



**Observer Report**

Date:	11/23/2021
Media coverage?	No
Was there a quorum?	Yes
Number of attendees	Several (11-19)
Was the agenda posted in advance?	Yes it was
Sufficient time for public comments?	Yes
Topics of Note/Interesting Topic	<p>Community Solar Energy - A representative of this company presented information related to partnering with Maine Township and its residents to implement a solar energy program. Enrollment in a solar energy program would be voluntary for the residents and the township. There are at least two companies that have openings in solar energy programs for this area. The representative reviewed the enrollment benefits and billing mechanisms of both. The programs would provide financial benefits to those who enroll as well as benefits for the environment.</p> <p>Next steps: The Board will engage in future discussions with the providers. Benefits of options will be reviewed. The Board also must be certain that a Maine Township program would not interfere with possible programs implemented in neighboring municipalities.</p>
Topics of Note//Interesting Topic	<p>Maine Township food pantry program - staff members reviewed the organizations who donated very generously to this program. The program has been moved to the basement of the township building allowing residents to have a shopping experience - making meeting their food needs much more personal (as opposed to being provided with a pre packed box of grocery items).</p>
Topics of Note/Interesting Topic	<p>There was further review and discussion of contracts for 2021 for Cybersecurity Auditing Services, Internal Audit Services, the Metropolitan Water Restoration Proposal (MWRP) and a public relations contract. All contracts were reviewed for cost/benefits to the Township. The Board requested that more information (including a timeline) be provided by the MWRP. The other contracts were approved.</p>



Topics of Note/Interesting Topic	<p>2022 Tax Levy - The tax levy covers the costs of the following: Roads and bridges, General assistance and Maine Township funding. There was a lengthy discussion of the history of the levy amounts and the financial requirements of the township. The Roads and bridges fund is financially stable. However, the township has not received sufficient tax funds for the other programs. The township has had to use a large amount of the township's savings. It has been recommended that the tax levy be increased for 2022 to meet the financial needs - it is important to avoid possible bankruptcy of the township over the next few years.</p> <p>Next steps: there will be a public hearing on 12/27/21(7 pm) prior to the December board meeting to present the financial needs and suggested tax levy increase to the residents for their review and comments. A proposal must be submitted to Cook County on 12/28/21 for inclusion in the property tax bills for 2022.</p>
Any topics relevant to LWVPR positions?	2022 financial status of the township and potential tax levy increase.
Were members civil to each other and the public?	Yes
If no, explain:	
Facilities (select any deficits)	
Officials attentive and alert?	Yes
Adequate discussion of issues?	
Any other observations about the meeting?	The board members were very professional and very concerned about the Township's finances.
Meeting Adjourned	9:00:00 PM
Was the agenda followed as it was published?	Yes
If agenda was not followed as it was published, describe why:	