

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
APRIL 14, 2015

The Annual Town Meeting for Maine Township was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Clerk Gary K. Warner. Clerk Warner welcomed everyone in attendance to the Maine Township 165th 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 Park Ridge Boy Scouts Troop #1 presented the Colors.

Clerk Warner asked Trustee Walter Kazmierczak to 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 his staff Deputy Clerks Rosalind Luburich, Jerry Jaworsky and Annette Galante. He also introduced and thanked his Chief Deputy Clerk Wiesia Tytko stating that these people are responsible for making the Clerk's office operate so efficiently.

Next he introduced Maine Township Elected Official, starting with Trustees: the Honorable Walter Kazmierczak, Laura Morask (absent), Peter Gialamas and Kimberly Jones (absent), Highway Commissioner, Honorable Robert Provenzano, and Assessor, Honorable Susan Moylan Krey. Lastly Clerk Warner introduced Maine Township Supervisor, Honorable Carol Teschky.

He also welcomed and introduced our guest: Honorable Cindy Grau from Park Ridge Board, Honorable Audrey Nankervis former Maine Township Collector and Honorable Sean Sullivan School Board.

Clerk Warner recognized Highway Commissioner Robert Provenzano for the purpose of making a nomination for a moderator. Highway Commissioner Robert Provenzano nominated Park Ridge Fire Chief, Jeffery Sorensen to serve as Moderator of the meeting. There were no other nominations and Assessor Moylan Krey made a motion to close the nominations and it was seconded by Mr. Wayne Serbin. The motion was approved and passed by a show of hands with voting cards.

Clerk Warner administered the Oath of Moderator to Park Ridge Fire Chief Jeffery Sorensen. Moderator Fire Chief Sorensen 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 Fire Chief Sorensen asked Clerk Warner to present the minutes of the 2014 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. Serbin made a motion to approve the 2014 Annual Town meeting minutes and it was seconded by Highway Commissioner Provenzano. The motion to waive the reading and approve the minutes passed by a show of hands with voting cards.

Moderator Fire Chief Sorensen as required by statute, asked if there were any special town meetings held during the year.

Clerk Warner stated that there were two special meetings. The first Special Board meeting was held on March 17, 2014. This meeting was held for purpose to discuss and call a vote to approve the CDBG Resolution. The second Special Board meeting was held on May 12, 2014. This meeting was held for purpose to discuss staff salaries in the Closed Session.

Moderator Fire Chief Sorensen 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 Fire Chief Sorensen asked Supervisor Teschky to present her Annual Report and introduce the Maine Township staff.

"I want to welcome everyone here tonight to Maine Township's 165th Annual Town Meeting. It is my pleasure to report to you the wonderful things that took place in and outside of this building from March 1, 2014 to February 28, 2015. Much was accomplished which I attribute to our dedicated and loyal staff.

I am extremely proud of our Administrator, Department Heads and Staff. They do their jobs day in and day out and have earned my respect and the respect of the residents.

First, I would like to recognize my administrative assistant, Doriene Prorak. Doriene embodies professionalism and integrity. She goes well beyond normal duties and always has a positive mental attitude. Doriene, please rise.

Next I would like to introduce our capable administrator, Dayna Berman. Dayna has been the Township Administrator for 10 years

now. She has performed with the utmost professionalism and has earned the respect of both the staff and the elected officials. Dayna will you please rise and introduce our Administrative staff and then the various department heads. Thank you one and all for your service to the Township. It is certainly a pleasure to work with you here on a daily basis. 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

Susan Bacharz Guenther, Dee Phillips, Roz Luburich

15 Years

Gloria Stepek, Wiesia Tytko

30 Years

Bob Brzezinski

We have offered residents a chance to destroy important documents and papers by shredding through Secure Data Destruction. It has become a very popular recycling event with over 200 cars coming through. We have scheduled another date for this year also. Speaking of recycling the Township and the Road District co-sponsored two electronic recycling events this year in partnership with the Park Ridge Chamber of Commerce. Close to 400 cars came through at each event to drop off their electronics which by state law cannot be dumped into landfills.

We continue to have paper recycling available 24/7 in our parking lot for residents' use. Proceeds from that venture are deposited in our Food Pantry account. This past year it totaled \$141.79.

Our busy Clerk's office registered 55 voters this past year. They also processed 13,305 Cook County vehicle stickers, 10 handicapped parking cards, 135 Hunting and Fishing licenses, and 293 RTA passes. The no appointment necessary passport applications totaled 2,832. They processed 1,382 Mainlines coupons which are subsidized cab rides for the disabled and low income seniors. They also sent out 1,127 Neighbor to Neighbor letters.

Our Assessor's office assisted over 15,200 residents which includes processing home owners, Senior, Senior Freeze, Disabled Persons and Disabled veterans exemptions. A total of 1,622 appeals were processed to both the Cook County Assessor and the Cook County Board of Review. They held an outreach seminar with the Cook County Board of Review at the Des Plaines Library. Additionally, 5,500 building permits were submitted to the Cook County Assessor's office, ensuring tax revenue is placed timely onto the rolls. They sent out 1,200 Welcome letters to new residents of Maine Township. New this year, they assisted several senior citizens with the completion of the Senior Citizen Real Estate Tax Deferral program offered through the Cook County Treasurer's Office.

MaineStay Youth & Family Services continued their excellent counseling services to 1,426 families. Clinical groups included Anger Management, Anxiety, Bullying, Couples, Depression and Parent Education. Non-clinical groups included Art Therapy programs, the 4 week summer camp, community education, mentoring and student government days.

The TLC after school program had 2,873 youths registered. The TLC Teen Center served 443 youths and the TLC Open Gym served 1,007 students. The volunteer FISH program provided 1,147 rides to medical appointments for disabled and elderly residents. MaineStay matched 23 EARN students with residents needing assistance. MaineStay sponsored 3 Community Education presentations with 639 in total attendance. Our Annual Garage Sale netted \$4,727.59 which was split between the Adventure Day Camp and the Food Pantry.

The MaineStreamers increased their membership by over 400 this past year. They have continued with their popular day trips as well as the long distance excursions. They continue to hold Book Reviews, Bingo, Pinochle, Yoga and Tai Chi classes along with chair Aerobics and Zumba Gold which are held at the Golf Maine Park District building. The ever popular Senior Expo held at Golf Mill Mall attracts more visitors each year.

The Office of Emergency Management participated in 63 events last year. The total number of volunteer hours were 2,982. Those hours would have cost the Township \$69,188 if we would have to pay for their time and services.

Our Code Enforcement Officer wrote up 263 code violations in the unincorporated area with a great majority of them complying within the allotted 10 days. He wrote out 52 tickets concerning vehicle violations. He continued to monitor the outside home violations.

In August we were again a sponsor of National Night Out Against Crime. We partnered with Golf Maine Park District and the event was once again held at Dee Park. This event was ably chaired for the first time by Trustee Pete Gialamas and the hard working committee including Trustees Kazmierczak, Morask and Assessor Krey. The Cook County Sheriff's Department again staffed tables and brought the ever popular K-9 unit. The North Maine Fire Protection District was also present with valuable information for the residents. Over 100 children submitted posters with the theme "See Something, Say Something."

Our General Assistance Department conducted 5,825 office interviews, including Senior, Disabled and Veterans Advocacy along with General Assistance clients. They also assisted clients in the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program. We had over 3,000 Food Pantry visits. Thanks to individuals, businesses, schools, churches, and scout troops who have contributed both food and cash donations, we have met the demand. No one in Maine Township goes to bed hungry.

Our Coast2Coast Pharmaceutical Card has some interesting statistics. There were 3,717 prescriptions filled. The residents saved \$241,101 with the Township receiving \$3,216 in royalty payments. The residents averaged 68.6% in cost savings. This program operates at no cost to the individual nor to the township.

On a sad note, the Township lost long-time Assessor Tom Rueckert in May, 2014. Tom had served the residents of Maine Township for 29 years as the assessor. Trustee Krey was appointed Assessor on May 27, 2014 to fill the vacancy. Subsequently, we welcome Trustee Kim Jones in July, 2014 to fill Trustee Krey's vacancy.

Office of Emergency Management Director Robert Cohen passed away in October 2014. Bob has served the Township for more than 20 years starting as a volunteer. We welcome Assistant Director of OEM Dagmar Rutzen as Director effective November, 2014. Marv Michnik was appointed Assistant Director of OEM>

And we welcome our newest staff member, Alicia Brzezinski, as Office Manager in the General Assistance Department. Alicia started February 2, 2015.

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 and we are building up are reserves. Once again we have demonstrated that Township Government, being closest to the people, is also the most responsive to their individual and collective needs.

May God Bless everyone here tonight and may God Bless America!”

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

Trustee Gialamas stated that Ms. Lynda Sintrella is a Maine Township resident and an active member of Our Lady of Ransom Parish Catholic Church. Ms. Sintrella has and still continues to support her community through all of her activities within Maine Township. Employed full-time she has made it her mission to “Care” for her fellow neighbors. Her involvement with Niles/Park Ridge Crop Walk not only raises money for the poor and needy all over the world but also helps those at home in Maine Township. The Maine Township Emergency Food Pantry has been designated the recipient of Crop Walk funds for the last 28 years. It is with these funds that the Food Pantry is able to continue to provide assistance to any qualified Maine Township resident. For this we are sincerely grateful!

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

Moderator Fire Chief Sorensen requested that Supervisor Teschky present the resolutions for approval by the electors.

Supervisor Teschky presented Resolution 2015-5 to authorize the Town Board of Maine Township to approve transfer of funds in the amount of \$400,000.00 from General Town Fund to Road & Bridge Fund and Ms. Dawne Hayman moved its approval. The motion was seconded by Mr. Serbin and passed by a show of hands with voting cards.

Supervisor Teschky presented Resolution 2015-6 to establish the township fiscal year to begin March 1, 2015 and end February 29, 2016 and Mr. Serbin moved its approval. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jason Fox and passed by a show of hands with voting cards.

Supervisor Teschky presented Resolution 2015-7 setting the next Annual Town Meeting for April 12, 2016 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 2015-8 to approve compensation for the Moderator in the amount of \$75.00 and Mr. Serbin moved its approval. The motion was seconded by Mr. Fox and it passed by a show of hands with voting cards.

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

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

Moderator Fire Chief Sorensen entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Serbin moved its approval. The motion was seconded by Mr. Fox and the motion passed on a voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Town Clerk