

Maine Township General Town and General Assistance Fund Budget Hearing
March 31, 2020

Maine Township Budget Hearing has been videotaped.

For more detailed reports and discussions please refer to the recorded meeting at:
<http://mainetown.com/government/meetings.shtml>

Indexed agenda at:

https://mainetown.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/agenda_20-03-31_TFGA.pdf

NOTE: Maine Township is committed both to open, transparent government, and to stopping the spread of COVID-19. To facilitate this, this General Town & General Assistance Budget Hearing will be held electronically, but equally transparently. We encourage the public to participate in our meeting electronically by joining our Zoom meeting. The link is <https://zoom.us/j/561451580> and also through our website.

Board Members Present and other Elected Officials: Trustees: Jones, Carrabotta, McKenzie and Sweeney, Supervisor Morask, Clerk Gialamas, Assessor Moylan Krey and Highway Commissioner Kazmierczak

Others in Attendance: Keri-Lyn Krafthefer, Dayna Berman, Doriene Prorak, Richard Lyon, Michael Samaan, Annette Carrabotta, Merna Zelenski, Robert Zelenski, Earl Wilson and Wiesia Tytko

Supervisor Morask called the hearing to order at 7:28 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda Item: Presentation and Approval of General Town and General Assistance Fund Budget, Ordinance 2020-2

Administrator Berman presented the Budget & Appropriation Ordinance 2020-2 for Town Fund and General Assistance with the explanation sheet. She stated that she created a budget based on the parameters set forth by the board using actual expenditures and revenues from last fiscal year as well as taking into consideration some outside factors. A majority of the departmental line items remain the same or in some circumstances fall below last year's budget.

Supervisor Morask asked for comments and discussion.

See video at 58:54.

There was a lengthy discussion.

An article that Trustee Carrabotta submitted is attached.

There was a public participation from Merna and Robert Zelenski, Niles residents and Annette Carrabotta from Niles.

See video at 1:26:30.

After the discussion and public participation, the Board decided tabling this issue.

Supervisor Morask Motion to table approving of General Town and General Assistance Fund Budget until April 28, 2020 Board meeting.

Trustee Carrabotta Second.

Motion on a roll call vote as follows:

Supervisor Morask Yes

Trustee Jones Yes

Trustee McKenzie Yes

Trustee Carrabotta Yes

Trustee Sweeney Yes

Motion carried.

Agenda Item: Adjournment

The Budget hearing was adjourned on a voice vote at 8:19 p.m.

Town Clerk

Illinois lost population in 92 of 102 counties in 2019

Illinois population change by county, July 2018 - July 2019



Population change

- 20,000
- 2,000
- 200
- 0
- 250
- 500
- 1,000

Map: Illinois Policy Institute • Source: U.S. Census Bureau • Get the data • Created with Datawrapper

The picture gets even worse when comparing counties to what they looked like at the end of the Great Recession. Since 2010, 93 of Illinois' 102 counties have experienced population decline. Cook County lost 48,783 people for the nation's second-worst raw loss during the decade.

Illinois lost population in 93 of 102 counties since 2010

Population change by Illinois county, July 2010 - July 2019



Population change

- 40,000
- 5,000
- 1,000
- 0
- 500
- 5,000
- 15,000

Map: Illinois Policy Institute • Source: U.S. Census Bureau • Get the data • Created with Datawrapper

Reversing the trend

Given the crisis posed by COVID-19, state lawmakers must focus their immediate attention on key public health measures, as well as preventing more job losses and small business closures during the economic freeze.

But when the public health threat subsides, Illinois must ensure it is in the best possible position to recover. Pursuing policies that attract and retain residents, rather than driving them away, will be crucial.

Taxes and correspondingly weak labor and housing markets have been the primary reasons Illinois has struggled to attract and retain people.

These are the challenges Illinois leaders must address in the long term.

Unfortunately, lawmakers are considering raising taxes on the last few growing regions of the state, threatening population growth in these areas and likely encouraging outmigration. Further, those tax hikes would potentially take effect just as the state starts its recovery from the current, severe market downturn.

Specifically, lawmakers are asking Illinoisans to approve a \$3.7 billion progressive income tax hike on Nov. 3. Very few areas of Illinois have experienced population growth in the past decade, but the few that have would see aggregate income tax hikes should that plan take effect.

Kane, Will and DuPage counties have seen some of the largest population increases in the state during the past decade. They are also the counties where many residents who would face a progressive income tax hike reside. Lake County would send 35% more in income tax revenue to Springfield should voters approve the plan, followed by DuPage (21% net tax increase), Kane (12%), McHenry (10%) and Will (9%).

The state's immediate future is unclear, as leaders work to address an unprecedented public health crisis. But in the long term, Illinois must do everything possible to alleviate tax burdens – and the uncertainty that comes with tax hikes – for individuals and businesses struggling to recover.