

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
APRIL 25, 2017

The Annual Town Meeting for Maine Township was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Clerk Gary K. Warner. Clerk Warner welcomed everyone in attendance to the Maine Township 167th Annual Town meeting. He asked everyone to extend their prayers and wishes for the safe return of our armed forces, who are risking their lives for our freedoms.

Clerk Warner asked everyone to rise and Trustee Peter Gialamas lead everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Clerk Warner announced that the purpose of the meeting was to inform the electorate of our Township's financial status and to act upon certain resolutions to be presented at the meeting.

Clerk Warner introduced Deputy Clerks Rosalind Luburich, Cathy Fredericksen and Annette Galante who was absent today. He also introduced his Chief Deputy Clerk Wiesia Tytko and stated that his staff is responsible for making the Clerk's office operate so efficiently. Clerk Warner stated that he is proud to announce that in the fiscal year 2016-2017 his office collected over \$61,431 for passport applications fees and \$16,015 for processing fees for selling the Cook County vehicle stickers. He added that last 201-2016 his office collected \$63,271 for passport applications.

Next he introduced Maine Township Elected Officials, starting with Trustees: the Honorable Laura Morask, Peter Gialamas, Kimberly Jones and Kelly Schaefer, Highway Commissioner, Honorable Walter Kazmierczak, and Assessor, Honorable Susan Moylan Krey. Lastly, Clerk Warner introduced Maine Township Supervisor, Honorable Carol Teschky.

Clerk Warner recognized Trustee Jones for the purpose of making a nomination for a moderator.

Trustee Jones nominated the Mayor of Park Ridge Marty Maloney to serve as Moderator of the meeting. There were no other nominations and it was seconded by Mr. Dick Barton. The motion was approved and passed by a show of hands with voting cards.

Clerk Warner administered the Oath of Moderator to the Mayor of Park Ridge Marty Maloney. Moderator Maloney stated that he is honored to be a part of this special meeting and he thanked Clerk Warner and all for being invited. He appointed Maine Township Attorney Dan Dowd as Parliamentarian.

Moderator Maloney asked Clerk Warner to present the minutes of the 2016 Annual Town Meeting for approval. Clerk Warner stated that the minutes were distributed earlier and requested that the minutes be approved and that the reading be waived. Mr. Wayne Serbin made a motion to approve the 2016 Annual Town meeting minutes and it was seconded by Trustee Peter Gialamas. The motion to waive the reading and approve the minutes passed, by a show of hands with voting cards.

Moderator Maloney stated that as required by statute, asked if there were any special town meetings held during the year.

Clerk Warner stated that there was one special meeting. The Special Board meeting was held on August 1, 2016. This meeting was held for purposes to receive an official resignation from Highway Commissioner Robert Provenzano, to declare a vacancy in the office of Highway Commissioner, to nominate and vote to fill the office of Highway Commissioner and to administer the Official Oath to the newly appointed Highway Commissioner Walter Kazmierczak.

Moderator Maloney asked Clerk Warner if the Annual Financial Reports for the General Town, General Assistance and Road & Bridge Funds were distributed prior to the Annual Town meeting.

Clerk Warner stated that the Annual Financial Reports were distributed before the Annual Town meeting and they are displayed and available for reviewing.

Moderator Maloney asked Supervisor Teschky to present her Annual Report and introduce the Maine Township staff. Supervisor Teschky presented the Supervisor's Annual Report:

"I want to welcome everyone here tonight to Maine Township's 167th Annual Town Meeting.

It is my pleasure to report to you the wonderful things that took place in and outside this building from March 1, 2016 to February 28, 2017. Much was accomplished for our residents thanks to our dedicated and loyal staff and caring elected officials.

I am extremely proud of our Administrator, Department Heads and entire staff. They do their jobs day in and day out and have earned my respect and the respect of the residents that they serve on a daily basis.

First, I want to acknowledge my Administrative Assistant, Doriene Prorak. Doriene sole handedly took on two large projects for the unincorporated area. The first was the ordering of Rain Barrels through MWRD. A total of 522 barrels were ordered and

delivered to the unincorporated residents who made phone calls to request them. Now these residents have rain barrels along with the surrounding municipalities. This project will aid in flood control along with having free water to water their gardens and lawns. Doriene also spearheaded the Electrical Aggregation program for the unincorporated area. These residents can now take advantage of lower electrical rates. Both of these projects required lots of patience in taking phone calls from residents and answering their many questions and concerns. Doriene goesWell beyond normal duties and always has a positive attitude. Doriene please rise.

Next I would like to introduce our capable Administrator, Dayna Berman. Dayna has been administrator for the past 12 years now. She has performed with the utmost professionalism and has earned the respect of both staff and the elected officials. Dayna will you please rise and introduce our administrative staff and then the Department Heads?

This evening we would like to give special recognition to the following staff for their years of service and dedication to Maine Township. 10 Years of Service: Jason Fox – Highway Department, 15 Years of Service: Marie Dachniwsky – MaineStreamers, 20 Years of Service: Peter Douvalakis – Highway Department, 35 Years of Service: Marsha Warnick – General Assistance and longest service staff member.

Trustee Laura Morask stated that it was her great honor to present Supervisor Carol Teschky with the special recognition award for her loyalty, dedication and service to Maine Township from 1989 to 2017. Trustee Morask stated that Supervisor Teschky has faithfully served Maine Township and its residents for over 28 years and has been Trustee Morask's mentor and guide. Trustee Morask highlighted the successful history of Supervisor Teschky with the Maine Township elected officials, staff and residents. She acknowledged that Supervisor Teschky instituted the single garbage hauler for the unincorporated area, she implemented the Maine Township website, developed a Planning Commission and later on Rain Barrel program, recently the Electrical Aggregation program. Trustee Morask stated that most importantly she calls Supervisor Teschky her friend.

Supervisor Teschky extended her heartfelt thanks to all.

Trustee Peter Gialamas stated that he also has a special recognition plaque for the Maine Township Clerk, Gary K. Warner who is retiring after 29 years of service from 1988 to 2017. Trustee Gialamas stated that since he became an elected official everyone in the township has been warm and welcoming. He added that Clerk Warner was always the first ones to lead the charge, helping him along the way and teaching him several things about township government. Trustee Gialamas stated that he is truly grateful and indebted to him. He added that he will be inheriting a very well run Clerk's office.

Clerk Gary K. Warner thanked everyone and added that he enjoyed working for Maine Township which is a family organization.

Last June we once again offered residents an opportunity to destroy and shred important but no longer needed documents. We contracted with Secure Data Destruction, which employs mentally and/or physically handicapped adults. We had 255 cars come through the parking lot and 5620 lbs. of paper were shredded.

In October we partnered with the Park Ridge Chamber of Commerce and the Highway Department for an electronics recycling event at the Park Ridge Public Works building. A record 468 cars dropped off electronics which are no longer accepted in Illinois landfills.

Our Assessor's office assisted over 18,955 residents this past year. This included processing homeowner's, Senior, Senior Freeze, Disabled Persons and Disabled Veterans' exemptions. A total of 3958 appeals were processed to both the Cook County Assessor and the Cook County Board of Review. A total of 490 residents filed Certificates of Error paper work, awarding a refund for missed exemptions in the total amount of \$651,000.

Our Clerk's office processed 85 voter registrations, 11,773 Cook County Vehicle Stickers, besides issuing 32 Handicapped Parking Cards, 125 Hunting and Fishing licenses, 325 RTA passes and processed 3673 Passport applications. We have used the fees from the Passports to fund two Honor Flight Veterans to Washington, D.C. at no cost to them.

MaineStay Youth and Family Services has experienced a significant expansion of services and has successfully launched three new major partnership programs. In partnership with the Josselyn Center, Maine Township now has an in house psychiatrist for one day a week. This fills the void left by the closing of Maine Center in 2015. They have also partnered with the Big Brothers/Big Sisters organization in mentoring youth at no cost to the township. They have expanded the community education programs since Chicago Behavioral Hospital is covering about 90% of the total program costs. Statistically they have offered affordable family counseling in English, Spanish and Polish to 1422 families consisting of 4725 individuals. MaineStay held seven Community Education Seminars and professional development workshops. They continue their successful programs for at risk youth including Art in the Town, Future Leaders Peer Mentoring, Summer Camp, Peer Jury and Community Service hours.

The Mainstreamers continue to provide both recreational and educational events for persons 55 and over in the Township. They offered a total of 46 day trips with 2405 Mainstreamers enjoying at least one trip. Over 2000 Mainstreamers came to 11 luncheons offered this past year. They honored over 100 residents who celebrated their 90th birthday and beyond last year in

May. Their many events ranged from Bingo to Zumba Gold and everything in between. The ever popular Senior Expo at Golf Mill Shopping Mall continues to increase in attendance with over 2000 plus attending last April.

Maine Township Recovery Connection continues to grow with weekly meeting attendance surpassing a year total of over 1600. This needed service addresses recovering alcoholic and drug addicts looking for a safe and drug free way to socialize. They maintain an extensive phone and email list. Besides the Friday evening meetings they have sponsored 8 different events and have procured a total of 18 jobs for unemployed participants.

The Office of Emergency Management continues to participate in numerous training programs and community events. This past year they participated in 58 events and clocked in 2297 volunteer hours. These included Community sponsored events such as The Taste of Park Ridge, Touch a Truck, and National Night Out. They also assist with traffic control at Town Hall for the LIHEAP program, selling of Cook County Vehicle Stickers, Garage Sale, and food distribution days during the holidays. They continue to train, investigate and implement new programs that will serve our community well.

The General Assistance Department once again saw a record number of township residents as they interviewed a total of 7432 residents. They were able to provide assistance which included Senior, Disabled and Veterans advocacy along with the state mandated General Assistance program. They also assisted residents who qualified for state and federal programs such as LIHEAP, Benefit Access, and special referrals to the Social Security Administration for possible disabled individuals. The Maine Township Food Pantry assisted 2277 families this past fiscal year. Thanks to the generosity of the community, we were able to purchase turkeys for Thanksgiving and Christmas and fresh eggs last spring. We initiated a partnership with the Police Departments of Park Ridge, Des Plaines and Niles called Cops for Coats. These local departments collected gently used coats, jackets, hats, mittens and scarves. Maine Township served as a distribution center in November. This past year were able to help over 250 families receive warm winter outerwear.

Our popular Coast2Coast Pharmaceutical Assistance Program has filled over 3000 prescriptions saving residents over 66% and a total dollar amount of \$252,153.00 The Township received \$2,746 in royalty payments. This is a win-win program for all.

Our Code Enforcement Officer has given out 1400 warnings for vehicle violations, property maintenance violations, garbage issues and parking violations. A total of 85 tickets were eventually issued. This is an important step in keeping the unincorporated area clean and debris free.

On August 2nd we once again partnered with the Golf Maine Park District to sponsor the National Night Out Against Crime. This yearly event has grown in numbers and reflects our commitment to rid our area of a gang presence. Thanks go to Trustee Gialamas and other board members and staff for once again working to make this a successful event.

We said good bye to several staff and one elected official this past year. MaineStay Receptionist Gloria Stepek, Deputy Clerk Jerry Jaworsky and Highway Commissioner Robert Provenzano are all now enjoying a much deserved retirement.

We welcome Austin Kelso in MaineStay, Annette Gallante from Part Time to Full Time in the Clerk's Department and Walter Kazmierczak as our new Highway Commissioner. We are also pleased to welcome Kelly Schaefer as our new Trustee.

Other new staff who joined this past year are: Nick Kanehl doing part time duties in the food pantry and also the Recovering Connection. Naomi Bowman as a Family Therapist in MaineStay. Naomi was also a summer intern for a while. And we welcome Cathy Fredericksen as a part time assistant in the Clerk's Department.

We wish them all long and successful tenures in their new positions here.

So we have completed another successful year in service to our residents. We are operating under the tax cap and we have no debt. We continue on a sound fiscal direction. Once again we have demonstrated that Township government, being the closest to the people is also the most efficient and effective form of government.

As this is my last report as township Supervisor I want to say it has been a pleasure and a privilege to serve the people of Maine Township and to work with such a dedicated staff.

God Bless everyone here tonight and May God Bless America!"

Moderator Maloney asked Trustee Peter Gialamas to present the Sgt. Karen Lader Memorial Good Citizen Award.

Trustee Gialamas stated that Ed Oken has been a member of our Maine Township community for over 47 years. For the past 14 years, he has played a pivotal role in the success and growth of the FISH organization. For those of you that don't know, FISH is a program made up of strictly volunteers, who drive seniors to and from much needed medical appointments. These seniors would often have no other means of getting to their doctors. It is an organization near and dear to us here at the township as we have partnered with them for many, many years.

Ed has been a volunteer driver for FISH for the past 14 years, and more importantly, served as the president for the last 11. His

responsibilities include interviewing volunteer drivers, preparing a newsletter that is mailed out 3 to 4 times a year and organizing the annual meeting of the board of directors. Ed also attends various healthcare and senior events in the area to promote the FISH program and is constantly on the lookout for additional volunteers.

In addition to FISH, Ed is a member of the Des Plaines Elks Lodge and Park Ridge American Legion Post 247 where he serves as the finance director. He participates in the Annual Park Ridge Memorial Day Parade as well as many other veteran events. Ed served in the United States Army reserve and was called to active duty in 1961 during the Berlin Crisis.

Sergeant Karen Lader embodied what it meant to be a good citizen and neighbor, I know she would be pleased to see Mr. Ed Oken receive the award that bears her name.

Trustee Gialamas stated that it is his distinct honor to present the Sgt. Karen Lader Memorial Good Citizen Award to Ed Oken.

Moderator Maloney requested that Supervisor Teschky present the resolutions for approval by the electors.

Supervisor Teschky presented Resolution 2017-3 to establish the township fiscal year to begin March 1, 2017 and end February 28, 2018 and Supervisor Teschky moved its approval. The motion was seconded by Trustee Morask and passed by a show of hands with voting cards.

Supervisor Teschky presented Resolution 2017-4 setting the next Annual Town Meeting for April 10, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at the Maine Township Town Hall, 1700 Ballard Road in Park Ridge. Supervisor Teschky moved its approval. The motion was seconded by Mr. Serbin and passed by a show of hands with voting cards.

Supervisor Teschky presented Resolution 2017-5 to approve compensation for the Moderator in the amount of \$75.00 and Supervisor Teschky moved its approval. The motion was seconded by Trustee Morask and it passed by a show of hands with voting cards.

Moderator Maloney stated that it was his pleasure to conduct the Maine Township Annual Town meeting and he would donate \$75 to the Maine Township Emergency Food Pantry.

Moderator Maloney stated that he was honored to conduct the Maine Township Annual Town Meeting. He added that this meeting was a great education for him learning about Maine Township services.

Moderator Maloney announced that the business of the meeting was now concluded and asked if there were any more comments.

Moderator Maloney entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Serbin moved its approval. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dick Barton and the motion passed on a voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Town Clerk