

LWV Park Ridge Observer Report

Meeting: Maine Township Board Meeting

Date: May 22, 2018

Observer: Mary Upson

Start/End Time: 7:30 pm – 8:55pm

Members Absent: All members were present, including a representative of the Township's new legal representation that was hired on May 8, 2018

Citizen Comment: none

Discussion/Action: Agenda items 1-9 were approved with minimal discussion. Agenda item 10 – Old Business- the board approved the Health Insurance Renewal. The discussion of Upgrading Safety Measures on Making Maine Township a Hard Target was tabled again. The discussion and action on the Policies and Procedures has also been tabled to allow a review by the new attorney.

Agenda Item 11 New Business: Staff raises – COLA or merit based. Trustees Carbotta and Sweeney suggest raises be shown as one time bonuses so as to not increase the base salary, and this can become burdensome to taxpayers. Supervisor Morask stated that she had provided the trustees with salary benchmarks from other townships and that Maine Township had lower salaries with lower salary increases. She also asked why this idea had not been brought up earlier in the budget review process and expressed concern that it would make it difficult to pass the budget. Trustee McKenzie asked if the specifics of this portion be tabled while approving the total cost of the staff raises in the budget. Trustee McKenzie then requested a 5 minute recess at 8:24pm. The meeting reconvened at 8:40. The board then voted to table what kind of pay raises the staff would get.

Item 11- Approval of 2018-2019 Town Fund/ G. A. Budget – Two budget versions were given to the Board – the only difference being that the assessor's office was asking for a larger budget due to concerns that changes in the Cook County assessor's office and the new model being applied for property taxes could increase the work load for the Township Assessor's office. There was a mild disagreement by Trustee McKenzie if it was permitted to have a member from that office speak to the needs and work of the assessor's office, as it is was not explicitly on the agenda. The attorney stated it was ok for her to speak. Budget A gave the assessor's office the same budget as last year, budget B provided an increased budget. Budget A passed, budget B did not.

The Road and Bridge budget was approved without discussion.

Agenda item 14: Trustee reports: many thank you's to staff for their work on the budget. Building maintenance issues were shared – mold issues in the basement and recent flooding.

League Action Needed: None at this time.