



Supervisor's Office
Gloria M. Palmblad

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COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (COW) MEETING

Ela Township – Lower Level Board Room
1155 East Route 22, Lake Zurich
Wednesday, February 23, 2022 at 8:30 am

MEETING MINUTES

This meeting will be conducted by audio or video conference and may not have a physically present quorum of the Ela Township Board because of a disaster declaration related to COVID-19 public health concerns affecting the Township. Pursuant to Section 7(e)(2) of the Open Meetings Act, the Supervisor has determined that an in-person meeting at the Township building with all participants is not practical or prudent because of the disaster. Township officials, legal counsel, and the Township Manager will not be physically present at the Township Hall, if that is unfeasible due to the disaster. Since physical public attendance at the Township Hall may be limited or not feasible, alternative arrangements for public access to hear the meeting has been made available by contacting the Supervisor's Office at (847) 438-7823 for the Zoom meeting link or the phone number to call into the meeting prior to 8:15 a.m. on February 23, 2022.

1. Call to Order: Supervisor Palmblad called the February 23, 2022 Committee of the Whole meeting to order at 8:41 a.m.
2. Board Roll Call: Present were Supervisor Palmblad, Trustee Ufodike, Trustee Wilhoit, Assessor Herr, Township Manager Stefaniuk, Deputy Clerk Case, Director Dillon, Director Marx, Assistant Director Dalbec, Highway Superintendent DePouw, and Youth Coordinator Cacciatore. Trustee Sikes joined via Zoom at 9:12 a.m. Trustee Bowman was absent.
3. Pledge of Allegiance: Supervisor Palmblad led the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Township Manager Report: No report.
5. Discussion – Updates by Chair:
 - a. Community Center Committee – Chair/Trustee Ufodike.
Members: Supervisor Palmblad, Trustee Wilhoit, Director Dillon, Assistant Director Dalbec, Youth Coordinator Cacciatore.
Director Dillon reported that the March newsletter has been mailed to residents, and staff are working on the April/May/June newsletter. The part-time chef that was hired is temporary, she has agreed to work through May. Youth Coordinator Cacciatore reported that the Safe@Home class is full at 10 participants, and the class will be held on an upcoming early release day. The last SafeSitter class will be held on March 19. Planning for spring break and summer camps are in progress. Supervisor Palmblad contacted the YMCA regarding teen club, and the current hurdle is that Covid-19 vaccinations are required for youth to enter the YMCA.
 - b. Communication Committee – Chair/Supervisor Palmblad.
Members: Interim Assessor Herr, Director Dillon, Director Marx, Assistant Director Dalbec, and Staff.
Supervisor Palmblad and the communications committee met on February 22. Current event planning includes the Spring/Summer newsletter, the John Barrington memorial bench dedication, the Knox Park playground dedication, and the 2022 I Got Caught Being Kind contest.
 - c. Health & Wellness – Chair/Trustee Wilhoit.
Members: Supervisor Palmblad, Trustee Sikes, Director Marx
In person grief group sessions will begin as of March 2. Director Marx has been working with the Gateway Foundation and other substance abuse centers to offer additional resources to Township residents who do and do not have health insurance. Director Marx is also preparing intergovernmental agreements with local municipalities.

- d. Parks & Recreation Committee – Chair/Trustee Bowman.
Members: Supervisor Palmblad, Trustee Ufodike, Highway Superintendent DePouw, and Highway Foreman Meyer
The LZ Flames have provided a list of items they would like repaired, these items will be addressed further at the next Parks committee meeting. ComEd has agreed to remove the poles and wires at Knox Park for \$4100.00. The OSLAB grant money has not come in yet, grant administrators have had over 100 applicants and are still working on the past two years grants. If the grant to Ela Township is approved, we could get up to \$270K for parks renovations. The concrete pad for the fitness courts will be included in this years budget, however, the court installation may be delayed depending on grant monies received.
- e. Highway Committee – Chair/Trustee Sikes.
Members: Supervisor Palmblad, Trustee Bowman, Highway Superintendent DePouw, and Highway Foreman Meyer.
Highway Superintendent DePouw and Dan Strahan of Gewalt Hamilton met with the homeowner regarding the Lakeside Drainage Project. The homeowner is unwilling to grant the Township easement to repair the issue because he brought it to the attention of Ela Township 25 years ago and the Township would not help. The homeowner then installed his own basin and curb and gutter system. At this time, the project has been put on hold. Highway Superintendent DePouw will be doing most of the upcoming concrete pouring saving the Township time and money.
- f. Bus Service – Board Liaison – Supervisor Palmblad: No Report.
- g. Historic Society: Supervisor Palmblad will be attending the upcoming Historical Society board meeting where a Labor Day event will be planned.
- h. Assessor: Assessor Herr is working on the newsletter and 2022 assessments are due in June.

6. Topics for Discussion

- a. Old Business:
A Peace Pole update was provided by Supervisor Palmblad including the mock-up sample of the peace pole. The Highway Department will pour the cement and invoice the peace pole committee. The committee is planning a dedication on International Peace Day in September. Thus far, \$7700.00 in donations have been received. The committee would like to proceed with installing the peace pole and then continue to fund raise for the brick wall, landscaping, etc.

Supervisor Palmblad also addressed the current mask mandate and general Covid restrictions. As of now, the CDC is not requiring masks in government buildings, however, in health care, senior, and transportation settings they will be required. The board and department heads agreed to keep the mask mandate in place until March 18 and reevaluate at that time.

- b. New Business
2022 Grant Applications: Supervisor Palmblad provided a summary and background information on all applicants. Originally \$35,000.00 was allocated in the budget for grant money. After a long discussion on the funding applications, preliminary decisions were made, and Trustee Ufodike requested the grant funding amount be increased to \$36,000.00. All funding is determined on what tax dollars come in for the year. Eleven applications were received for FY23.

A Safe Place	\$2,000.00
Center for Enriched Living	\$2,000.00
Center for Independence	\$1,000.00
Emmaus House	\$16,000.00
Erie Family Health Center	\$1,000.00
Joanies Closet	\$2,500.00
LZBSA Challenger Division	\$2,500.00
Nicasa	\$1,000.00
North Suburban Legal Aid	\$2,500.00
PADS Lake County	\$2,500.00
Zacharias Sexual Abuse Center	\$3,000.00
Total =	\$36,000.00

7. Set Date of Next COW Meeting (March 30, 2022 @ 8:30 AM)
8. Executive Session: None at this time.
9. Adjourn: Supervisor Palmblad adjourned the meeting at 10:12 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: Deputy Clerk Case



Ela Township

February 17, 2022