



Milton Township Regular Board Meeting Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 8, 2025

I. Call to Order:

- A. Mission Moment: Resident appreciated Milton Township staff.
- B. Pledge of Allegiance: Trustee McGowen led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- C. Roll Call: The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Higgins-Beard at 6:30 p.m.
Board Members Present: Supervisor Higgins-Beard, Trustees Pitts, Trustee Siemer, Clerk Bailey. Trustee McGrath was absent.
- D. Approval of Agenda: Trustee Pitts made motion, seconded by Trustee McGowen. All in attendance voted aye. Motion passed.
- E. Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting on June 10, 2025: Trustee Pitts made a motion, seconded by Trustee Siemer. All in favor. Motion passed.
- F. Approval of Claims: Supervisor Higgins-Beard explained that claims were high at \$1,624,016.98, but that \$1,146 million was for the Shroeder Asphalt project. Trustee Pitts made a Motion, seconded by Trustee McGowen. Trustees Pitts, Siemer and McGowen and Supervisor Higgins-Beard voted aye. Motion passed.

II. Public Comment: (Limited to 3 minutes per person, Public called in the order Comment Request was submitted, total allotted time for Public Comment 30 minutes) No comments offered.

III. Chair's Report:

- A. Proclamation for Donald A Sender. Trustee McGowen introduced Don Sender, a 94-yr old, Milton Trustee 2000 to 2004, 67-year resident, Historian of cemeteries, Korean war intelligence veteran, High School teacher and family man. Supervisor Higgins-Beard offered a commemorative plaque in recognition of his long service to the community.
- B. Imam Fahmy Abdelkawy offered a unifying invocation appreciating our wonderful Wheaton community and stressing the commonality of people in religions, that all our differences are opportunities to learn about each other and that Islamic Center of Wheaton like other mosques want to live peacefully and harmoniously in our community as brothers and sisters.
- C. First 90 Days: facilities, finances, programs 1st 90 Days Listening, Teambuilding, Safety and Facilities, Communications, Audits with Finances. New things: See our Facebook Milton Supervisor, Insurance review is under way. Tickets for distracted driving are not valid. Mosquito spraying in or near Glen Ellyn. The water issues forum with State Rep Terra Costa Howard was well received. Finances - Finishing FY 24 audit. Engaged firm for FY 25 audit. Will kick off forensic audit. To save money HC Drew will maintain our vehicles and we will vote on epay bills. Our medical closet is overburdened so if you need a crutch, a wheelchair, or a cane, please contact us.
- D. General Assistance: Supervisor Higgins Beard explains how our property taxes go into separate funds to make up 1.71% of our taxes that go to Milton Township. Some residents have been asking that more money to be spent on general assistance. Sheila explained her position as Director of General Assistance, GA, and how General Assistance and Emergency Assistance are mandated by the state and provide a safety net for individuals in need who are not eligible for other state or federal programs. GA is set up with monthly grants for basic maintenance needs that can be renewed each month while a client is in need. There are strict guidelines and requirements. Emergency Assistance is to alleviate life threatening circumstances a maximum of once a year. Recently Sheila and Supervisor reviewed the needs with inflation and greater need and decided to increase Milton Townships guidelines for aid reflecting current living costs and our resources. The Township Supervisor is

responsible for and makes decisions for this program.

- E. Supervisor Higgins-Beard appoints Trustee Larry Pitts as Supervisor *Pro Tem* for Chairing the Town Meetings in the event of the absence of the Supervisor.
- F. Miscellaneous/Other none

IV. Reports:

- A. Town Clerk: Reminders to all to please get your agenda and packet online if you can and for trustees and all to complete OMA training by Aug 1. Attended events for Memorial Day and July 4th at the cemeteries, June 17 TOI new officials training. July 4 parade w/ Trustees Pitts and Siemer and Highway Commissioner Mike Drew. We are responding to and organizing FOIA's - At least 6 so far, with staff doing most of the work especially Abbey. Looking into ways to increase transparency such as live streaming meetings and posting videos and posting meeting information online.
- B. Trustees Report/Comments: Trustee Pitts let everyone know the Pleasant Hill Cemetery event went very well with a band and singers. Consider coming to future events like St Stephens on Aug 23.

Trustee Siemer said more staff and the Finance committee should have access to the quick books. We decreased the number of bank accounts for efficiency.

Trustee McGrath (written report submitted in advance) June 5 attended Cream of Wheat at Memorial Park. June 13 attended Senior Bingo at the Wheaton VFW. June 14th attended the Wheaton Pride Picnic at Memorial Park. June 17 attended Township Officers of Illinois training in Naperville. June 20 reviewed invoices and signed checks at the Milton Township Office. June 21 attended online Metropolitan Township training through Hanover Park. June 24 attended the Milton Township Mental Health Board at the Milton Township Office. Also, though I will miss the 6/8/25 meeting due to travel, I'd like to state my support for proceeding with a forensic audit.

- C. Assessors Report: Chris LeVan explained that our township received our factor, 1.0846, the 2nd lowest in the county. Tax rates should drop. The new Tyler program does not allow sales ratio studies that tell how closely the assessed value matches the actual sales. And it also does not allow the local assessors to remove the inaccurate sales from inclusion in setting the factor. If a person has a problem with their property value and resulting taxes, come in and talk to him first. He wants to and will help if it is doable.
- D. Highway Commissioner Report: Mike Drew says phone lines were transferred (as promised last month) saving \$2500/month. The Overnight Parking Ordinance proposal will be on hold to allow Trustee Paula McGowen a chance to resolve the current abuse of overnight parking. The large bill mentioned in Claims was for paving in Butterfield West. Will start doing concrete work in Wheaton Ridge soon. A sink hole was discovered in Lincoln Hill on 22nd west of 53. Trine construction helped resolve it. Secured 30 loads of concrete grindings to use to replace the maintenance building's dirt floor. This dirt floor leads to rust of the big expensive equipment parked inside the building in the winter. Barry Street Wheaton has large ditches with excess water that breeds mosquitoes. Secured an engineering firm to resolve the problem likely by the end of September.
- D. S.A.L.T. Committee: Chairman Chuck Smith let the board know that they set a date for the senior auto inspection. Chuck Smith is successfully recruiting skilled volunteers. In August national night outs happen in Wheaton, Glen Ellyn and Carol Stream. SALT meeting is Monday 10 am at Glen Ellyn Police Dept. Recorder Liz Chaplin will talk in response to recent concerns about deed fraud and scams. The September speaker is on Medicare. The supervisor announced that regrettably, Chuck Smith is resigning after October. We appreciate his long service, and we plan to celebrate it in the future.
- E. Food Pantry: Executive Director Dave Sezonov reported that the pantry is doing well. Even with that bill that was passed, Dave says that "... no one in Milton will ever go hungry...". Not only that but the Food Pantry is reaching out to provide more services. During Back-to-School Days Thursday and Friday Aug 7 and 8 the Chicago Dental Society Foundation, 416 E Roosevelt Rd, Wheaton will give free dental checkups to those 18 yrs and under. For appointments call 630 260 8530. Debbie is working so hard getting grants for the Food Pantry.

- F. CERT: Director Dave Sezonov reported that this weekend was a challenge that they successfully met; with 2 fireworks and 2 parades. Police in Glen Ellyn and Wheaton appreciated their help. Sept 4 starts a 4-week CERT class.
- G. Cemeteries Authority: Drew Ellis chairman of the cemeteries committee had a good meeting with strategic directions. Meeting with Arch diocese on July 15. Come to **St Stephen's Cemetery Event August 23**, 11AM with a Catholic Mass and a celebration with potluck lunch.

V. Unfinished Business:

- A. Presentation of Audit FY24 (April 2023-March 2024 Presentation by Brad Porter from Lauterbach and Amen. (For the year **ending** March 2024.) Buffy, Steve, and Abby were involved with long talks. The FY25 audit begins in September. SAS 114 letter had no financial reporting problems. SAS 115 had no material weaknesses but significant deficiencies- Upwards of 2.6 million in adjustments were needed. Pg 1 letter "Unmodified opinion" was that after 2.6 million of adjustments the financial statements are materially correct. Pg 5 Management discussion relevant for trustees. Pg 20 General fund had \$264,000 increase in balance. Road and Bridge fund had 1.5 million deficit while the Permanent Road Fund had a 3.768 million positive fund balance. They would correct this by transfers. Management letter conveys recommendations to improve... 2 current for FY 24 - 4 prior recommendations for fiscal 2023 or prior. Abbey made dramatic differences in getting them the data they needed. Trustee Pitts made the motion to accept the audit, seconded by Trustee Siemer. Trustee Siemer Aye, Trustee Pitts Aye, Trustee McGowen Aye, Supervisor Higgins-Beard Aye. Motion approved.
- B. Selection of Forensic Auditors to go back 5 years to verify expenditures. Trustee Siemer had noted discrepancies in financial records during the election campaign. Just after April 1 Trustee Siemer researched firms recommended by others, then solicited bids. Sikich CPA LLC for \$35,000 is recommended. They are fraud examiners. Trustee Siemer moved seconded by Trustee McGowen. Roll call: Trustee Siemer aye, Trustee Pitts aye, Trustee McGowen aye, Supervisor Higgins-Beard aye. Motion passed.

VI. New Business:

- A. 2025 Change of Regular Meeting Time Discussion (Vote in August)
Because of pantry conflicts requiring take down and reset up for the pantry and while Buffy is in a fellowship Leadership in Society Initiative at University of Chicago, we are considering change of our meeting day focusing us in on 2nd/4th Thursdays or 2nd Mondays. Avoids all food pantry conflicts, political party meetings. Discussion leaned towards 2nd Thursday. The vote will be in August; change to go into effect in September.
- B. Vote approving Resolution R-25-007, Supervisor Higgins-Beard asked for and Trustee Siemer moved to approve Resolution R-25-007, adopting a policy for payment and ratification of reoccurring Township expenses, Trustee Pitts 2nd, Supervisor explained this would allow us to e-pay some bills and avoid late fees and penalties. It would prevent interruption of services, comply with the Illinois Prompt Payment Act. On a call vote, Trustees Pitts, Siemer and McGowen and Supervisor Higgins-Beard voted yes. Motion passed
- C. Approval of Resolution R-25-008, entitled Freedom of Information Resolution/ FOIA Officer Designee,. Clerk Bailey. Trustee Pitts made the motion, seconded by Trustee McGowen. All ayes. Motion passed.

VII. Adjournment 7:47 pm

Signed: Dan Bailey
Dan Bailey, Town Clerk

Date: 08/12/2025

Next Meeting Tuesday, August 12th, 2025

