. He mentioned that Deputy Clerk Vivian Kalish completed her notary training so she is now able to perform notarial acts. Clerk Gialamas invited everybody to the National Night Out at Dee Park on August 5th at 6:30 pm. He said that everything is lined up for the event and there will be a lot of fun.

Trustee Lynch expressed her gratitude to the MaineStreamers for hosting an event educating seniors about scams. This issue has personally affected her family, and she understands how emotionally and financially devastating it can be for many individuals. She was truly thankful that the Township is making a concerted effort to provide our residents with the necessary information to stay safe.

Trustee Malik attended the Fourth of July parade alongside Highway Commissioner Beauvais. He invited everyone to the Pakistan and India Cultural Days to enjoy the music and food on August 16th and August 17th.

Trustee Maher attended the Palatine Township Board meeting, where he learned that certain electrical fixtures may become illegal in 2026 or 2027. He wanted to ensure our light fixtures in all facilities would comply with this regulation. Trustee Maher thought it was important for us to be aware of this situation and how it might apply to us.

Trustee Horvath stated that she is looking forward to the National Night Out event and is glad that the reptile guys are there. Trustee Horvath added that it is always a good time.

Supervisor Jones reported that July was a particularly busy month for the township. She attended two Fourth of July parades alongside Highway Commissioner Beauvais, Trustee Lynch, Trustee Malik, and Trustee Maher. The township also hosted a Water and Wellness Fair in partnership with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, which featured many vendors and attracted a large turnout. Additionally, she participated in the farmers market community tent last Saturday in Park Ridge, where she engaged with residents and addressed their questions and concerns. Supervisor Jones highlighted that National Night Out (NNO) is scheduled for next Tuesday, and she proudly mentioned that our event is one of the best in the area, offering numerous attractions. She emphasized that it is a fantastic family event and encouraged everyone to attend. Furthermore, she reminded everyone about the Neighborhood Watch meetings held on the first Wednesday of every month at 7:00 pm in the boardroom, and the next one is scheduled on August 6th.

For more detailed Officials' Reports see the video at 54:34

Agenda Item: Closed/Executive Session – pursuant to Section 2(c)(1) of the Open Meetings Act; discussing the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees; and pursuant to Section 2(c)(5) of the Open Meetings Act to discuss the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired; and pursuant to Section 2(c)(11) of the Open Meetings Act litigation which is probable or imminent

Supervisor Jones stated that after the Closed Session, there is Agenda item number 10 for discussion and possible vote on hiring of part time afternoon receptionist and she would like to table it.

The Board agreed.

Trustee Horvath

Closed/Executive Session – pursuant to Section 2(c)(1) of the Open Meetings Act; discussing the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees; and pursuant to Section 2(c)(5) of the Open Meetings Act to discuss the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired; and pursuant to Section 2(c)(11) of the Open Meetings Act litigation which is probable or imminent.

Trustee Lynch

Second.

Motion on a roll call vote as follows:

Supervisor Jones Yes

Trustee Horvath Yes

Trustee Maher Yes

Trustee Malik Yes

Trustee Lynch Yes

Motion carried.

The Board re-convened in an Open Session at 9:20 p.m.

Agenda Item: Discussion and Possible Vote on Hiring of Part Time Afternoon Receptionist

See video at 1:06:39

This item was previously tabled.

Agenda Item: Adjournment

Trustee Horvath Motion to adjourn.

Trustee Malik Second.

Motion on a roll call vote as follows:

Supervisor Jones Yes

Trustee Horvath Yes

Trustee Maher Yes

Trustee Malik Yes

Trustee Lynch Yes

Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

Maine Township Clerk