

Maine Township Board Meeting April 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: Jones, Horvath, Maher, Malik, Clerk Gialamas, Assessor Susan Moylan-Krey and Highway Commissioner Beauvais

Others in Attendance: Attorney Kurt Asprooth, Dayna Berman, Alicia Brzezinski, Ruba Al Ayed, Marie Dachniwsky, Liz Coy, Luz Meneses, Richard Lyon, Mike Samaan, Nader Ghazaleh, Marty Cook, Nick Kanehl, Eddie Olewinski, Robert Flinn, Catherine Sbarra, Debra A. Gartke, Joseph Ficarella, Eric Chua, Animesh Ghoshak, Diane Elkin and Eva Magnowski.

Supervisor Dimond 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 March 28, 2023 Board Meeting

Trustee Jones Motion to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the March 28, 2023 Board Meeting.

Trustee Horvath Second.

Trustee Malik stated that his comment about the landscaping company is not included in the March 28, 2023 Board Meeting minutes. Trustee Malik stated that during the Discussion and Possible Vote on Landscaping Contract at the last meeting, he made a comment that NJ Castilo Landscaping, Inc. does not perform as per his expectation. Also, he pointed out that he did not get the contract to sign because he did not vote on it.

Trustee Jones Motion to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the March 28, 2023 Board Meeting with the addition of Trustee Malik's comments on the Landscaping Contract and the timestamp on the video.

Trustee Horvath Second.

Motion on a roll call vote as follows:

Supervisor Dimond Yes

Trustee Jones Yes

Trustee Horvath Yes

Trustee Maher Abstain

Trustee Malik Yes

Motion carried.

Agenda Item: Approval of Minutes of March 28, 2023 General Town Fund and General Assistance Budget Hearing

Trustee Horvath Motion to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the March 28, 2023 General Town Fund and General Assistance Budget Hearing.

Trustee Jones Second.

Motion on a roll call vote as follows:

Supervisor Dimond Yes

Trustee Jones Yes

Trustee Horvath Yes

Trustee Maher Abstain

Trustee Malik Yes

Motion carried.

Agenda Item: Approval of General Assistance Expenditures  
Payrolls dated March 31, 2023 and April 14, 2023 and General Assistance checks #54779 through check #54845 in the amount of \$52,972.54.

Trustee Jones 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 Road District Expenditures  
Payrolls dated March 31, 2023 and April 14, 2023 and Road District checks #22836 through check #22881 in the amount of \$113,059.60.

Trustee Jones 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 March 31, 2023 and April 14, 2023 and General Town Fund checks #60126 through check #60196 in the amount of \$354,449.01.

Trustee Malik 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

Agenda Item: Public Participation

See video at 6:40

Maine Township resident Debra Gartke stated that a few months ago she and several residents came to ask the elected officials to solve the problem with the lightning on Lincoln Ave because the area was very dark. She said that the installed light motion detector is not a solution.

Highway Commissioner Beauvais stated that in this case, the neighbors have to get together with ComEd and come up with the expense of installing the light pole which will range from \$5,000.00 to \$10,000.00. He said that he will follow up on that and facilitate a ComEd meeting.

Maine Township resident Joseph Ficarella stated that there is a pole and power, and just a fixture and a light bulb are needed. Mr. Ficarella asked why the residents should pay for this. He pointed out that they pay taxes and it should cover that expense.

Maine Township resident Eric Chua stated that the current light is detecting the motion of the street but the light is not projected on it. He said that on the other streets, they observed an extension that gives better lighting. Mr. Chua pointed out that fixing this problem is necessary for security and safety reasons.

Questions and comments.

Trustee Maher asked for an exact location. He made sure and concluded that the residents are asking for a better light, not an additional one.

Animesh Ghoshak, a longtime resident of Maine Township, thanked the Board for all that they had done for the residents and stated that they would be very happy if the lightning was improved for safety reasons.

Agenda Item: Old Business, Discussion and Possible Vote on Annual Code Hosting by Municode  
See video at 14:00

Supervisor Dimond stated that we still did not get a quote from Municode on Annual Code Hosting and again postponed it to the next agenda.

Agenda Item: New Business, Presentation by Catherine Sbarra/National Group Health Alliance  
and Possible Vote  
See video at 14:31

Catherine Sbarra, CEO & Senior Benefits/Facility Advisor from National Group Health Alliance LLC, gave a presentation regarding benefits renewal for the Maine Township 2023 medical, dental, life and vision insurance. She stated that this year Blue Cross Blue Shield, as requested, gave us the renewal very early, and there will be a 4.24% rate increase provided including the grandfathered PPO plan. Ms. Sbarra stated that United HealthCare declined to quote because of a lot of our large active claims. She said that Humana is no longer in the health market. Ms. Sbarra said that basically, Blue Cross Blue Shield is the only choice. Ms. Sbarra stated that Principal Life Insurance Co. provided a rate relief on dental down to 3.5%, Voluntary Life down to 15% and Employer Paid life to 5%. She said that vision benefits provided by VSP gave us a 4-year guarantee last year that no rates will change until June 30, 2026.

There were numerous questions to Ms. Sbarra that she answered.

The Board asked Ms. Sbarra to deliver the handouts regarding insurance renewal before the Board Meeting and prepare a PowerPoint presentation in the future to avoid confusion during the meeting.

Trustee Jones                      Motion to renew the employee health insurance benefits for Maine Township for the upcoming year beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 until June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

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.

Trustee Horvath                      Motion to renew the dental and vision insurance benefits for Maine Township for the upcoming year beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 until June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

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.

Supervisor Dimond thanked Ms. Sbarra for her presentation.

Ms. Sbarra stated that in the future she will prepare PowerPoint and the documents before the Board Meeting.

Agenda Item: New business, Presentation by Diane Elkins/Municipal Electric Aggregation Presentation and Possible Vote

See video at 41:43

Diane Elkins made a presentation on Municipal Electric Aggregation for Maine Township. Ms. Elkins stated that with this free program, residents can save money on their ComEd Bill. She said that there are either 12 or 24 month terms and residents can opt out of the program anytime with no fee. Ms. Elkins pointed out that ComEd will continue to bill customers and take care of power delivery and servicing. Diane Elkins explained how this program work and stated that Maine Township signs an agreement with an Alternative Electricity Supplier which provides power to residents at a reduced rate from ComEd's price to compare. She said that ComEd continues to provide billing and handles any service issues, avoiding any service interruption.

After the presentation, Ms. Elkins answered many questions from the Maine Township Board.

Supervisor Dimond thanked Ms. Elkins.

Agenda Item: New business, Discussion and Vote on Creation of 501c3 Entity for Food Pantry

See video at 1:07:03

Supervisor Dimond gave a background of the Maine Township's Food Pantry and stated that for nearly 2 years we have been trying to partner with the Greater Chicago Food Depository where we can get a large quantity of food for free or for a very low cost. She said that there are many rules that we are already complying with except for one, namely the pantry application has to be made by a 501(c)(3) organization. Supervisor Dimond stated that she contacted our Law Firm and they prepared a letter discussing all the steps. Supervisor Dimond stated that the program needs its own directors and numerous fees have to be paid to different state agencies and attorneys.

Food Pantry Director Kanehl stated that when he started in this position in 2022, we had 120 Maine Township families as clients, and now it is up to 350. He said that just from April 1<sup>st</sup> to April 24<sup>th</sup>, we have had 40 new applications submitted to the Food Pantry. Mr. Kanehl said that currently, he is spending roughly 2,000 to 3,000 dollars a month on essential items for the pantry, including perishables: milk, eggs, oils, flour, etc. Mr. Kanehl stated that with the Greater Chicago Food Depository requirements, we do not check anybody's financial situation, and this is what we are doing already. He stated that we will have to take some classes on sanitizing, the application process and how to use the portal. The food will be ordered through their portal and every Monday will be delivered to Maine Township. Mr. Kanehl said that all the clients will receive a Greater Chicago Food Depository card with a barcode that will allow us to track visits and many other things.

Food Pantry Director Kanehl pointed out that partnership with the greater Chicago Food Depository would open the door to many new possibilities of what we can do for our clients at Maine Township.

Questions and comments.

Attorney Asprooth explained that Maine Township will have to create a Board of Directors, and it will be a nonprofit corporation with the Secretary of State.

Trustee Maher stated that this is an outstanding idea and good work.

Trustee Maher                      Motion authorizing to move forward with the creation of  
501c3 entity for Food Pantry.

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 thanked Food Pantry Director Kanehl for his good work and his dedication.

Mr. Kanehl thank the Board for the opportunity of doing this project.

Agenda Item:    New Business, Discussion and Vote on Electronic License Service Agreement for  
License Plate stickers

See video at 1:21:14

Chief Deputy Clerk Magnowski stated that in order to sell the License Plate Renewal Stickers, Maine Township has to use one of the providers registered with the Secretary of State. She said that the vendor assists with the installation of the program and provides training, which is free of charge. The program is directly linked to the Secretary of State's database, so if there are any problems, a message about why it is not eligible for renewal will be sent. Ms. Magnowski stated that there are no startup or monthly fees and we will be charged only when a transaction is completed. She said that to purchase the plate sticker, residents have to bring their Illinois Vehicle Registration Notice or Vehicle Identification Number (VIN), Driver's license number and license plate number. Customers can pay with cash, debit or credit card only. A \$7 convenience fee will be charged by Maine Township to cover processing. Ms. Magnowski stated that after research the best provider to sign an agreement with will be the Electronic License Service, LLC located in Des Plaines that does not require a large order of stickers and their \$1.65 fee per sticker is lower than other vendors.

Some questions and comments from the Board.

Supervisor Dimond stated that selling the License Plate Stickers will be one more convenient service that we can offer to our residents.

Trustee Jones                      Motion to enter into the Electronic License Service, LLC  
Agreement that the Maine Township will be able to sell the  
Secretary of State License Plate Renewal Stickers.

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.

Agenda Item:    New Business, Discussion and Vote on Amended Facility Event Space License  
Agreement

See video at 1:32:01

Supervisor Dimond stated that a few months ago the Board passed the Facility Event Space License Agreement. She said that some amendments were added to it and the Board could find a copy of a new Agreement at their place. Supervisor Dimond stated that one of the amendments concerns the possibility of the licensing the use of the Town Hall parking lot for private events.

Attorney Asprooth explained that also some changes in the language of the Agreement were changed that will not allow any of the spaces to be used for political events, religious worship services or commercial activities.

Trustee Malik asked Supervisor Dimond why suddenly a few days before his event for his community on April 29<sup>th</sup>, the Facility Event Space License Agreement is amended and why he has to pay for the usage of a Maine Township's parking lot. This is not a private event and at the last meeting he invited everybody. Trustee Malik stated that as a Board member he should not pay for renting the Township's parking lot. He said that this is unfair to him and his community.

Supervisor Dimond stated that the Agreement had to be amended because renting the parking lot was not possible before at all. She added that Trustee Malik's event was not advertised to invite all the people and the Maine Township Staff does not know about that event. Supervisor Dimond stated that if Trustee Malik is inviting certain people, it is considered more as a private event and signing an agreement will let him do that.

Discussion and many comments from all Board members.

The Board agreed that there is some kind of miscommunication and it was not Trustee Malik's intention to hold a private event.

Attorney Asprooth stated that an individual Trustee on their own does not have any authority to use any Maine Township facility.

Trustee Malik agreed to advertise on the marquee the Eid Al Fitr Luncheon on Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm.

Trustee Jones	Motion to pass the Facility Event Space License Agreement as amended.
Trustee Horvath	Second.

Trustee Horvath and Trustee Maher agreed to work together on some kind of guidelines to clarify and be more specific about using the Maine Township facilities.

Trustee Maher stated that he wants to make it clear that this Agreement is for private people who want to use the Maine Township facility.

Trustee Maher	Motion to table any vote that the Board is going to take to approve the amended agreement as it exists and revise it.
Trustee Malik	Second.

Motion on a roll call vote as follows:

Supervisor Dimond	No
Trustee Jones	Yes
Trustee Horvath	Yes
Trustee Maher	Yes
Trustee Malik	Yes

Motion carried.

Agenda Item: New Business, Approval of appointment of residents Susan Moylan Krey, Peter Gialamas and Robert "Bud" Phillips to Decennial Committee

See video at 2:01:50

Supervisor Dimond stated that the Board discussed the Decennial Committee in the past and she said that she is in charge of appointing people to the committee. Supervisor Dimond decided that Assessor

Susan Moylan Krey, Clerk Peter Gialamas and Robert “Bud” Phillips as Maine Township residents are qualified to serve on this committee.

Trustee Jones                      Motion to approve the appointment of residents Susan Moylan Krey, Peter Gialamas and Robert “Bud” Phillips to the Maine Township Decennial Committee.

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.

Highway Commissioner Beauvais stated that he also would like to appoint residents Susan Moylan Krey and Peter Gialamas for the Highway Department Decennial Committee.

Trustee Maher                      Motion to approve the appointment of residents Susan Moylan Krey and Peter Gialamas to the Highway Department Decennial Committee.

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.

The Board was presented with a draft of the Report for Compliance with Decennial Committees on Local Government Efficiency Act based on a form posted on the Township Officials of Illinois website.

Supervisor Dimond stated that the Decennial Committees have to meet three times within 18 months and suggested scheduling the first meeting on May 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 7:00 pm, and then immediately followed by the regular Board meeting at 7:10 pm.

The Board agreed.

#### Agenda Item: Officials’ Reports

Supervisor Dimond announced that due to Austin Kelso’s resignation, Katarzyna Sabbini was promoted to General Assistance Director and Luz Meneses has taken over the role of Deputy. She congratulated both of them.

Assessor Krey Moylan stated that recently they are extremely busy helping residents to submit the Senior Freeze Exemptions with Cook County Assessor because the process has been reinstated after Covid and new procedures have been implemented. She gave kudos to everybody who has been helping out.

Highway Commissioner Beauvais congratulated Ms. Sabbini and Ms. Meneses on their promotions and stated that as long-time employees, they deserve it.

Highway Commissioner Beauvais thanked everybody for coming out to the Tree Giveaway event last weekend and stated that residents really appreciated everyone’s time devoted to this purpose. He announced that the next event that he is going to participate in will be Memorial Day Wreath Tribute at Lake Opeka and the Park Ridge parade.

Clerk Gialamas thanked everybody for coming out to our Annual Town Meeting, Senator Laura Murphy for acting as a Moderator and Trustee Maher as a parliamentarian. He stated that it was a great night as always.

Trustee Jones invited the community and any residents to the next Neighborhood Watch Meeting on Wednesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. The Fire Department and Cook County Sheriff representatives are scheduled to attend and any concerns or issues can be addressed. Trustee Jones thanked Highway Commissioner Beauvais for the excellent event and all the beautiful trees that have been given away.

Supervisor Dimond announced that on May 5<sup>th</sup> Agency Day is coming up and on May 13<sup>th</sup>, Prescription Drug Take Back, Electronics Recycling, and Shredding event will take place in the Maine Township Town Hall parking lot. She said that on May 18<sup>th</sup>, the MaineStreamers are organizing a 90 Plus Birthday Celebration event. Supervisor Dimond announced that on June 13<sup>th</sup>, the Niles Pride Parade will take place. Supervisor Dimond thanked everybody for filling out their Statement of Economic Interest on time.

Trustee Horvath said that she really enjoyed Highway Commissioner Beauvais' Tree Giveaway on Saturday.

Trustee Maher thanked Highway Commissioner Beauvais for his event and Trustee Jones for a great Neighborhood Watch meeting as always. Trustee Maher mentioned that he would like to attend the Anger Management Group, but he said that nothing is scheduled for May. He added that he would like to learn more about the activities MaineStay Director Lyon does.

Trustee Malik thanked Highway Commissioner Beauvais and his Staff for their hard work last Saturday and what they do for the community. Trustee Malik again invited Supervisor Dimond and everybody on April 29<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00 pm for a celebration of Eid al-Fitr at the Maine Township Town Hall parking lot.

For more detailed Officials' Reports see the video at 2:07:58

Agenda Item: Adjournment

Trustee Jones	Motion to adjourn.
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.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:19 p.m.

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Maine Township Clerk