

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 Gelfund **moved** and Trustee Kendrick **seconded** to approve the minutes from the July 10, 2023 Board Meeting. **Motion passed by roll call**, Trustee Collins abstained, **all Ayes**.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT : Supervisor Bonnie Kahn Ognisanti read a Proclamation for Assyrian Remembrance Day. This is posted on our website for anyone who wishes to read it.

REPORTS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Clerk Levy: Clerk Levy brought everyone's attention to the 16th Annual Education Conference held in Springfield, IL on November 12th , through November 14th, 2023. He advised anyone interested in attending to notify Administrator Krier for the registration form. There is a discounted price for early registration which closes August 1, 2023.

Assessor Scott Bagnall: Assessor Bagnall reported that he tries to keep watch on what tax and other economic issues take place in neighboring municipalities and in Chicago. What happens down the block will at some point come to us, or at least influence us. He pays particular attention to commercial issues. Northern Trust never laid anyone off until the other day when they laid off 900 people. The Loop office vacancy rate is 22.6% which is considered extremely high. Suburban office vacancies are around 30%. One Loop building after another is giving the keys back to the lender. The huge Insurance Exchange at 175 W. Jackson defaulted on its loan payment a week ago and gave the keys to the lender. The building at 30 N. LaSalle gave the keys up long ago and the building at 209 Jackson defaulted. Westfield Old Orchard is for sale. Further west on Old Orchard Road there is a commercial building on 10 acres; it, like the mall, is not even mentioning a commercial or retail use. They all say apartments are the answer. That's what the Loop buildings say too. It's not clear where the tenants will come from but going residential will change the commercial valuations. There is also talk of converting office space to warehouses. If office space is expected to rent at \$26.00 per square foot and warehouse space rents at \$12.00 a square foot, then it's likely that the affected parcels will see reduced assessed values. Commercial loans are different from residential home loans. The experts say to expect more commercial defaults when a great many commercial loans come due in 2024 and 2025. If the total commercial assessed values in our Township were to decrease, then we can expect to see a tax burden shift from commercial to residential.

The County says tax bills will be in the mail 11/01/2023 with a due date of 12/01/2023.

Assessor Bagnall distributed Assessor Office tri-fold brochures to everyone present. Deputy Assessor Julie Oh completely created the tri-fold from the initial idea through design, content, formatting, and printing. He said he was very happy with the results.

Trustee Tolleson: Trustee Tolleson reminded everyone that Tuesday, August 1, 2023 is the National Night Out for Morton Grove, Skokie, and Lincolnwood from 4:00 to 7:30 p.m. Food, entertainment, and a fire truck will all be on hand at the Skokie event taking place at Oakton Park, and hotdogs will be served at the Lincolnwood event in Proesel Park.

Trustee Gelfund: Trustee Gelfund reported that Lincolnwood Fest will be on July 27th

through July 30th. The beer tent will be open from 3:30 until 9:00 p.m. He is looking for more volunteers to fill the later part. He will be the emcee in the beer tent encouraging people to donate money to the tip jar that will go directly for our Food Pantry Foundation. A local well known band, Sixteen Candles will be performing.

He is looking for volunteers to man the table with him on August 1st, for Lincolnwood's National Night Out. He will also be preparing all of the hotdogs for this event.

Trustee Kendrick: Trustee Kendrick made an early donation for the tip jar for the upcoming Lincolnwood Fest.

Trustee Collins: No report

STAFF REPORTS:

ADMINISTRATOR: Administrator Krier distributed a packet for the budget. The \$50,000.00 funds for the Park District Scholarships have already been used. Fortunately the IGA from District 219 was able to cover some of the additional expenses for the scholarship funds.

Tax bills are normally mailed out July 1st, due by August 1st, however, as stated above, they will not be due until November or December 2023. We are having to transfer some money from our "rainy day" fund to cover expenditures until revenue from the new tax bills start coming into the township.

There were fifty service provider requests submitted for this year. We had heard back from 47 of them, however, with a few reminder calls today, we finally heard back from all 50 of them.

In addition to Friday and Monday (the last two business days of the month) The Food Pantry will be closed for half a day this Thursday afternoon so that shelves in the food pantry can be moved out of the way for volunteers to pack up school supplies that will be delivered to the elementary and middle schools. The high school supplies and backpacks will be available here at the township.

The Fun Run raised \$20,000.00 to be used for the purchase of school supplies. District 219 contributed an additional \$50,000.00 from the IG Agreement we have with them. The total cost comes to approximately \$100,000.00.

Administrator Krier reminded everyone who wants to attend the Educational Conference in Springfield to get their registration into him preferably before August 1, 2023 to receive the early bird discount.

The Respite Center was in dire need of an air conditioner. One of the Trustees of St. Paul's Church where the Respite Center is housed, accompanied Rick to purchase the air conditioner. The township paid for the unit; everyone is very pleased with its performance.

Senator Ram Villivalam and Supervisor Bonnie Kahn Ognisanti organized a drive for Asylum Seekers. We are collecting new items in a bin in the lobby of our township building. This will be continuing through the end of this week.

Administrator Krier reminded everyone to complete the training for the Open Meetings Act. Our legal advisor, Ross Secler advised that it is best practice to keep that up to date.

LEGAL ADVISOR: Legal Advisor Ross Secler will be presenting at a TOI Regional Event in Rockford, IL and another by Zoom for Effingham, IL.

We are looking at policies regarding social media, formalizing building security and two party consent for anyone entering our building wishing to record staff members or people of the public.

Administrator Krier mentioned that a few people in our township building had their email hacked, so he advised everyone to make sure to read the email address it is being sent from before responding to it.

PUBLIC RELATIONS COORDINATOR: PR Coordinator Mike Isaacs reported that we ran into some unique challenges with the upcoming newsletter. We've had so many photos and activities during the summer, that it was decided we should make this one the 8 pages rather than the usual 6 pages. When we streamlined the newsletters from four times a year to three times a year we figured that the Fall/Winter newsletter would have more information, however, it turned out that we have more events occurring during the Spring/Summer.

He will be representing the Township on a planning committee for the Douglas Center which will be celebrating their 25th Anniversary.

He will be attending both the Skokie and Lincolnwood's National Night Out to take pictures as well as the Lincolnwood Festival. He will also be on hand for the packing up of school supplies to fill the back packs event taking place this Friday and Monday.

Once again he will announce on social media the drive we have going on through this Friday for new goods for the Asylum Seekers.

BILLS PAYABLE: Trustee Kendrick **moved** and Trustee Collins **seconded to approve the distribution of funds from July 7, 2023 through July 20, 2023 as presented:** Total Town Fund: \$45,334.26 Total General Assistance Fund: \$19,609.94 with a total of all funds: \$64,944.20. **Motion passed by roll call. All Ayes.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

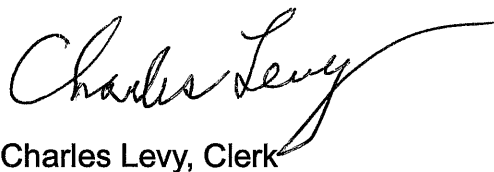
CITIZEN COMMENTS: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

ADJOURNMENT: Trustee Collins **moved and** Trustee Kendrick **seconded** to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Next Regular Board Meeting August 14, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charles Levy". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name of the signatory.

Charles Levy, Clerk