

REGULAR MEETING OF THE MILTON TOWNSHIP BOARD

November 14, 2024

A Regular Meeting for the Milton Township Board was held in the Board Room of the Milton Town Hall, 1492 N. Main Street, Wheaton Illinois, on Tuesday, October 8, 2024.

Board Members Present: Chairman John Monino, Clerk Yadav "Nick" Nathwani, Trustees Drew Ellis, Dan Milinko, and Joe Soto. Guest signed in: Doris Nelson, Chuck Smiths, Erica Nelson, Don M, Dan Bailey, Joanna and David Karmis, James R, Marty Keller, and Donna Kemp.

The business meeting was called to order by Chairman Monino at 6:30 P.M. Mike Harvey led the Pledge of Allegiance. A quorum was present and acting and due notice had been posted in compliance with the Open Meetings Act.

Trustee Milinko, seconded by Trustee Ellis, to approve the agenda as presented. On a voice vote, all those present voted aye. The motion passed.

Trustee Soto moved, seconded by Trustee Ellis to approve the minutes from the Regular meeting of October 8, 2024. On a voice vote, all those present voted aye. The motion passed.

Having concluded the audit of the Township bills in the earlier segment of the meeting, Trustee Castle moved, seconded by Trustee Milinko that the bills be approved after been audited be paid and charged to the proper accounts, and certificates of accounts be filed by the Clerk for inspection by the citizens of the Township. Following discussion, on a roll call vote: Trustee Ellis, Milinko, Castle and Soto and Chairman Monino. The motion passed.

Public Forum

- A. Erica Nelson, Wheaton – Thanked the Trustees for displaying the budget. Erica also pointed out that the meeting dates coincided with important dates for the budget. She also asked the board proactively to publish any dates for any special board meetings. Also, asked if the proposed budget will be published for the community.
- B. David Karmis – Follow up from the last public forum, would like to address Trustee Milinko's comments from the August 13, 2024, board meeting regarding his employment at the assessor's office. His comments reflect poorly on the elected officials at Milton Township. Elected officials shouldn't attack a vulnerable group. He strongly rejects the board inflammatory comments, elected officials should maintain a professional demeanor. The comments have damaged his reputation in the community and would like to see a formal apology from the board.
- C. Joanna Karmis – Read the minutes from the last meeting and can't understand why the name is spelled wrong. Any salary discussions should take into consideration that the Assessor's office is always working. Chris is the lowest paid Assessor in DuPage, how do we attract talent in the future if the salary is cut.

Chairman's Report:

- A. General Assistance – Thanked Matt for his assistance at the lending closet. Matt has given out close to 208 pieces of equipment. All of the equipment was donated by the community. Also, Sheila in GA was able to find a program to help a veteran purchase and install a chairlift in her home, covered by a grant.
- B. Audit Report – Chairman Monino mentioned that the audit process has been streamlined and will be presented in the board in due time.
- C. Misc./Other – None.
- D. Digital Rein – Don McKenzie, Digital Rein located in Glen Ellyn a company that provides website and technology solutions. Digital Rein identified opportunities to improve the website. Recommends building something fresh since the current page has 600 links and a number of dead links. Also, the current page is not compatible with cellphones. His firm could provide some help with google optimization.

Officials & Committee Reports:

- A. Trustee Comments – Trustee Castle thanked Trustee Soto for donating pumpkins to the food pantry with him. Also mentioned that garden did not perform well this year because of a drought. Trustee Castle is going to look to see how we can shade the garden next year.
- B. Clerk – Clerk Nathwani stated his office worked with Bond Dixon to publish each local party's caucus information. Also, he apologized to Mr. Karmis for spelling his name wrong in the October minutes.
- C. CERT – Mike Harvey mentioned that the CERT team has been busy with Halloween and fall events in the township. Also, the CERT team participated in 2 emergency call outs, one on County Farm Road and the second in West Chicago. CERT helped direct traffic while officers could do their work. YTD, the CERT team has clocked over 18,000 volunteer hours resulting in over \$300,000 in savings. CERT Town Hall will start again this Saturday.
- D. Food Pantry – Dave Seznov announced the pumpkin giveaway was a huge success, thanks to Joe Soto and Jeff Castle. The township gave out over 100 pumpkins last month. The Food pantry is preparing for the holiday season by stocking seasonal items. Dave plans on visiting grocery stores to ask them for turkey donations. Also, working in cooperation with GA to ensure toys are available for the community.
- E. Cemeteries – All events will slow down since we are heading into Winter. Will follow tradition next year by holding events the weekend before a national holiday.
- F. SALT – Chuck Smith mentioned the auto inspection was a success last month. They had over 95 volunteers and 10 teams checking seniors vehicles. The event had no accidents or problems. The event re charged 10 batteries and advised one vehicle to replace their battery. A few cars were low on oil.

Unfinished Business

- A. Audit – Already spoke about earlier in the meeting.
- B. Health Insurance Stumm Approval – Chairman Monino announced that all department heads met with Stumm Insurance on the renewal. All participants were happy with the outcome of the meeting. The township also received a second quote, but Stumm was lower. Trustee Soto moved to adopt Stumm Insurance for the next fiscal year, seconded by Trustee Milinko. On a roll call vote Trustee Castle, Ellis, Milinko, and Soto and Chairman Monino voted yes, the motion passed.
- C. Salaries Elected Officials – Trustee Milinko compiled salary and benefits in a resolution which he presented to the board. It sets salaries and benefits for elected officials for their next term. Trustee Milinko stated that the salaries set were data driven based on what other townships compensate their elected officials. Milton Township has always been one of the highest paid townships in DuPage County. Trustee Milinko added a 3.5% increase for cost of living of four years and used existing salaries as a starting point. The trustee's salaries were increased to \$7,500 from \$6,000 since those salaries were not adjusted for over 20 years. Trustee Ellis feels that the Clerk's salary should be higher since it was cut four years ago from \$32,000 to \$24,000, the 3.5% adjustment does not fairly compensate the Clerk for the missing earnings in the past four years. Chairman Monino added that the Highway Commissioner and Assessor salaries should go up slightly. John would like to see the Assessor salary increased to \$131,000. Trustee Castle mentioned they would like to see a decision made based on the data available. Trustee Castle motioned, seconded by Trustee Ellis to amend the motion and make 2028-2029 salaries statis for the terms in the office for four years. On a roll call vote, Trustee Castle, Ellis, Soto, and Milinko, and Chairman Monino voted yes. The motion passed.

New Business

- A. Tax Levy – Chairman Monino presented a draft levy to increase the township levy by 4.9%, however mentioned he did not discuss this with the 708 board. Trustee Milinko mentioned we should calculate the levy based on data from the county including EAV and limiting rate and understand ending balances in the funds. If money is available, the township could engage in deficit spending. Trustee Castle also mentioned that he would like to see a data driven decision, which would help the township avoid objections.
- B. 2025 Board Meeting Dates – Resolution R-25-1 – Chairman Monino presented Resolution R-25-2 setting board meeting dates for next year. He mentioned there maybe a conflict for the annual town meeting which will need to be adjusted next year. Trustee Soto, seconded by Trustee Ellis to adopt Resolution R-25-1, Trustee Milinko,

Castle, Ellis, and Soto, and Chairman Monino voted in favor of the resolution. The motion passed.

- C. 2025 Holiday Schedule – Resolution R-25-2 – Chairman Monino presented Resolution R-25-2 presenting holidays for the township for next year. Trustee Soto, seconded by Trustee Milinko to adopt Resolution R-25-2, on a roll call vote Trustee Castle, Soto, Milinko, and Ellis, and Chairman Monino voted in favor of the resolution. The motion passed.
- D. Review and Approve Special Police Budget – The Sheriff’s office informed Chairman Monino that the next contract with include a \$13,000 increase to \$412,000. This will be discussed further at the budget meeting.
- E. Misc/Other – None.

Having concluded the Regular Meeting, Trustee Milinko, seconded by Ellis, to retire to executive session at 7:54 P.M to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, displace, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the public body in accordance with 51LCS 120/2 (c)(1).

The board returned to open session at 8:16, no action was taken.

Trustee Soto, seconded by Trustee Milinko to adjourn the November 14th Regular board meeting. On a voice vote the motion passed.



Yadav "Nick" Nathwani, Township Clerk

Date minutes were approved

December 10, 2024

Gentleman,

I am following up on my comments from the Public Forum during the October 8, 2024, Milton Township Board Meeting. I would like to specifically address the “observations” Trustee Milinko made at the August 13, 2024, Town Board Meeting regarding my work with the Assessor’s Office. I find it concerning he chose this venue to impugn my character and target me for what seems to be a personal agenda against the Assessor’s Office. The fact that I was not present to defend myself highlights his approach as a trustee and reflects poorly on all the Milton Township elected officials.

I would like to emphasize the need for the trustees, along with the public they serve, to fully understand the significance of upholding professional standards and clear boundaries. This is crucial to maintaining trust and integrity in your roles. Professionals do not publicly call out an office or individual without factual evidence. They do not attack vulnerable groups—such as children, families, or employees who are not present at meetings. This is non-negotiable. It is a matter of basic common decency for elected representatives to avoid presenting accusations and assumptions as though they were facts, placing blame on employees, contractors, college students, or others who cannot defend themselves in the moment. I cannot help but wonder if Trustee Milinko orchestrated this entire situation with the purpose of damaging my reputation, spreading rumors, harassing my family, and undermining the Assessor's Office— all in a way that would be public and leave a lasting record.

I *strongly* reject Trustee Milinko's inflammatory and unfounded statements made at the August 13, 2024, town board meeting. It is crucial public figures and officials maintain a respectful and professional tone in their communications. Trustee Milinko’s comments have crossed that boundary. I request the town board remove them from the record. I also formally request a public apology for the insulting remarks about my reputation, which have damaged my standing in the community. Addressing this publicly is essential to restoring both my reputation and trust in the board's commitment to fairness.

As a resident and active member of Wheaton, I have always taken pride in my contributions and upheld a standard of integrity. It is deeply concerning and disappointing to hear statements that not only misrepresent my character but also undermine my longstanding involvement in our community.

I request this issue be placed on the agenda for the next public meeting, and a formal apology be issued at that time. I trust the board will handle this matter with the seriousness it deserves.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue. I look forward to your response.