

Maine Township Board Meeting October 29, 2024

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 Kurt Asprooth, Dayna Berman, Vicki Rizzo, Ruba Al Ayed, Marie Dachniwsky, Kathy Sabbini, Liz Coy, Jenny Raffe, Robert Flinn, Nader Ghazaleh, Marty Cook, Mike Samaan, Richard Lyon, Jack Wisniewski, Ted Ward, Jessica Guzman 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 September 24, 2024 Board Meeting

Trustee Jones Motion to waive the reading and approve minutes of the September 24, 2024 Board 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 Yes

Motion carried.

Agenda Item: Approval of Minutes of October 1, 2024 Agency Funding Special Meeting

Trustee Horvath Motion to waive the reading and approve minutes of the October 1, 2024 Agency Funding Special 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 Abstain

Motion carried.

Agenda Item: Approval of Minutes of October 22, 2024 Agency Funding Special Meeting

Trustee Jones Motion to waive the reading and approve minutes of the October 22, 2024 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 Yes

Motion carried.

Agenda Item: Approval of General Assistance Expenditures
Payrolls dated September 27, 2024, October 11, 2024 and October 25, 2024 and General Assistance checks #55543 through check #55574 in the amount of \$42,095.13.

Trustee Horvath	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 September 27, 2024, October 11, 2024 and October 25, 2024 and Road District checks #23627 through Check #23673 in the amount of \$548,004.12.

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 September 27, 2024, October 11, 2024 and October 25, 2024 and General Town Fund checks #61356 through Check #61426 in the amount of \$393,940.26.

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: Public Participation
None

Agenda Item: Introduction of Martin Zimmerman – Shuttle Bus Driver
See video at
Supervisor Dimond skipped item #7 because Martin Zimmerman was not present at the Board meeting.

Agenda Item: Old Business, Discussion & Possible Vote on Elected Officials Compensation for next 4-year term
See video at

Trustee Jones Motion to table Vote on Elected Officials Compensation for next 4-year term.

After discussion, the Board scheduled the Special Board meeting on Thursday, November 7, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

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: Old business, Highway Department Atlas and future drainage project presentation

Engineer Ted Ward from Spaceo, Inc. presented the Maine Township Atlas project which updating started almost three years ago in 2022 along with the Highway Department. Mr. Ward stated that the previous Atlas only included the handwritten storm sewer information with very little detail. The current digitized, all CAD base Atlas, includes not only storm sewer but also storm structures, roadways, curbs, sidewalks, and all Township's assets. He discussed the benefits of the Digital Atlas in planning and designing. Mr. Ward pointed out that it would help to keep better records, the new projects could be easily updated, and the response to crises or emergencies would be easier and quicker. He also made a presentation on future drainage projects.

The Board thanked Ted Ward for the presentation.

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

See video at

OEM Director Wisniewski discussed the necessity of hiring an OEM part-time employee. Mr. Wisniewski stated that volunteering in OEM is very different and unique than volunteering in any other Maine Township's department. He said that OEM volunteers have to be available 24/7 and sometimes during holidays, which makes it very difficult to find them. Mr. Wisniewski also pointed out, that in case he would not be able to come to work a part-time employee could fill in.

Comments and questions from the Board members.

Trustee Jones Motion to create up to two positions for OEM and hours will be up to OEM Director's Wisniewski discretion with the Board's approval.
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, TOI Conference Awards and Arrangements

See video at

Administrator Berman handed out packets with information for the upcoming TOI Conference. Administrator Berman announced that this year Maine Township won three awards:
AITCOY Staff Award - MaineStay Employee Summer Zumbrock;
AITCOY Youth Leadership Award - MaineStay Volunteer Vrisha Kotak;
ITASCSC Innovative Senior Program of the Year – MaineStreamers Annual Mystery Trip.
She said that the awards will be accepted at the TOI conference in Springfield.

Agenda Item: New Business, Discussion and Possible Vote on Road and Bridge Estimated Levy

See video at

Highway Commissioner Beauvais stated that the Highway Department again would like to keep the Levy flat for 2025. He said that they are very proud that they could keep the Levy flat during his entire term and utilized reserves and grants to be fiscally responsible for the taxpayers.

Trustee Jones Motion to adopt Road and Bridge Estimated Levy.

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 and Possible Vote on Town Fund & General Assistance Estimated Levies

See video at

Administrator Berman stated that the Board packet included two different versions of Town Fund & General Assistance Levies. One flat Levy with the amount of \$5,532,967.00 which is the same as last year and the second one with a calculated 4.9% increase only for Town Fund keeping General Assistance flat for a total of \$5,759,438.00.

Comments and questions.

Assessor Krey commented that her office has been processing several Certificate of Errors, going back to the tax year 2018. She stated that this year alone, they have refunded \$2,003,148 back to residents for missed exemptions. This is a 70% increase from last year's Certificate of Errors. Assessor Krey pointed out this is significant to the Township because the money is refunded to the taxpayer and said the Board should consider it when working on the Levy.

Trustee Maher asked Attorney Aspoth what effect would a salary increase, which the Board might vote on at the November 7th meeting, have on leaving the Levy at the flat rate.

Attorney Aspoth explained that the Levy is going to impact the Budget for the next year.

Comments and questions.

Trustee Jones Motion to adopt Town Fund & General Assistance Estimated Levies at a flat rate.

Trustee Malik 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: New Business, Discussion of Start Time and Agenda for November 26, 2024 meeting

See video at

Supervisor Dimond reminded everybody that at the last meeting, per Trustee Horvath the Board agreed to meet on November 26th, before the regular Board meeting to discuss the upcoming programs and events.

After a short discussion, the Board decided that the Special Board meeting on November 26th, will start at 5:30 p.m., and the regular meeting will follow at 7:00 p.m.

Chief Deputy Clerk Magnowski will post a notice of the Special Board meeting 48 hours before.

Agenda Item: Officials' Reports

Assessor Krey reported that the Certificate of Errors increased by 70% since last year due to problems with filing the Exemptions to the Cook County Assessor's office. She discussed that the residents experienced difficulty receiving a revised property tax bill once the Certificate of Error was submitted. Assessor Krey stated that there were four tax bills within 16 months and this has caused a dramatic issue with how many mortgage companies are calculating resident's escrows. Assessor Krey stated her staff is assisting many seniors with the problem of their escrow increasing by double. She mentioned that her staff audited exemptions to ensure they were filed properly. Assessor Krey announced that next year will be the Triennial reassessment and the Cook County Assessor's Office will be using their new system called Tyler.

Highway Commissioner Beauvais gave an update on the MWRD Ballard project. He reported that the Highway Department is trying to obtain a State of Illinois easement for a drainage project that would bring flood relief to Maine North and also complement the future MWRD project along Central Road. Highway Commissioner Beauvais also reported that the governmental agreements with Park Ridge and Niles for the bike lane and new sidewalks on Church have been finalized. He announced that the Highway Department is organizing Toys for Tots till December 9th.

Clerk Gialamas reported that his office has been continually busy with passports and all kinds of issues related to the Election.

Trustee Maher commended MaineStay Director Richard Lyon that his employees continue to win awards and congratulated Mr. Lyon on his leadership in his department. Trustee Maher reported that he attended Trunk or Treat and commended Jenny Raffe for the idea of an outstanding event for many kids. He recognized MaineStreamers Director Dachniwsky and her Department for their most interesting events. He congratulated Ms. Dachniwsky on the award. Finally, Trustee Maher thanked Recovery Connection Director Marty Cook for his interesting programs.

Trustee Horvath announced that Maine East is hosting a Variety Show with a sort of student performances on November 7th, 8th, and 9th.

Trustee Jones thanked the Assessor's Office for their hard work, as well as the Highway's Department and Clerk's Office. She reported that she attended the veterinarian mobile vaccination event, which was amazing, and well attended with many animals. Trustee Jones announced that the next Neighborhood Watch meeting will be on Wednesday, November 6th, at 7:00 p.m. She invited residents with any kind of issue on zoning, or parking, to talk to the Fire Department or Cook County Sheriff or just listen to what is going on in the Township.

Supervisor Dimond reported that she also attended the Vaccination for Pets and Trunk or Treat events. She announced that the MaineStay Garage Sale brought about \$4,800 for the Camp, and through the I-Cash Program, the Maine Township got \$500 from the Illinois Comptroller's Office. Supervisor Dimond stated that Catholic Charity closed their Food Pantry and we got a couple of their freezers. She thanked Mike Samaan, Nader Ghazaleh, Steve Basista, and Sam Dababneh for moving the freezers downstairs to our Food Pantry. Supervisor Dimond announced that we got notice regarding an adaptation of a new General Assistance payment level to \$ 439.00 or more for one adult and reminded everybody that the Board earlier this year raised the amount to \$450.00.

For more detailed Officials' Reports see the video at

Agenda Item: Closed/Executive Session for the purpose of discussing (1) litigation which is probable or imminent; (2) Report and Discussion on Security and Access Control System Project, and (3) discussing the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees.

Trustee Jones Motion to go into Closed/Executive Session for the purpose of discussing (1) litigation which is probable or imminent; (2) Report and Discussion on Security and Access Control System Project,

and (3) discussing 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 an Open Session at 9:02 p.m.

Agenda Item: New Business, Discussion and Possible Vote on hiring Part-Time Recovery Connection Employee

See video at

Trustee Jones Motion to hire James Naughton as a Community Outreach Coordinator for the Recovery Connection.
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: Adjournment

Trustee Horvath Motion to adjourn.
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 meeting was adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

Maine Township Clerk

