



Supervisor Bonnie Kahn Ognisanti called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge: The pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll call: Clerk Levy called the roll (*A quorum was present*).

Supervisor Bonnie Kahn Ognisanti	Present
Clerk Charles Levy	Present
Trustee Donald Gelfund	Present
Trustee Mark Collins	Present
Trustee Peggy Tolleson	Present
Trustee Kitty Kendrick	Present

Assessor Scott Bagnall	Present
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Staff Members:

Administrator Rick Krier	Present
Township Attorney Ross Secler	Present
Deputy Clerk Sandie Capsuto	Present
Public Relations Director Mike Isaacs	Present

Trustee Collins **moved** and Trustee Kendrick **seconded** to approve the minutes from the June 12, 2023 Board Meeting. **Motion passed by roll call. All Ayes.**

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT : Supervisor Bonnie Kahn Ognisanti opened the meeting by complimenting all of the staff members for their hard work, professionalism and in their positive way of greeting members of the public.

She reported that the Skokie Park District donated all of the bulbs they dig up when they replace them with annual flowers. This is the third year that they have donated the bulbs, which we then bag up and distribute to members of our food pantry who desire them. This helps promote green stability, helps to promote pollination in our township and gives pleasure to our patrons to reuse the bulbs to beautify their gardens.

Destiny Brown, our volunteer Yoga instructor, was here this past Saturday. Assessor Bagnall, Trustee Tolleson, and Supervisor Kahn Ognisanti joined in the class. There was a very big turnout of 40 to 50 people. This is intended for all skill levels; everyone works at their own pace and she gives valuable feedback for making sure that everyone is doing it correctly to get the most out of each session. These Yoga classes are offered free of charge to our community members.

Supervisor Kahn Ognisanti thanked all of the board members who attended the Juneteenth and Pride festivities. Trustee Collins emceed the Pride event.

School District 73.5 approved an IGA with our township awarding us \$20,000.00 which will be used to fend off eviction notices and electrical shut offs for families living in that district, as well as offer childcare services and mental health services. Districts 219 and 68 are considering renewing their IGAs with Niles Township. Social Worker Ruth Orme Johnson and Supervisor Kahn Ognisanti will attend those regular board meetings in July to present reports and answer questions.

Supervisor Kahn Ognisanti reminded everyone to mark their calendars for Saturday, July 8th 2023 for the celebration of our Food Pantry expansion with the public. Our Food Pantry manager, Tony Araque will be here to give tours, as will Jennifer Steiner Araque. Free coffee and donuts will be provided. We will recognize the hard work that Senator Ram Villivalam did to provide us with a \$750,000.00 grant to apply towards this expansion.

Supervisor Kahn Ognisanti encouraged everyone to participate in the 4th of July parades for both Skokie and Morton Grove. Details will be provided once we have them. We ordered a large American Flag balloon to carry in the parades. She will need three other people to assist in carrying the flag balloon.

REPORTS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Clerk Levy: Clerk Levy reminded that anyone on our team who will be partaking in the 4th of July festivities notify our Administrator, Rick Krier, so that he can prepare all of the necessary paperwork for those who will be driving in the parade.

Assessor Scott Bagnall: No report.

Trustee Tolleson: Trustee Tolleson reported that she attended an event in which Senator Ram Villalam and Representative Kevin Olickal reported on the legislation that was just approved for aiding the LGBTQ+ population. She said the meeting was very good; unfortunately they did not have as large of a turnout in audience members as they would have liked.

She attended the Township Officials of Cook County meeting and went to a breakout session on setting up a 708 Board. A 708 Board refers to setting up a mental health board. She feels that we already provide services through Social Workers at the Township and at the Respite Center, along with our various Service Provider agreement agencies. Administrator Krier added that we would need a referendum to attach to the voting ballots. This would then be another taxing item to add along with our General Assistance and Town Fund. She added that we offer such a variety of services such as providing handicapped placards, passport services, property tax services, etc. The one service we are not providing are pictures for passport, citizenship and visa papers. One of the larger townships does provide this service, however, they have seven additional employees to manage these wrap around services. It may not be cost effective for us because we would need to hire additional staff to perform these tasks. Although the digital camera wouldn't be too expensive, it would involve additional salaries and benefits.

There will be a 10% increase in Medicaid Reimbursement across the board including mental health services. The new payment schedule will come out in January, 2024. Currently, for a fifteen minute session for mental health, Medicaid only reimburses \$4.97 which most providers will not accept.

Trustee Gelfund: Trustee Gelfund thanked the board members who participated in both the Juneteenth and Pride events. He attended the LGBTQ+ Forum along with Supervisor Kahn Ognisanti and Trustee Tolleson that was held at the Skokie Library. Senator Ram Villivalam and Representative Kevin Olickal along with other elected officials participated in a Question and Answer forum. He reported that the presentation was very enlightening. He continued by stating that Illinois is one of the few states where people can find refuge for living their lifestyles, welcoming refugees, and Supervisor Kahn Ognisanti added that Illinois also provides a safe environment for reproductive choices. Trustee Gelfund mentioned that the Transgender population is currently facing the most threats along with other marginalized groups of people.

He was a guest at Ishtar's Circle, (with whom we have developed a partnership), an Assyrian Women's business fair at the Lincolnwood Community Center. Ishtar's Circle has had a sundry and monetary drive for our Food Pantry for the past three years. Several businesses were present at the fair including bakeries, catering services, legal services etc. He expects the Ishtar's Circle fund drive will continue along with the Halal Food drive which collects Halal food for our Muslim patrons. The Halal Food drive took place every Friday during the month of June, while Istar's Circle had their drive every Saturday during the month of May.

He reminded everyone that the Lincolnwood Fest will take place July 27th through July 30th. He is looking for volunteers to assist him on July 30th in the beer tent, where all tips will go towards our Food Pantry Foundation.

Trustee Kendrick: No report other than to announce that Lincolnwood has been identified as another town that has West Nile Virus.

Trustee Collins: No report

STAFF REPORTS:

ADMINISTRATOR: No report

LEGAL ADVISOR: Attorney Ross Secler is working with the township on updating policies and protocols. We are looking at best practices to address the influx of FOIA requests that we have been receiving. Supervisor Kahn Ognisanti expressed her appreciation for his role in advising our township on all legal matters.

PUBLIC RELATIONS COORDINATOR: Mike Isaacs announced that our upcoming blood drive will take place from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on July 12th. More details will be posted on our website. There is still a critical need for blood.

This Friday will be the last day for the Halal Food Drive for this year.

He reported on the CBS2 New Report highlighting our Respite Center, attending the Juneteenth, Pride events and The Township Employers Advisory Council. In addition he reported on Ishtar's Circle Sundry Drive that took place in May along with the volunteers who have helped out in our community garden. The newsletter will be out in late August, however the deadline for us to submit articles is July 12th, 2023.

BILLS PAYABLE: Trustee Gelfund **moved** and Trustee Collins **seconded to approve the distribution of funds from June 8, 2023 through June 22, 2023 as presented:** Total Town Fund: \$100,303.72; Total General Assistance Fund: \$8,055.71 with a total of all funds: \$108,359.43. **Motion passed by roll call. All Ayes.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Trustee

Trustee Collins **moved** and Trustee Kendrick **seconded** to: Give the Supervisor the authority to award the funding to enter into an agreement with the following Service Providing Agency:

1. CJE Senior Life My-GO-To Place: \$10,000.00

Motion passed by roll call. All Ayes.

NEW BUSINESS: Trustee Tolleson **moved** and Trustee Collins **seconded** to ratify and approve authorization for Township Administrator to prepare, implement, and enforce

Township building security, access, and recording or photographing protocols and policies.

Clerk Levy suggested adding the verbiage in compliance with State and Federal Law. The Board agreed to the change.

Trustee Tolleson **moved** and Trustee Collins **seconded** to ratify and approve authorization for Township Administrator to prepare, implement, and enforce Township building security, access, and recording or photographing protocols and policies in compliance with State and Federal Law. **Motion passed by roll call. All Ayes.**

CITIZEN COMMENTS: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

ADJOURNMENT: Trustee Gelfund **moved** and Trustee Collins **seconded** to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Next Regular Board Meeting July 10, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charles Levy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right.

Charles Levy, Clerk