

# 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 November 14, 2019.

The following business was transacted:

I. CALL TO ORDER

The New Lenox Town Board of Trustees Meeting was called to order on November 14, 2019 at 7:00pm

II. ROLL CALL

PRESENT:

Michael Hickey	Supervisor
Larry Wennlund	Clerk
Martin Boban	Trustee
Barbara Kaupas	Trustee
Kathy Hilton	Trustee
Dave Medema	Trustee

Absent: None

Also Present: Mike Hilton

Maureen Broderick  
Paul Slade representing Old Plank Trail Bank  
Cheryl Hernandez, Old Plank Trail Bank  
Mary Ann Murphy, Old Plank Trail Bank  
Assessor Bonnie Hernandez  
Highway Commissioner Ron Sly

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Trustee Medema, seconded by Trustee Boban, to approve the October 10, 2019, minutes of the Regular Meeting. No further discussion; all in favor, none opposed; motion carried.

IV. SPECIAL GUEST/PUBLIC COMMENTS

Supervisor Hickey introduced Paul Slade, President of Old Plank Trail Bank together with bank employees, Cheryl Hernandez and Mary Ann Murphy, who presented a check for \$5,000.00 to the Township for food purchases for the Township Food Pantry. Supervisor Hickey expressed the Townships appreciation for the donation for the Food Pantry which helps feed 70 to 80 families, including seniors, per week with more citizens registering each week for help in sustaining the neediest residents of the township. Resident, Maureen Broderick expressed her appreciation for the Township's Transportation Program and Director, Debbie Cunningham for transporting her to and from doctors' offices and grocery stores because she was unable to drive or walk due to

foot surgeries. Supervisor Hickey stated that the Township transports 600 to 800 citizens per month who are otherwise unable drive or otherwise get to needed medical services and food supplies.

#### V. BOARD ACTION ITEMS

Supervisor Hickey discussed the Township's levy for the current year based on the total value of existing real property and the estimated value of new improved real estate in the Township. The estimated total equalized assessed value for 2019 will be \$1,657,267,805. After the allowance for exemptions, a maximum increase of 1.9% on which a maximum tax increase on existing property would be \$24,383. The maximum estimated increase in the levy on existing plus newly improved real estate would be the amount of \$45,436 for a total levy in the amount of \$1,328,756. That would be a total maximum increase of 3.54% over the previous year's levy. At this time all amounts are estimated and will not be determined until final figures are based on the townships estimated financial needs set forth in the 2020-2021 budget.

Supervisor Hickey introduced RESOLUTION 2019-03 which authorized the abatement of Taxes Levied for the year 2019 pursuant to ORDINANCE 2004-04 which was for a levy sufficient to produce the annual bond payment for the cost of the Townships Senior Living Center which produces the amount of revenue to pay the annual bond payment due therefore. A motion was the made by Trustee Hilton, seconded by Trustee Kaupas to adopt Resolution 2019-03 which was unanimously adopted with none voting against.

Supervisor Hickey asked for a motion to adopt changes in the Township's Transportation policies with respect to the Townships services area and hours of operation. From now on transportation services will be provided to Township residents to destinations within the Township boundaries Monday through Friday from 7:00am to 4:30pm. Trips for New Lenox Township residents ages 22 and older with no other reasonable alternative available and for developmentally disabled New Lenox Township residents, may be scheduled Monday through Friday for medical and physical therapy or employment reasons. Transportation beyond New Lenox Township boundaries is limited to Joliet Township east of the Des Plaines River and Frankfort Township. All transportation services are limited to the availability of drivers and vehicles. A motion to adopt these changes to the Transportation policy was made by Trustee Medema and seconded by Trustee Hilton and upon a vote was unanimously adopted

#### VI TRUSTEE REPORTS

Trustee Boban reports that used electronics collections continue on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month from 5-7 PM. Trustee Boban also reports that the Transition Program has several new students in this successful program working 2 to 3 hours on Fridays delivering pantry food items to seniors. Trustee Boban also stated that he is working on a new veteran's story to be featured based on a local veteran resident, Bud Vancina. Trustee Boban announced that the law regarding the legalization of recreational marijuana may be allowed in townships unless the Township prohibits the same which is what he recommends for New Lenox Township.

Trustee Hilton states that she has been working with the Transportation service employees to develop policies regarding fee increases and other services provided by the Township. Trustee Hilton also asks the other Board members for input regarding the extent of transporting elderly and disabled residents beyond township boundaries and

how to fund the costs of such transportation. Trustee Hilton presented a draft policy regarding several transportation issues. She expressed her gratitude for the assistance of Transportation Director, Debbie Cunningham and Receptionist, Sue Deneen in gathering information about transportation availability and prices in surrounding areas and wanted their efforts to be acknowledged such as providing 815 rides in the month of October to Township residents points out that such services allows seniors to stay in their homes longer before having to relocate to nursing facilities.

Supervisor Hickey suggested an increase in fares may be appropriate for transportation beyond township boundaries and expressed the need for more part time drivers to service such needs and the fact that the transportation budget presently amounts to about \$223,000. per year which is a fact to keep in mind when determining fares for such transport beyond the township boundary which will be an item for consideration on the December meeting agenda.

Trustee Kaupas reported that the next TRIAD Christmas Program will be December 12<sup>th</sup> at 1PM, and the Operation Santa program will be on December 14<sup>th</sup> at 8:45AM. Trustee Boban reported that fresh cut Christmas trees will be provided for operation Santa.

Assessor Hernandez reported on existing real estate valuations and also on the newly improved property values and assessments in New Lenox Township. Also, the increasing property assessment freezes filed by seniors who qualify by annual incomes. She also discussed the 17,000 existing parcels of real estate in the Township and the growth of the improvements and the effects on equalized assessment valuation growth in the Township.

VII APPROVAL OF BILLS

Motion made by Trustee Medema to accept and pay all bills as presented, seconded by Trustee Kaupas, all voted in favor, none opposed, Motion carried unanimously.

VIII ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Trustee Medema seconded by Trustee Boban, to adjourn the meeting and on a roll call-vote all voted in favor, none opposed, motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Larry Wennlund. Township Clerk