



MILTON TOWNSHIP

EFFECTIVE LOCAL GOVERNMENT SINCE 1850

Elizabeth Higgins-Beard, Supervisor
Chris LeVan, Assessor
Michael H. Drew, Highway Commissioner
Dan Bailey, Town Clerk

Jacqueline McGrath, Trustee
Paula McGowen, Trustee
Larry L. Pitts, Trustee
Stephen Siemer, Trustee

(630) 668-1616 | 1492 N. Main St. Wheaton, IL 60187 | www.miltontownship.net

Thursday December 18th, 2025

5:45 p.m. – Audit of Township Bills/Claims

Board Room, Milton Township Hall

6:00 p.m. – Regular Monthly Business Meeting

1492 N. Main Street, Wheaton, Illinois 60187

MINUTES

- I. Call to Order at 6pm Supervisor Higgins- Beard explains that we are meeting in the Assessor's Office today because our Board meeting room is full of toys as part of Milton Township's participation in the Toys for Tots program.
 - A. Mission Moment -Chaplain Jim Devitt offers invocation invoking a "Season of Hope". Supervisor Higgins-Beard shares this message to Milton Township staff: *"Thank you, Ronna and TEAM, for your incredible donations to our Wheaton North Essentials Program. I am eternally grateful and do not have enough words to share our thanks. Our students are so lucky to live in such an incredible community that provides resources as well as hope."* (Lindsay Benedetti Special Services WNHS)
 - B. Pledge of Allegiance led by Trustee McGrath
 - C. Attendance Roll Call: Trustee McGowen, here; Trustee McGrath, here; Trustee Pitts, here; Trustee Siemer, here; Supervisor Higgins Beard, here; and Clerk Bailey, here.
 - D. Approval of Agenda Motion, Trustee Pitts; Second, Trustee McGrath. Agenda approved by voice vote
 - E. Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting November 20. Motion, Trustee Siemer; Second, Trustee McGrath. Minutes approved by voice vote.
 - F. Approval of Claims Total is \$408,316.35. Motion, Trustee McGrath; Second, Trustee Pitts. Roll call Trustee McGowen, yes; Trustee McGrath, yes; Trustee Pitts, yes; Trustee Siemer, yes; Supervisor Higgins-Beard, yes. Claims approved.
- II. Public Comment (Limited to 3 minutes per person, Public called in the order Comment Request was submitted, total allotted time for Public Comment 30 minutes)
 - A. Erica Nelson, a 30 yr Milton and Wheaton resident, likes the complete information she gets from minutes since May. She supports the proposed Highway Levy for Equipment and Buildings. "It reflects diligent planning and transparency." The board shows a balance of needs and fiscal responsibility. Likes that the Proposition (Item V. C) was well thought out and that the process was transparent and designed to include the public in this decision, which is new with this administration.
 - B. Bill Graham, longtime resident of Glen Ellyn, complained that the Resolution (Item V. C) would increase the taxes by 25% with an added cost of \$2.25 million. This needs to be gone over to be sure it is needed. The plan to replace permeable shoulders on roads with impermeable concrete shoulders could make the flooding problems worse in Valley View neighborhood where over 50 homes have been vacated because of flooding.
 - C. Nancy Roberts, 10 yr resident of Wheaton, supports the Levy Resolution, (Item V. C), as fiscally responsible to prevent deterioration of expensive equipment from rust from exposure to the elements.
 - D. Chuck Smith, longtime resident and leader, is dismayed by the increase in taxes and how it will

affect seniors and those on low incomes. He has lots of experience in these matters, knows the highway crew is small and that it does a great job. He doesn't understand the need for a new building, especially since recently Milton had a new roof put on the old building. There is a need to show taxpayers why this is needed.

III. Chair's Report

- A. Chair's Report Our community is sharing with us to answer our communities' current need for help. One example is Junior Girl Scout Mackynzie Coombs who made Milton Township a free giving-library of hats and gloves at Milton Township Town Hall. Another is First Presbyterian youth volunteers who helped in the pantry around Thanksgiving. We appreciate all who donate and our staff who rose to the occasion, especially Dave and Deb. 58 families were adopted this year more than ever before. We had a vaccine clinic in early December. Our list of income levels for residents to qualify for emergency assistance help from Milton Township has been updated to match LIHEAP.
- B. General Assistance More need and more assistance Over \$150,000 this year, \$84,000 directly to our community, and over 13,000 fed from our partner food pantry.
- C. Miscellaneous/Other. Continuing to fulfill promises to improve Services. Teambuilding and Staffing, Audits and Finances, Safety, IT, Facilities and Communications. (See slide show) There are updates in all of these areas. Getting the word out WBBM report and Daily Herald picked that up and a letter to the editor from our clerk commending the staff for the work they do continually to serve the residents.

IV. Reports

- A. Town Clerk Report/Comments (Clerk Bailey)
- B. Trustees Report/Comments (Trustees McGowen, McGrath, Pitts, Siemer)
 - 1 Trustee McGowen commends the great work of Dave and Debbie and the volunteer team for this year's Toys for Tots program.
 - 2 Trustee McGrath says the Community Mental Health Board will start meeting on the 1st Thursday of the month on February 5.
 - 3. Trustee Pitts commends the volunteers in the food pantry. Cemeteries Jewel Grove tree trimming will be done by the May 16 America's 250th event. Pleasant Hill will have a June 27th Independence commemoration event. St Stephens burn and invasive plant removal in Spring in time for the August 29th event.
 - 4. Trustee Siemer asks that we vary who votes first because that affects the way trustees vote. The Turkey give away was so busy but successfully helped many neighbors. He is eager for the audits to be finished.
- C. Highway Commission Report Commissioner Drew will speak later.
- D. Community Emergency Response Team Dave Sezonov is proud of the team and volunteers. Milton CERT received an award for working with the FBI. The CERT team was active in 75 different events that occurred over 114 days not counting for urgent call outs. Over 9600 person-hours of volunteering, at an average value per hour of \$34.79. This makes a \$335,000 value to Milton community. Toy distribution happened even in 30 degrees below zero wind chill.

V. Unfinished Business

- A. Audit updates Accountant Abigail noted that it has been rewarding working with this administration. A 2025 to 26 Forensic Audit will be done in February. The auditors are easy to work with. The forensic audit is underway. Sikich is also easy to work with. She wants to improve process after the audit and increase transparency. 2022 ARPA receipts were not submitted to DuPage County as a grantor. The County required receipts for us to keep the grant funds. Most were found (\$162,000 of the \$219,000 total). \$57,000 of this ARPA grant was returned. We have a remote deposit process and implemented ACH payment process which makes it easy to pay bills online and avoid late fees.

B. Presentation on Proposition regarding Levy for Equipment and Buildings at Road District, Commissioner Mike Drew. Stressed that this is a **transparent process that will let the voters decide** by voting in the March 17 primary whether to have this additional tax of not to exceed .035% increase for a limited time. Seven of the 9 DuPage Townships have this kind of levy. This would acquire funds to build a new building to store, protect and wash large expensive equipment that needs to be kept heated to prevent rust deterioration. Using a study already done by an engineering firm for the County for a similar building proposal, estimate that this will cost from \$1.5 to 2 million. The current equipment storage building, is not insulated, has dirt floors with recently added asphalt grindings and no wash bay. It is not big enough to store all the equipment that needs to be heated. Washing is done in parking lot which drains directly into streams and ultimately our rivers. There is a new roof, but it is on a different building.

For an average home value of \$450,000 they would see a tax increase of \$36/yr. For a home value of \$600,000 they would see a tax increase of \$48/yr.

There will be open houses to explain all of this and to answer your questions in January and February. We are able to decide whether to allow this 2-year tax increase by voting in the March 17 primary.

The Tax would start in 2026 and be collected in 2027 and 2028 and then tax rates go back down. This is a temporary tax increase. Note that the General Road Fund Levy will decrease by 50%.

C. Proposition to the Voters of Milton Township on the General Primary Election Ballot March 2026 asking for approval of a Levy for Equipment and Buildings at the Road District R-2025-14 Motion, Trustee Siemer; Second, Trustee Pitts. Discussion included strong support from Supervisor Higgins-Beard and Trustee McGowen recounting a conversation with a former Milton Highway Commissioner who said that the building needed to be replaced. Roll call vote: Trustee McGowen, yes; Trustee McGrath, yes; Trustee Pitts, yes; Trustee Siemer, yes; Supervisor Higgins-Beard, yes. Motion passes.

D. Adoption of Levy: Town & General Assistance Funds – O-25-3. Motion Trustee Pitts; Second, Trustee McGowen. Supervisor Higgins-Beard noted that all the township taxes together equal about 1.7% of your total property tax bill. Her goal is to take care of our neighbors and be frugal. She asks the board to right size the levies and actually lower some levies where conditions show this can and should be done. The Town Levy proposal is **4.36% higher**. The G A Levy proposal would be **4.94% higher**. The **average raise would be 4.39%**. See *Levy slide below for an illustration of all levy changes*. Roll call vote: Trustee McGowen, yes; Trustee McGrath, yes; Trustee Pitts, yes; Trustee Siemer, yes; Supervisor Higgins-Beard, yes. Motion passes.

E. Adoption of Levy: Special Police District Fund – O-25-4. Motion, Trustee McGrath; Second, Trustee McGowen. Supervisor Higgins-Beard notes that this is **reducing the levy 41%** to reflect the actual costs but keeping the same coverage as for the last 3 years. Roll call vote: Trustee McGowen, yes; Trustee McGrath, yes; Trustee Pitts, yes; Trustee Siemer, yes; Supervisor Higgins-Beard, yes. Motion passes.

F. Adoption of Levy: Consolidated Milton/Glen Ellyn Mosquito Abatement Fund – O-25-5. Motion, Trustee Siemer; Second, Trustee Pitts. Supervisor Higgins-Beard notes that the levy is **reduced 28%** this year to reflect decreased costs and area of coverage. Roll call vote: Trustee McGowen, yes; Trustee McGrath, yes; Trustee Pitts, yes; Trustee Siemer, yes; Supervisor Higgins-Beard, yes. Motion passes.

G. Adoption of Levy: 708 Community Mental Health Board Fund – O-25-6, Motion, Trustee McGrath;

Second, Trustee Pitts. Roll call vote: Trustee McGowen, yes; Trustee McGrath, yes; Trustee Pitts, yes; Trustee Siemer, yes; Supervisor Higgins-Beard, yes. Motion passes.

H. Adoption of Levy: Road District Fund – O-25-7. Motion Trustee Pitts; Second, Trustee McGowen. Roll call vote: Trustee McGowen, yes; Trustee McGrath, yes; Trustee Pitts, yes; Trustee Siemer, yes; Supervisor Higgins-Beard, yes. Motion passes.

VI. New Business

A. Milton Township 2026 Board Meeting Schedule R-2025-16. Motion, Trustee Pitts; Second, Trustee McGowen. Roll call vote: Trustee McGowen, yes; Trustee McGrath, yes; Trustee Pitts, yes; Trustee Siemer, yes; Supervisor Higgins-Beard, yes. Motion passes.

B. PACE 2026 Renew/Modifications of Agreement. Motion, Trustee Siemer; Second, Trustee McGowen. Supervisor Higgins-Beard explains that a simple renewal will allow passengers to be picked up Mon to Fri 9am to 5pm for rides to nearby hospital and doctors and one shopping mall. This is also an approval of renewal authorizing her to negotiate changes for expanded service as long as they don't exceed the budget. After discussion, roll call vote: Trustee McGowen, yes; Trustee McGrath, yes; Trustee Pitts, yes; Trustee Siemer, yes; Supervisor Higgins-Beard, yes. Motion passes.

VII. Executive Session

A. The Town Board recessed to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing property for the use of the Township, pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act. There was no final action taken in Executive Session.

VIII. Adjournment of public meeting. Motion Trustee McGrath; Second, Trustee Siemer. Voice vote to Adjourn at 7:16 pm.

Signed:

Dan Bailey

Date: 12/18/2025

Dan Bailey, Town Clerk

Levies

	3/31/2024 (EXPENSES AUDITED)	03/31/2025 (EXPENSES YEAR END)	03/31/2026 (PROJECTED EXPENSES)	Average 3-Year Expenses	2025 Levy Amount	2026 Levy Amount	% Change	Justification
Town	2,470,703.00	2,800,129.30	2,484,661.75	2,585,164.68	2,533,016.17	2,643,335.00	4.36%	COLA increases, transportation costs, senior services, & salary schedule.
General Assistance	189,186.88	184,911.34	221,475.72	198,524.65	123,600.00	129,700.00	4.94%	Need levels persistently above levied amounts. Supplementing with reserves.
Levy Total:					2,656,616.17	2,773,115.92	4.39%	
Community Mental Health Board Levy	694,651.86	776,490.69	1,042,936.37	838,026.31	1,133,000.00	1,187,384.00	4.80%	Need and application levels increasing
Special Police Levy	392,961.82	413,752.35	282,285.21	362,999.79	490,529.26	290,000.00	-41%	Right sized as determined by Sheriff's Office & usage patterns
Mosquito Abatement District Levy	174,929.04	209,951.37	192,035.34	192,305.25	290,311.68	210,000.00	-28%	Smaller geography to assess and treat; 2025 was a high use year

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 DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

SOCIAL SERVICES PROVIDED	December 2025	January - December 2025	FYTD 2024	FYTD 2023	FYTD 2022
<i>Intake client calls – Initial contact</i>	166	1190	1,847	487	299
Community Walk-ins	23	176	219	107	54
Total Intake:	189	1366	2,066	594	353
<i>General Assistance</i>					
General Assistance inquiry clients	2	20	4	1	1
General Assistance appointments	5	20	29	12	12
<i>Emergency Assistance</i>					
Emergency Assistance appointments	17	93			
Emergency Assistance cases approved	13	80	73	47	35
<i>Additional Services:</i>					
Benefit Access (IL SOS senior license plate discount)	3				
Gift Cards (Speedway or Meijer cards)	1	9	31	53	16
IDHS SNAP Assistance	0	1	1		
LIHEAP (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program through DuPage County)	29	230	261	94	16
Medical Closet	18	99	235	67	
Notary Services	40	175			
Referrals to other Non-Profit Agencies or Government Programs	33	211	184	241	
Repeat Boutique referrals	4	21	25		
Veterans' Services assisted	1	10	13		
Youth Scholarships	0	74	132	61	

Department Highlights — Milton Township continues to make efforts in offering relevant financial assistance for our community residents in areas of General Assistance, Emergency Assistance, and The Salvation Army grants programs. Total financial assistance awarded for December was over **\$15,500**.