

III. Unfinished Business

A. Presentation of Audit by Lauterbach & Amen – FY25 Audit

Brad Porter presented the audit. There are four components:

- 1. Status 114 – Disagreements or difficulties: None.**
- 2. Status 115 – Significant deficiencies or material weaknesses: Yes; \$2.6 million in proposed adjustments, resulting in Milton receiving a Status 115 letter.**

Page 1 indicates an unmodified opinion, meaning a clean opinion and sound internal controls.

Management Analysis:

The General Fund decreased 6% because revenues were slightly below budget and expenditures slightly above budget.

Management Letter:

No major current recommendations. As a reminder, like all governments, IT controls should continue to be monitored to prevent future problems.

Supervisor Higgins-Bear noted the AFR is posted online. The auditors recommend maintaining at least three months of expenditures in reserve, which Milton currently exceeds.

Trustee McGrath moved and Trustee Pitts seconded the motion to accept the FY25 Audit report. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

B. PACE Update for 2026 – Renewal/Modification of Agreement

Last year \$110,000 was spent on transportation for residents when only \$30,000 was budgeted. So, the previous board moved to the Dial-a-Ride program, which limits use for residents to daytime service and only three locations.

An extension for Dial-a-Ride is needed because PACE requires a 90-day cancellation notice until June 1, which the Township learned about only recently. The board discussed authorizing \$44,266 and empowering the Supervisor to send the 90-day cancellation notice and negotiate a better service option, Ride DuPage.

Trustee McGrath so moved; Trustee McGowen seconded. Trustee McGrath also noted the need to begin discussions on a broader, long-term transportation approach. All voted to approve.

IV. Chair's Report

A. Chair's Report

Chair is continuing her outreach into the community. Board members attended the Dr. King Unity Breakfast. The investigative audit report will be presented at the next meeting.

Budget Workshop: March 26, 5:00–6:00 p.m.

Budget notice will be presented at the April 7 meeting.

Communications Manager Emmy Lemezis reported on social media outreach. Updates include:

- A new, smaller newsletter**
- Monthly articles sent to local media**
- Invitations to community meetings**
- Outreach at community events**
- 1,300 Facebook followers**
- A new, more user-friendly website with language translations, interactive calendars, a news portal, and sign-ups for notifications**

B. General Assistance

There has been growth in the amount of assistance going to residents. Intake levels have increased over the last three years from the 1,000s to the 2,000s. Fewer staff members are handling more work.

C. Miscellaneous

New Cemetery Committee members appointed: Robert Hutchinson, President of Wheaton Bank and Trust, and Michael Zofran, Chair of Friends of the Cemetery.

V. Reports

A. Town Clerk Report/Comments (Clerk Bailey)

FOIA requests are comparable to neighboring townships. DuPage Township reported 20 requests in the first two months and then 1–2 per month. Downers Grove Township reported 29 requests.

Milton Township had:

- **23 regular FOIAs**
- **2 commercial FOIAs**

Breakdown:

- **4 related to the Highway Department**
- **6 related to the Assessor (including 2 for real estate plats)**
- **7 related to the Township**

Seven requests came from one source in 2025 and two from the same source in 2026. Six requests have been received since January 1, 2026.

Legal fees for FOIA responses totaled \$5,237 for the Township and \$1,256 for the Highway Department, for a total of \$6,493.

These requests require significant staff time across departments, diverting attention from primary responsibilities serving residents.

B. Trustees Report/Comments

- **Trustee McGowen: No report.**
- **Trustee Pitts: SALT January meeting was canceled; February meeting featured assisted living locators.**
- **Trustee McGrath: Expressed appreciation for the Highway Open House and noted that stories shared at the Mental Health Board Grant Recipients Reception illustrated how their work helps residents. The next Mental Health Board meeting is March 5.**
- **Trustee Siemer: Absent.**

C. Milton Township Highway Department (Mike Drew)

Additional Open House events scheduled for Saturdays February 21 and 28, 8 a.m. to noon.

230 residents have registered on the GoGov app, which provides push notifications and allows credit card payments for bonds. This saves time for residents and staff. Bond return times have been reduced from 4–6 weeks to as little as one week.

D. Milton Township Cemetery Authority Commission

Chair Drew Ellis reported cemetery events scheduled:

- **May 16 – Jewel Grove**
- **June 27 – Pleasant Hill**
- **August 29 – St. Stephens**

All events will include patriotic themes. Volunteers are eager to assist with prairie burns and maintaining native prairie remnants.

E. SALT (Seniors and Law Enforcement Together)

Chair Terry Albright welcomed Karen Warner as Communications Coordinator and thanked Trustee Pitts and Supervisor Higgins-Beard for supporting her in this role.

Next meeting: March 9 – topic for widows and widowers.

VI. New Business

A. Annual Meeting Discussion

The Annual Meeting will be held April 14 at 6:00 p.m. at the Wheaton Community Center, 1777 S. Blanchard Rd., Wheaton.

Residents must show identification proving they live within Milton Township to vote at the meeting. Registration begins at 5:30 p.m.

The draft agenda will be discussed at the March 19 meeting. The agenda will then be posted at the Township Office, Wheaton Community Center, and in the Daily Herald. Attendees should enter through the south side door due to construction.

B. Intergovernmental Agreement for Special Police – 2026

Discussion noted that reserves currently exceed what is needed. The levy is being lowered to reflect reduced costs while maintaining the same police coverage.

Motion to approve the IGA: Trustee McGrath; seconded by Trustee McGowen.

Roll call: Trustee McGrath, yes; Trustee McGowen, yes; Trustee Pitts, yes; Supervisor Higgins-Beard, yes. Motion carried.

C. Budget Process for FY2027

Budget Workshop scheduled for March 26 at 5:00 p.m.

D. Selection of the FY2026–2028 Auditor

Sikich was selected for \$19,750, which was 30% lower than the other appropriate bid.

Motion by Trustee Pitts; seconded by Trustee McGrath.

Roll call: Trustee McGrath, yes; Trustee McGowen, yes; Trustee Pitts, yes; Supervisor Higgins-Beard, yes. Motion carried.

E. Elavon Agreement for Merchant Account / Point of Sale

The agreement would allow credit card payments with a modest 3% user fee.

Supervisor Higgins-Beard will implement this capability as part of her administrative authority.

VII. Adjournment

Trustee Pitts moved to adjourn. Trustee McGrath seconded.

All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Signed:

Dan Bailey

Date: 3/19/2026

Dan Bailey, Town Clerk