



Shields Township

906 W. Muir Avenue, Lake Bluff, IL 60044

**Regular Meeting of the Shields Township Board of Trustees
Thursday July 17th, 2025, at 5:00pm**

MINUTES

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
LAKE COUNTY) ss.
TOWN OF SHIELDS)

THE TOWN BOARD OF SHIELDS TOWNSHIP held its Regular Monthly Meeting on Thursday July 17th, 2025, at 5:00 pm.

PRESENT:

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Kamila Urso | Supervisor |
| Lisette Rothing | Deputy Clerk |
| Catherine Oliver-Salbilla | Town Trustee (via zoom) |
| Christopher Prager | Town Trustee |
| Trent Swarthout | Town Trustee |

ABSENT:

| | |
|------------------|--------------|
| Vanessa Grum | Clerk |
| Michelle Parnell | Town Trustee |

- I. **Call to Order & Roll Call:** Supervisor Urso called the meeting to order at 5:01 pm.
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Supervisor Urso opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.
- III. **Memorandum:** Supervisor Urso stated that Shields Township will allow Trustees to attend the meeting by "Other Means" if necessary due to personal illness or disability. In this case, Trustee Oliver-Salbilla will be joining remotely. Supervisor Urso Motioned to allow attendance by "Other Means". Trustee Prager Motioned and Trustee Swarthout seconded the motion.

IV. **Public Comment – Three (3) minutes per speaker**

- a. **Michael Pierret:** Has lived in Shields Township for 40 years. He Stated the Township Attorney said that Illinois Townships spend around 6% of their funds on legal fees. Michael then showed the board a table that stated otherwise. It showed the Fiscal Year spending for Shields Township in 2024 at one of the highest in legal costs at just under 10%. Michaels suggested that maybe its time to find a different legal firm to represent the Township. The Board Attorney also pointed to FOIA requests as the driver for these legal fees but then undercut his argument by stating that only \$20,000 of the \$145,000 were FOIA requests. Michael Suggested that FOIA requests do not need legal guidance and should not be referred to the legal team. This should help with some legal fees. With \$86,000 left, it looked like those costs came from the electoral hearing however a similar hearing that was done in 2017, only showed costs of \$8,000. Michael is wondering why this recent hearing cost so much. The only contested objection was concern for the zip codes in which each candidate lived. The big question is why did it take three hearings and 10 hours of costly attorney time to litigate one point? He believes a helpful attorney could have gone about this a different way and saved the Township a great deal of time and money. Because of these reasons, Shields Township Board should try and look elsewhere for legal representation.
- b. **Janice Schnobrich:** She stated that Shields Township has faced a lot of trials and tribulations with leadership changes, resignations, missing records, and internal disputes. The 2022-2025 Supervisor and Attorney that were appointed did not report the missing records citing high forensic costs. When needing additional staff for the road department, the supervisor at the time declined a former commissioner's volunteer help and instead proposed hiring Dan Rogers, a former highway commissioner as a part-time road representative. During his time as highway commissioner, Mr. Rogers actions led to significant legal expenses for Shields Township taxpayers. After four years in office and two unsuccessful re-election campaigns, he remained engaged in township matters by expressing views at public meetings. Despite being aware of Mr. Roger's prior legal involvement with the Township, the board approved Supervisor Jeff Urso's proposal to appoint him to a 20 hour a week part-time position. Shortly thereafter, Mr. Rogers became a full-time Road Representative in March 2025. On May 12, 2025, he attended a ballot recount session at the Lake County Offices with an attorney during work hours without taking official time off, participating in a political activity unrelated to his job. Mrs. Schnobrich

wondered why Mr. Rogers was appointed as a part-time employee in the first place. She also stated that appointing him to a full-time position bares scrutiny on the newly elected board. Mrs. Schnobrich also stated that Mr. Rogers has not been subject to oversight with respect to his employment at Shields Township, nor in accordance with the job description, as established by Township management.

- c. **Jeffrey Urso:** Stated that he has observed that last few board meetings and is taken back by Trustee Oliver-Salbilla's actions. Trustee Oliver-Salbilla originally ran on a slate with Mrs. Kathy Blahunka, the former Community Service Committee Chair who was unanimously removed by the former Board. Trustee Oliver-Salbilla, who is a Compliance Attorney did not submit her Economic Interest form and was part of the slate that the Electoral Board later affirmed by a Lake County Judge for omitting their complete addresses on their petitions for the following reasons. It did not meet compliance, which is the law. It caused voter confusion when signing such forms and it was done with intent. As a Compliance Attorney, I would hope that Trustee Oliver-Salbilla would know the law. She later went on to win by a one vote margin as a write in. In the first meeting with the new board Trustee Oliver-Salbilla delayed the meeting when trying to appoint the Township attorney. She stated she wanted to look into other options, leaving the Township exposed for a month without legal representation. By the next meeting she had not investigated other firms nor gathered any information to provide to the Board. She later voted No to the Supervisors appointment of Airdo Werwas. She also voted No on the Supervisors emergency powers to protect the people in the unincorporated areas in case of a catastrophic event. It is clear that Trustee Oliver-Salbilla has alternate motives. Mr. Jeff Urso feels confident that all other Trustees of the new Board have the integrity to do what's best for Shields Township. Mr. Jeff Urso Hopes that Trustee Oliver-Salbilla votes with the purpose of her duties and does not let outside political influences decide her vote. Mr. Jeff Urso added a quick comment to the Board that addresses the prior legal fees. As the Former Supervisor he is confident in stating that Mrs. Blahunka and Mrs. Schnobrich were either directly or indirectly involved in incurring 80% of the legal costs to the Township. He believes that these women have an obsession with the Township and Dan Rogers and will not live it down.

V. Reports

- a. **Supervisor:** Supervisor Kamila Urso reported that she has been continuously meeting with other Township Supervisors to learn more about Township government

and gather helpful information to better our community especially when it comes to our kids and seniors. Supervisor Kamila Urso has taken many seminars and webinars that are proving to be very helpful in providing a wealth of knowledge and information that will allow our Township to function at a higher level. Supervisor Kamila Urso also holds the title as Highway Commissioner and is looking into many road improvements including switching metal culvert pipes to PVC which will function better and be more cost effective.

- b. Trustees:** Trustee Prager suggested that the Township distribute a letter to the residents when speed humps will be put in. This will allow residents to voice their opinion and if the Township Supervisor doesn't hear any cause for concern the speed humps will go in. Trustee Prager suggested a speed hump on Foster Ave. where he lives, however does not want nor need any special treatment when it comes to the timing or placement of the speed hump. Trustee Oliver-Salbilla addressed the idea of having a crossing guard at 176 and Shagbark however feels that there are plenty of signs that say 'no turn on red'. She is wondering if this will cost the Township extra money and suggested that the schools possibly pay for the crossing guard. Supervisor Urso lets the Trustees know that the Village of Lake Bluff pays their crossing guard so it would most likely fall on the Township to pay for a crossing guard in the Knollwood area of Lake Bluff. Attorney Mark Kimzey chimed in to let the Board know that all street signage goes through the county so that it is uniform. It is a statute.
- c. Assessor's Office:** Carl Kitzerow, the office administrator stated that Shields Township is wrapping up the books and the Blue Assessment Notices will be coming out in the next few weeks.

VI. Approval of Bills: Supervisor Urso stated there are two sets of Township bills that need to be addressed.

- a. Road & Bridge:** Supervisor Urso motioned to approve payroll & bills for the Road District in the amount of \$11,222.66. Trustee Swarhout motioned to approve, and Trustee Prager seconded the motion.
- b. General Assistance:** NONE. Supervisor Urso stated there will be GA next month.
- c. Town Fund:** Supervisor Urso motioned to approve payroll & bills for the Town fund in the amount of \$85,211.16. Trustee Swarhout Motioned to approve, and Trustee Prager seconded the motion.

VII. Old Business: NONE

VIII. New Business

- a. Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of June 12, 2025:** Supervisor Urso asked if there is a motion to approve the regular minutes of the June meeting. Trustee Prager motioned while Trustee Swarthout seconded.
- b. Approval to move Elected Officials Pay from the First of the Month to the Last Day of the Month:** Carl Kitzerow, the office administrator explains why this is good accounting practice. He goes on to state that some years ago there were a few elected officials that left in the middle of the month during their term, and it was very difficult having to get that money back based on the days they had worked. If we pay them at the end of the month then you can pay them on the exact amount of time they have already worked. Supervisor Urso motions to pass this policy. Trustee Swarthout motioned, and Trustee Prager seconded.

IX. Executive Session: NONE

- X. Adjournment:** Supervisor Urso Adjourns meeting at 5:29p.m.