

# Minutes - Board of Town Trustees

STATE OF ILLINOIS, }  
WILL County } SS. REGULAR MEETING  
Town of New Lenox }

THE BOARD OF TOWN TRUSTEES met at 1100 S. Cedar Road, New Lenox on April 08, 2021 by virtue of ZOOM the electronic internet meeting app in accordance with the Governor's Disaster Proclamation as well as physical presence of some Township officials at the township meeting room.

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The following business was transacted:

I. CALL TO ORDER

The New Lenox Town Board of Trustees Meeting was called to order on April 08, 2021 at 7:00pm

II. ROLL CALL

MEETING ROOM AND INTERNET PRESENCE VIA ZOOM

Michael Hickey	Supervisor	
Martin Boban	Trustee	
Barbara Kaupas	Trustee	absent
Kathleen Hilton	Trustee	
Patty Deiters	Trustee	Zoom

Also present: Highway Commissioner Ron Sly  
Assessor: Bonnie Hernandez Zoom  
Attorney: Cass Wennlund

III APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Trustee Hilton and Second by Trustee Boban to approve the minutes as corrected by Attorney Cass Wennlund. (Attorney will resign as of April 30 and a new attorney will be hired per state statute and paid on an hourly basis when engaged in township business.) Upon a rollcall vote Trustee Boban, Hilton, Deiters and Supervisor Hickey voted yes and none opposed. Motion carried.

IV Public hearing for town budget for fiscal year 2021-2022

Motion was made by Trustee Boban second by Trustee Hilton to move into public hearing. Upon a rollcall vote, Trustee Boban, Hilton, Deiters and Supervisor Hickey voted yes and none opposed. Motion carried.

Supervisor Hickey listed the amounts of money in the various funds. The supervisor explained there was money in excess of \$500,000.00 in the Maplewood Cemetery as well as \$54,000.00 in the Marshall Cemetery fund for perpetual care and wanted to clarify why the money is there. The supervisor explained that the township is trying to build up the money in those accounts so they will become self-sufficient in to the future. The supervisor explained

that if township government ever went away these entities would be able to be passed on to another government body like the village or county without a financial burden to their budget.

The Supervisor explained senior housing maintenance of various items like the elevators and the hot water tank. There was conversation on the complexity of the elevator inspection process.

Guest, Maureen Broderick, questioned how the Road Commissioner's salary was paid out. Attorney Wennlund explained the salary for the Road Commissioner is split, 50% of it comes from the administration fund and 50% from the road district funds. Mrs. Broderick raised the question of the Trustees receiving IMRF benefits. Supervisor Hickey said no trustee receives an IMRF benefit today.

Mrs. Broderick had questions concerning the reduction of income from the transportation department. Supervisor Hickey said that was due to the pandemic. Rides in the township had plummeted from 800 rides a month to 100 because of Covid risks.

Mrs. Broderick asked if former employees were being given health benefits. Supervisor Hickey said that there are no former employees being given health benefits. She also asked about the cost of the newsletter. The Supervisor explained that people like getting the mail version of the letter and that it is also available online for those who wish to see it there.

Mrs. Broderick asked about the bond debt for the senior housing facility. Supervisor Hickey said in an effort to not add a tax burden to the tax payers we must keep a bond reserve minimum of 1 year liability on hand in order to abate that obligation so the residents will not see it show up on their tax bills. Every December, the board passes a resolution to abate that obligation to the tax payers and if that extra money isn't there it shows up on your tax bill and it would cost the average tax payer \$200.00

Mrs. Broderick made mention of our fiscal responsibility with keeping our tax levy down and said the board is doing a fine job on that.

Mrs. Broderick asked about preparing the transfer of appropriations. Supervisor Hickey said that it is the clerk's responsibility and that the clerk worked with the administrator as did all the past clerks to ready the report and assured her all was being done responsibly.

Trustee Boban made mention that the trustee salary is not just for attending meetings. Trustees are given committees and assignments of various duties that need to be attended to and often take up much of your personal time.

Trustee Hilton made mention that beyond the small salary the clerk does not receive any other benefit from the township and that the supervisor has chosen to not participate in the IMRF. Supervisor Hickey also mentioned that the Road Commissioner has opted out of the IMRF as well. Trustee Hilton wanted to make clear that there are not excessive benefits going on with the board members.

Supervisor Hickey asked for a motion to leave the township public hearing. Motion was made by Trustee Boban Second by Trustee Hilton. Upon a rollcall vote; Trustees Boban, Hilton, Deiters and Supervisor Hickey voted in favor and none opposed, motion carried.

Motion was made to go into the Road District budget and appropriation hearing by Trustee Hilton and second by Trustee Boban. Upon a rollcall vote Trustee Boban, Hilton, Deiters and Supervisor Hickey voted in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Supervisor Hickey listed the amounts of the various accounts for the road district. Supervisor Hickey asked if the Road Commissioner or any person had comments or questions. Hearing none the Supervisor said we need to move to ratify the Road District budget.

The Supervisor asked for a motion to ratify the 2021-2022 Road district budget. Motion was made by Trustee Hilton and Second by Trustee Boban upon a rollcall vote Trustees Boban, Hilton, Deiters and Supervisor Hickey voted yes and none opposed, motion carried.

Motion was made by Trustee Deiters and second by Trustee Boban to close the Road District hearing. Upon a rollcall vote Trustees Boban, Hilton, Deiters and Supervisor Hickey voted yes, none opposed, motion carried.

At this time the supervisor entertain any guest comments. Maureen Broderick made mention of the elevator inspection issues are the same with respect to the JJC elevators as well.

#### V BOARD ISSUES-- ACTION ITEMS

Motion was made by Trustee Boban and Second by Trustee Deiters to adopt Resolution 2021-02 Transfer of Township Appropriation. Upon a rollcall vote, Trustees Boban, Hilton, Deiters and Supervisor Hickey voted in favor and none opposed, motion carried.

Motion was made by Trustee Boban and Second by Trustee Hilton to adopt Resolution 2021-03 Transfer of Township appropriation for senior housing. Upon a rollcall vote, Trustees Boban, Hilton, Deiters and Supervisor Hickey voted in favor and none opposed, motion carried.

Motion was made by Trustee Boban and Second by Trustee Hilton to adopt Resolution 2021-04 Transfer of Township appropriation for Maplewood Cemetery. Upon a rollcall vote Trustees Boban, Hilton, Deiters and Supervisor Hickey voted in favor and none opposed, Motion carried.

Motion was made by Trustee Boban and Second by Trustee Hilton to adopt Transfer of Road District appropriation Resolution 2021-01. Upon a rollcall vote Trustees Boban, Hilton, Deiters and Supervisor Hickey voted in favor and none opposed, motion carried.

Motion was made by Trustee Hilton and Second by Trustee Deiters to adopt fiscal year 2021-2022 Town Budget ordinance 2021-01 Upon a rollcall vote Trustees Boban, Hilton, Deiters and Supervisor Hickey voted in favor and none opposed, motion carried.

Motion was made by Trustee Deiters and Second by Trustee Boban to approve a new Maplewood Cemetery Fee and Foundation Fee Schedule. Upon a roll call vote Trustees Boban, Hilton, Deiters and Supervisor Hickey voted in favor and none opposed, motion carried. Trustee Boban made mention of where the funds go with these fees. The Supervisor said that those funds go to the sexton to have a representative of the Cemetery at funerals and

added that eventually when the graves have been sold out we use those fund to build up the perpetual care fund in an effort to have the cemetery maintained with its own self-generated funds and that we need to get that fund to at least one million dollars in order to be able to do that.

Supervisor Hickey moved to the next action item and explained that we need to up the employee stipend for the health insurance due to rising costs in health insurance, he explained the cost of health insurance for an employee is approximately \$8,000 and that the employee stipend is approximately \$4,000 saving the township an average \$4,000 per employee per year. Without the stipend employees would enroll in the insurance to save paying deductible costs from their primary insurance costing the township thousands in insurance. Trustee Deiters ask why we were paying employees to not take insurance. It was explained again by Supervisor Hickey that employees were enrolling in the insurance benefit and costing the township thousands of dollars, so they didn't have to pay their \$250.00 primary insurance deductible. This practice was costing the township tens of thousands of dollars. Assessor Hernandez stated it was set up as an incentive to not take the insurance if you don't need it. Trustee Deiters still had questions and concerns about the amount the employees contribute for insurance. Assessor Hernandez tried to explain that these are government employees and don't earn what private sector employees do and this is why they get this benefit.

Motion was made by Trustee Boban and Second by Trustee Hilton to raise the Employee insurance waiver payment from \$290.00 to \$330.00 Upon a rollcall vote, Trustee Boban, Hilton and Supervisor Hickey voted in favor, Trustee Deiters voted against, motion carried.

#### VI SUPERVISORS REPORT

Supervisor mentioned that he had received a letter of resignation from the attorney to be effective as of April 30, 2021 and that new counsel will be hired in the near future.

#### VII TRUSTEE REPORTS

Trustee Boban: We are continuing with the electronics program and the number of cars is beginning to increase again as the weather is warming. Transition students are continuing in the food pantry. The recycle day is coming and the newsletter will be hitting the mailboxes soon. We will be moving ahead with the recycle day as planned.

Trustee Kaupas: ABSENT

Trustee Hilton: New Lenox was able to have a two day vaccine clinic and the township was able to assist with rides for seniors to get vaccinated and wanted to make special mention to Debbie Cunningham for organizing the rides on short notice due to how quickly the event came together. Rides for the month were up significantly and expectations of continued upward trends are expected.

Trustee Deiters: No Report

#### VIII OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS

CLERK: Economic statements are due May 1<sup>st</sup>, Newsletter going out soon and Tuesday the 13<sup>th</sup> will be the Annual Town Meeting.

ROAD COMMISSIONER: No Report

ASSESSOR: Wanted to point out that her office is saving \$12,480.00 due to employees not enrolling into the insurance program. Senior citizen tax freezes have not been voted on downstate yet.

ATTORNEY: I have turned in my resignation and after serving 28 years as township attorney, under 7 different boards 3 different supervisors I hope to continue the same financially sound management with this board.

IX APPROVAL OF BILLS

Motion was made by Trustee Deiters and Second by Trustee Boban to pay the bills. Upon a rollcall vote, Trustees Boban, Hilton, Deiters and Supervisor Hickey voted in favor and none opposed, motion carried.

X ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made to adjourn at 8:36 PM by Trustee Deiters and Second by Trustee Boban. Upon a rollcall vote Trustees Boban, Hilton, Deiters and Supervisor Hickey voted in favor and none opposed, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted, Dave Medema, Clerk