

STATE OF ILLINOIS,)
 Lake County,) } SS.
 Town of Shields)

THE TOWN BOARD OF SHIELDS TOWNSHIP met at the Shields Township Office for its regular monthly meeting on February 18, 2010 at 6:30 p.m.

PRESENT: <u>Gale Strenger Wayne</u>	Supervisor
<u>David Barkhausen</u>	Town Clerk
<u>Lynn Baehr</u>	Town Trustee
<u>Cele Bull</u>	Town Trustee
<u>Laura Carney</u>	Town Trustee
<u>Mary Woodson</u>	Town Trustee

Highway Commissioner Bill Goodman and Assessor Theresia Yakes were also present.

I. Meeting Called to Order

Supervisor Strenger Wayne called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. and requested an attendance roll call. All members were present.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Supervisor Strenger Wayne opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Consideration of Minutes from Previous Town Board Meetings

Regarding the minutes of the Special Meeting on the Township budgets for Fiscal Year 2010-2011 that was held on January 20, 2010, Supervisor Strenger Wayne said that she did not recall that there had been any mention, in consideration of a Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) and the decision to budget \$500 for it, to not using the money for any payroll-related expense. Trustee Woodson said she also had no such recollection. Trustee Carney said she thought the Board had decided that no one would be hired for this purpose and noted that the line-item for the SYEP was for incidentals, but Supervisor Strenger Wayne said there might be an intern, either paid or unpaid, to help explore the future direction of the SYEP program. The Board acceded to Supervisor Strenger Wayne’s request, and a motion by Trustee Baehr, seconded by Trustee Woodson, to approve the revised minutes of the Special Meeting was approved 5-0 on a voice vote. Subsequent motions by Trustee Baehr, seconded by Trustee Bull, to approve the minutes of the regular monthly meeting of the Board held on January 21st and by Trustee Carney, seconded by Trustee Woodson to approve the minutes of a Special Meeting of the Board on February 4th to hear presentations from applicants for Township social service grants were each approved 5-0 on voice votes. Supervisor Strenger Wayne suggested that Board meetings that are not videotaped be tape recorded so that there is a verbatim record of such meetings even though there is no requirement to do so except for meetings in Executive Sessions.

IV. Payment of Bills

Town Fund Bills: A motion by Trustee Baehr, seconded by Trustee Carney, to approve the payment of Town Fund expenses in the amount of \$70,549.96 passed 5-0 on a roll call vote.

Road & Bridge Bills: A motion by Trustee Woodson, seconded by Trustee Bull, to approve the payment of Road Fund expenses in the amount of \$15,142.78 passed 5-0 on a roll call vote.

General Assistance Bills: A motion by Trustee Carney, seconded by Trustee Woodson, to approve the payment of General Assistance expenses in the amount of \$12,106.56 passed 5-0 on a roll call vote. Trustee Carney noted that the budget is much larger than for other months because it reflects the new practice of allocating administrative expenses to the General Assistance fund.

V. Public Comment – Non-Agenda Items

Supervisor Strenger Wayne mentioned that future Township Board meetings would be used to provide a forum for local social service agencies to describe the work that they do in order to familiarize the public with their activities and so that they might seek additional private financial and volunteer support. She then introduced Laurel Tustison of Lake Bluff, the Executive Director of Youthbuild.

Ms. Tustison appeared with one of the program's recent graduates, Larry Daniels of Zion. She said that the local Youthbuild program is one of 226 of its kind across the country offering low-income students ages 16-24 educational and job training-related opportunities. The local program is located in the Veterans Administration complex on the southeast corner of Green Bay Road and Buckley Road (Route 137) in North Chicago. The students enroll either in a 10-month educational and job-training program or as part of a 4-month employment opportunity grant that promotes entry into the building trades for minorities. Ms. Tustison explained that many students come from gangs or from the Department of Corrections or are already teenage parents. Youthbuild's activities are focused on teaching construction-related skills. They have fixed up three homes in North Chicago and are working on three more.

Ms. Tustison said Youthbuild receives in-kind contributions for legal, appraisal, and other services. They are in the process of building their first "green" home that is designed to save 30-40% on energy costs. First Midwest Bank has recently donated another home for the program. They build 1900 square foot, 3-bedroom homes.

Larry Daniels said he had been in a gang and that it was up to him to change his life. A high school counselor told him about the Youthbuild program. He learned various aspects of the construction trades through the organization. He was recently introduced to Congressional Representative Melissa Bean who arranged to take him to the State of the Union address, which was publicized in the News-Sun. He is now working as a "green coordinator" for Youthbuild through the Americorps program after interning previously with the City of Zion's public works department.

Supervisor Strenger Wayne asked how individuals could help the Youthbuild program. Ms. Tustison said that activities that could use assistance involve tutoring and mentoring programs, coaching on how to apply to colleges beyond the College of Lake County, and educating the students about real life skills such as managing money, organizing a business, and dressing appropriately for work. Given a youth unemployment rate in the 30 percent range, she said they are naturally keenly interested in job opportunities of various kinds after graduation. She mentioned that Jon Hirsch, a Youthbuild board member from Lake Bluff who was in the audience, had provided opportunities for students to work in a garden learning landscaping skills through his North Chicago-based business. She also mentioned that Youthbuild is always looking for financial support and that the organization has a May 1st gala fund-raiser scheduled in downtown Chicago.

Trustee Bull asked about Youthbuild's contact information for those seeking to assist the organization. Ms. Tustison said their website is www.youthbuildlakecounty.org, and their phone number is of 847-473-3483. Trustee Carney asked about a link to the organization on the Township's website, www.shieldstownship.com. Supervisor Strenger Wayne confirmed that the Township now has a link on its website to various social service organizations that are active in Shields Township, including Youthbuild.

Responding to an additional question from Supervisor Strenger Wayne about Youthbuild's educational and job training activities, Ms. Tustison said 40 of the most promising candidates are chosen from about 80 applicants. About 80 percent of those will graduate from the 10-month program, and about 80 percent of those are placed into college or jobs. She again mentioned that the Educational Opportunity Grant Program, which receives state government support, helps minorities and women enter the building trades. At the Board meeting to interview social service grant applicants prior to the monthly Board meeting, Ms. Tustison mentioned that there are currently 15 participants in this separate program.

Supervisor Strenger Wayne mentioned the volunteer aspect of the Youthbuild program. Ms. Tustison then explained that the Youthbuild students each perform 475 hours of community service in order to earn scholarships of \$1,250 or more. The volunteers have helped Shields Township with the food pantry, health fair and coat drive.

VI. Old Business

a. Discussion and Motion to Approve Social Service Grant Funding

Supervisor Strenger Wayne said interviews had been completed with twelve social service agencies seeking grants from funds budgeted for the 2009-2010 fiscal year that concludes at the end of February. She said the Township has sufficient money to fund any and all requests from taxes that have already been collected, though the Township is not obligated to fund any of them. She expressed her understanding the Board looks most favorably on agencies that complement the services of the Township in the areas of education, job preparedness, housing, health care, transportation, and general assistance to individuals that would otherwise come back to the Township seeking support. She suggested first that the Board first decide on the agencies that might qualify for funding and those that do not and then determine appropriate amounts.

Trustee Bull said she did not support having the Township make grants of tax dollars to the non-profit charities in light of the results of the November 2009 advisory referendum in which 70% of the voters

expressed opposition to that practice. She emphasized that her position in no way reflects a view that the work that they do is not worthwhile.

Trustee Woodson expressed the view that most of the agencies should receive something, given their contributions and the difficult economic times, even though the Township may not be able to give the agencies all that they are requesting. She cited Youthbuild and Daisy's Resource Center as good examples of organizations deserving support.

Trustee Carney said she had been impressed with the organizations that had come before the Board. She encouraged the public to step forward to support these agencies voluntarily. She noted her previous position that, for this year with the money having been budgeted, she believes that organizations that had received money from the Township in the past deserved continuing support in light of reduced funding from the United Way.

Trustee Baehr also said that the Township should provide notice of the transition of the Township towards the non-funding of charitable organizations. Next year she will vote that way. She said she believes strongly in the merits of the organizations that have applied for support and wants to encourage Township residents to support these agencies voluntarily. In general, she said that she does not think it is the Township's role to decide how to spend the taxpayers' money in this manner, and she said she would favor reducing the size of the grants this year.

Supervisor Strenger Wayne asked for suggestions of agencies that should not be funded this year. Trustee Carney mentioned agencies that had not received money in the past. She cited GLASA (Great Lakes Adaptive Sports Association) as an example. She then mentioned the Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Senior Center and Family Services that, together, had asked for money to support a senior advocate to help seniors remain self-sufficient. She noted that the transportation activities of the Senior Center that the Township had supported in the past had received alternative support. She then made a motion to give the Senior Center \$30,000 for this purpose, which motion was seconded by Trustee Bull. Trustee Baehr suggested removing Family Services as a possible recipient of grant funds since the money for the senior advocate program would be funded through the Senior Center. The motion was then approved on a 5-0 roll call vote.

Supervisor Strenger Wayne mentioned that GLASA will be hosting national or international games for the physically disabled this summer. Trustee Baehr pursued the earlier suggestion that programs not receiving past funding not be included this year. Trustee Woodson said she agreed with this position. Trustee Carney noted that this approach would apply not only to GLASA but also to the Zacharias Sexual Abuse Center and the Lake County University of Illinois Extension program. Trustee Carney suggested making NICASA (the Northern Illinois Council on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse) an exception since, while they did not receive funding last year, they have been supported by the Township in the past and the Township does make referrals to them.

Supervisor Strenger Wayne noted that the Career Resource Center had requested \$15,000 and received \$12,000 last year. Trustee Baehr suggested cutting the funding in half for most agencies. Supervisor Strenger Wayne said she would like to consider the agencies on a case-by-case basis, looking at what is most consistent with the Township's mission. Trustee Carney noted that the total funding last year for the agencies requesting assistance this year was \$62,000, and NICASA, which did not receive funding last year, had asked for \$4,000 in addition to that amount.

The individual requests were Career Resource Center, \$15,000; Daisy's Resource Center, \$5,000; Health Reach, \$10,000, I-Plus, \$10,000; Mother' Trust, \$15,000; NICASA, \$4,000; and Youthbuild, \$15,000.

Trustee Carney pointed out significant funding for Daisy's Resource Center from Federal programs and the local school district and questioned the organization's degree of dependence on Shields Township. Trustee Woodson noted that they were asking for \$5,000 and suggested giving them the \$3,000 they had received last year. Trustee Carney made a motion, seconded by Trustee Baehr, to give \$2,000 to Daisy's Resource Center, which motion was approved 4-1 with Trustee Bull voting no.

Supervisor Strenger Wayne asked about the Career Resource Center. Trustee Baehr moved to give them \$12,000. Trustee Carney seconded, noting the increased demand that they had experienced during the recession, and the motion was approved 4-1 with Trustee Bull voting no

Funding for the following organizations was approved in the following amounts on a similar 4-1 vote. The minutes below also indicate the trustees who made and seconded the motions. (Information about all of the organizations applying for funding can be found in the minutes of the Special Board meetings at which they made their presentations and/or via the links on the Shields Township website, www.shieldstownship.com).

Healthreach, Trustees Carney and Baehr, \$10,000; I-Plus, Trustees Carney and Baehr, \$10,000; Mothers' Trust, Trustees Baehr and Woodson, \$15,000; NICASA, Trustees Baehr and Woodson, \$4,000; Youthbuild, Trustees Woodson and Carney, \$15,000.

As had been suggested previously, the Board, without a roll call, agreed not to fund the Zacharias Sexual Abuse Center, the Lake County University of Illinois Extension program, and GLASA.

VII. New Business - None

VIII. Public Comments – Agenda Items

Dan Rogers of Knollwood noted that the Board members seemed to have been impressed with the importance of the programs of the various organizations seeking grants and that the Board members seemed to think these activities complemented the mission of the Township. He expressed the view that the 2008 advisory referendum question regarding the Township’s funding of these types of organizations was very unclear. He said he had voted against such grants in his first year as a Township trustee before he saw how their work saved taxpayers money.

Trustee Carney noted that there were several agencies funded in the past that had not been considered this year.

Nikki Snoblin of Knollwood expressed the view that the preceding discussion about social service agencies serving the Township had been the most meaningful that she had seen or been a part of as Township official.

Laurel Tustison expressed her thanks on behalf of Youthbuild and the other social service agencies for the funding decisions of the Board. She said the Township’s assistance was not only very helpful in its own right but that it was also meaningful because other sources of potential financial support look for an indication of backing from those most familiar with a particular organization at the local level.

IX. Township Reports

a. Highway Commissioner’s Report

Highway Commissioner Goodman said that the Road District had dealt with the recent snows without a great deal of difficulty, and that, in spite of the snow, it had not been too difficult a winter on the whole. He said that he had otherwise been involved with keeping the District’s equipment in good operating order during the winter weather. Supervisor Strenger Wayne expressed her concern about the condition of the Township’s sign by the Foster Avenue entrance, noting that the sign appeared to be worn and missing its reflectivity, which, she noted, can make it more difficult to find the Township office. Commissioner Goodman said he would look into the matter. Supervisor Strenger Wayne otherwise expressed satisfaction with the recent condition of the roads in the District.

b. Assessor’s Report - None

c. Trustees’ Report

Trustee Woodson expressed her appreciation of the presentations that had been made by the representatives of the various social service agencies and noted the difficulty of offering as much financial assistance as these organizations were seeking.

d. Supervisor’s Report

In her Supervisor’s Report, Supervisor Strenger Wayne mentioned the following items:

- Links on the Township’s website to social service agencies serving Township residents, both those that the Township has supported financially as well as others. She said that this additional exposure could be a good way to generate additional support for these organizations.
- Efforts to make the Township’s website a useful source of information for residents. She also encouraged residents to sign up for e-newsletters from the Township at its website - www.shieldstownship.com.
- The previous Saturday’s events involving the dissemination of information for potential the census takers (“enumerators”) and the “cash dash” initiative of the Illinois State Treasurer’s office to try to identify the owners of unclaimed property. More than two dozen individuals took a Basic Skills Test to seek to qualify for a census position. There is a special need for census workers in North Chicago and Waukegan. The positions last 6-8 weeks and will pay \$17.50/hour. Further information can be found at the website of www.2010censusjobs.gov. The State Treasurer’s office “cash dash” event involved 108 searches for missing property, and 46 of them reportedly resulted in the recovery of lost property, such as bank accounts. Residents may also go to the website of www.TreasurerIL.gov to seek missing property of this kind.

- Her appreciation of food donations from the First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest's special collection, a "Souper Bowl of Caring," which raised \$1,200 to shop for food that would be suitable for the those coming to the Shields Township food pantry Also mentioned was Boy Scout Troop #42's food collection scheduled for Saturday, March 22nd.
- The Public Hearing on the Budget and the opportunity for the public to offer comments on the budget for the new fiscal year beginning March 1st at a hearing scheduled for Monday, February 22, at 5:15 p.m..

X. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn by Trustee Bull, seconded by Trustee Baehr, was approved unanimously on a voice vote at 7:54 p.m..

Attest

David N. Barkhausen, Town Clerk