

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
DUPAGE TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR  
AND THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

251 Canterbury Lane  
Levy Center-Bolingbrook, IL

**November 19, 2024**  
Minutes

**CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM by Clerk Parker.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all and lead by Trustee Savage.

**ROLL CALL FOR QUORUM:** Trustees Ransom, Savage, and Townsend, were present via roll call vote, so a quorum was determined. Supervisor Marschke and Trustee Braxton were absent.

Clerk Parker called for a motion to name an acting Chair of this board meeting. A motion was made by Trustee Ransom and seconded by Trustee Townsend to name Trustee Savage as acting Chair of this meeting. Upon roll call vote, motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** A motion was made by Trustee Ransom and seconded by Trustee Townsend to approve the agenda. Upon roll call vote, agenda approval passed.

**APPROVAL OF SPECIAL OCTOBER 29, 2024 MEETING MINUTES:** A motion was made by Trustee Townsend and seconded by Trustee Ransom to approve the October 29, 2024 Special Board meeting minutes. Upon roll call vote, motion carried to approve the October 29, 2024 Special Board meeting minutes as presented.

**APPROVAL OF EMERGENCY NOVEMBER 1, 2024 MEETING MINUTES:** A motion was made by Trustee Townsend and seconded by Trustee Ransom to approve the November 1, 2024 Emergency Board meeting minutes. Upon roll call vote, motion carried to approve the emergency November 1, 2024 Board meeting minutes as presented.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Judith Bredeweg – Republican Caucus and parking; Diane Klopfer – Congratulations on landslide victory, \$50,000 spent on flyers; Linda Ellis – against food pantry location, found flyers insulting; Sally Guibo – Romeoville had more vote no for pantry to leave; James Grzenia – putting Democratic caucus notice on agenda is electioneering, disagrees with location, 78% goes to administration, insurance for employees. Peter Rivera – Food Pantry & Resource Center nearly 80% voted in favor. Facility is essential.

Education and health are root causes. Lori Marschke Township board is not democratic or republican – serves all residents.

**SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:** None.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF POSTING THE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS NOTICE:** A motion was made by Trustee Townsend and seconded by Trustee Ransom to approve posting the Democratic caucus notice. Upon roll call vote, motion carried.

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 24-19, 2024-25 ANNUAL TAX LEVY:** After questions asked and answered, Trustee Townsend made a motion and seconded by Trustee Ransom to approve Resolution 24-19 2024-2025 Annual Tax Levy. Upon roll call vote, Motion carried.

**DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF APPOINTING DEMETRIUS BUNCH TO THE YOUTH COMMITTEE:** After some discussion, a motion was made by Trustee Ransom and seconded by Trustee Townsend to approve Demetrius Bunch to the Youth Committee. Upon roll call vote, motion passed.

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF 2025 LIFE/AD&D INSURANCE:** After a discussion, a motion was made by Trustee Ransom and seconded by Trustee Townsend to approve the 2025 Life/AD&D Insurance Upon roll call vote, motion passed.

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF 2025 DENTAL INSURANCE:** After a discussion, a motion was made by Trustee Ransom and seconded by Trustee Townsend to approve the 2025 Dental Insurance. Upon roll call vote, motion passed.

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF 2025 BC/BS HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN:** After a discussion, a motion was made by Trustee Townsend and seconded by Trustee Ransom to approve the 2025 BC/BS Health Insurance Plan. Upon roll call vote, motion passed.

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF 2025 HOLIDAY CALENDAR:** A motion was made by Trustee Savage and seconded by Trustee Ransom to approve the 2025 holiday calendar. Upon roll call vote, motion carried.

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL FOR EMERGENCY REPLACEMENT OF DEFIBRILLATOR MACHINE IN THE LEVY CENTER:** After some discussion, a motion was made by Trustee Ransom and seconded by Trustee Townsend to approve the emergency replacement of the defibrillator machine in the Levy Center. Upon roll call vote, motion carried.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None

**APPROVAL OF TOWNSHIP BILLS & CLAIMS** (for 10/16/2024 - 11/19/2024)

Open Payables		Paid Payables	
Town	\$ 7,467.67	Town	\$119,318.32
Banquets	\$16,604.44	Banquets	\$ 22,993.83
General Assistance	\$ 590.48	General Assistance	\$ 26,129.10

A motion was made to approve bills and claims by Trustee Townsend and seconded by Trustee Ransom. Upon roll call vote, the following voted yes: Trustees Ransom, Savage, and Townsend. Motion carried.

**REPORTS FROM ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF AND CONTRACTORS**

**Legal Report:** None

**Administrator:** Had to repair a number of broken items. Parking lot taking longer than anticipated. It takes people to provide the services we offer. Summer close down around the township property – fountain repairs, extra work at the cemeteries.

**Levy Center:** No report

**General Assistance:** See Attached Report.

**ELECTED OFFICIALS' REPORTS:**

**Assessor** - See attached.

**Clerk** – Congratulations to Romeoville High School Flag Football player Milan Cadet for being named Herald News Girls Flag Football Player of the Year. Also, congratulations to Jenna Jarmus and Milan Cadet for being named All State Girls Flag Football. The food pantry location referendum was overwhelming passed. 28,412 voted yes and 7,575 voted no. In the prescient where the pantry will be built 82.88% of the residents voted yes and only 17.12 voted no. Our community certainly is in favor of the new food pantry location. The caucus notice is required by state statute. We will always do the right thing. Wishing everyone a happy Thanksgiving holiday.

**TRUSTEES:**

**Trustee Ransom:** Thank you to all for coming out for Kevin's memorial presentation. Attended TOI in Springfield. Couple of townships have been hacked. Welcome to our new Youth Committee member - Demetrius Bunch. Was at Jewel handing out flyer on donating to our Food Pantry. Happy Thanksgiving to all.

**Trustee Savage:** Pneumonia is surging, hospitals are overwhelmed. Everyone over 65 should think about getting vaccinated. Welcome Demetrius. Thanks for coming out for the tribute.

**Trustee Reem Townsend:** See attached.

**Collector Jackson:** None.

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion was made by Trustee Ransom and seconded by Trustee Townsend to adjourn the meeting. Upon roll call vote, motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:56 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Ann Parker  
Township Clerk



# General Assistance Report

REGULAR MEETING OF THE TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
 Tuesday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
 Vicente Fernandez-General Assistance Administrator

## STATISTICAL TOTALS FROM October 2024

### GENERAL ASSISTANCE CASES

Current Recipients	2
New Applications	0
Applications Closed Out	0

### OTHER PROGRAMMING

Help to Others (H2O)	14
Salvation Army Service Extension	1*

\*Assistance provided was for rent

### REFERRALS

IDHS	1	Food Pantry	7
Legal Referral	1	LIHEAP Referral	29
Out of Township	11	Resource Referral	8
Senior Services	3	WCCCC	4

### EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE CASES- Wheatland Township

Number of Applicants	1
Approved Applications	1
Denied Applications	0
Pending Applications	0

### EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE CASES

Number of Applicants	28
Approved Applications	18
Denied Applications	4
Pending Applications	3

#### Denial reasons:

- Applicant lives outside of the township
- Applicant withdrew their application
- Applicant was over-income
- Grant amount would not be sufficient to alleviate the "life-threatening" circumstance

### EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE BREAK DOWN

Rental Assistance	8
IL American Water	6
Romeoville Water	2
Car Repair Assistance	2

### EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE BREAK DOWN- Wheatland Township

IL American Water	1
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### OTHER PROGRAMMING- Wheatland Township

Help to Others (H2O)	1
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## OTHER ACTIVITIES THROUGH THE GENERAL ASSISTANCE OFFICE

- LIHEAP is now open for anyone who is eligible, no more priority application period. Last month about 110 households came to the township to apply for LIHEAP.
- The winter coats have just arrived and we are in the process of handing them out. We had many residents signing up for coats and I needed to add more coats to our original order. The last couple of years we've averaged around 60 residents wanting coats and this year we are past 150. I will have exact numbers at next month's board meeting.
- Last month, Gabby and I were at Riverstone's tenant event. There were about 38 households that attended the event. Many of the residents inquired about the rental assistance through EA and many of them also mentioned that they were not aware of the food pantry but were happy to see that the new pantry would be moving from Romeoville to Bolingbrook.
- I've also been at the pantry a few days this month to talk directly with residents regarding some of the services through GA.



## Office of the Assessor

241 Canterbury Lane  
Bolingbrook, IL 60440-2834  
(630) 759-1315 (office)  
(630) 759-6163 (fax)

**Date:** December 13, 2024

**To:** Gary Marschke  
Township Supervisor

**From:** *Kenneth Harris*  
Kenneth Harris, CIAO  
Township Assessor

**Subject:** Assessor Monthly Report to Supervisor – November 2024

**Greenleaf and other Senior housing giveaway**

I participated in distribution of Thanksgiving meals to the Seniors residing in Greenleaf Apartments.

**2024 Tentative Abstract of 2024 (cy) Assessments (PTAX-280-A)**

We received this report from the Will County Supervisor of Assessments. This is a Illinois Department of Revenue report that provides data for our Township such as No. of Parcels, Assessed Value by property type i.e. residential, farm, commercial, industrial. This data also provides information on how well our Township is doing by assessing value per the Illinois statute.

**Illinois Property Assessment Institute Annual Conference**

I'm on the planning committee for this conference that will be held in Blooming, IL in March 16-21, 2025. We meet monthly.



clerk

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**From:** Reem Townsend  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 20, 2024 8:44 AM  
**To:** clerk  
**Subject:** 11/19 report

Good morning,

I wished Clerk Parker a happy birthday and thanked Trustee Ransom for organizing the dedication and plaque. Below is the written version of my report to attach to next month's agenda:

These last 3.5 years have been truly rewarding. I've had the privilege of working alongside many incredible people and contributing to both the youth committee and the future food pantry. I'm proud of the work I've done and grateful for the relationships I've built in this community. I'm also honored to be the first Palestinian and Muslim elected to the DuPage Township Board. But despite all this, I can no longer ignore the fact that standing by my principles has led to exclusion and marginalization within the party I was once proud to be a part of.

After careful thought, I've decided not to seek reelection as a Democrat. This decision comes in light of the ongoing genocide in Palestine and the Democratic Party's failure to take a strong stand against it—both here and nationwide. While I appreciate the few Democratic leaders who continue to speak out for a free Palestine, I cannot align myself with a party that has failed to act, especially when members like Gary Marschke have belittled me for refusing to support a presidential candidate whose policies are responsible for the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians.

When I rejected the false choice of "voting for the lesser of two evils"—a choice in which that "lesser" evil is still killing my family—any sense of civility was thrown aside. It became clear that Supervisor Marschke, along with others in the liberal establishment, were eager to attack pro Palestine activists simply because we refuse to compromise principles in the face of genocide. This wasn't about political strategy; it was about standing up against atrocities that demand a moral response.

The Democratic Party's unwavering support for the state of Israel, despite its ongoing ethnic cleansing and the murders of nearly 200,000 innocent Palestinians just in the past year, is unacceptable. I cannot support a party whose leaders could stop the murder of innocent people by cutting off arms sales, yet refuse to do so. To condemn these deaths while continuing to fund and arm the state that is responsible is pure hypocrisy. Words mean nothing without corresponding action.

The Harris campaign made it clear that our support was unwanted. They claimed they could win without us, sent anti-Palestinian representatives to campaign in Michigan—home to the largest Arab population in the U.S.—and even kicked us out of campaign events. In response, we did what anyone should: we told the party to take a hike.

I want to be clear: Palestine is not just a single issue. What's happening in Palestine is about much more than one cause. It's about racism, colonialism, and the ongoing dispossession of Palestinian land. It's about police violence, unchecked authoritarianism, and the violation of human rights. This is not an issue that can be ignored, no matter your political affiliation.

The environmental consequences of occupation, like land degradation and resource depletion, also affect Palestinian communities, showing the deep connection between environmental justice and human rights. The fight for Palestinian rights is tied to the fight for environmental justice, and we can't ignore the larger context of this struggle.

International law calls for accountability, but it is often dismissed because of political interests and the influence of money in politics, especially from pro-Israel lobbyists. These lobbyists hold too much power, shaping policies that put financial support and strategic alliances ahead of human rights. True justice means breaking free from these corrupting influences and ensuring that accountability comes before political gain.

It is wrong to suggest that people must vote for one evil over another, especially when that vote supports policies that contribute directly to the genocide of Palestinians. No one is obligated to vote for their oppressor. We must stand against complicity in such horrors. The Democratic Party's failure



in this election should be a wake-up call—it reflects a deep moral failure in addressing the urgent need for justice for Palestinians and a change in U.S. foreign policy to stand against the oppression of Palestinians. For over 75 years, both major political parties have ignored the suffering of Palestinians. The Democratic Party has failed to separate itself from Republicans on this issue, which shows a fundamental moral failure.

We deserve a political system that values human rights and justice, not one that upholds oppression. It's time to hold our leaders accountable and demand real change.

Throughout my time in politics, I have always supported candidates and policies that are truly progressive. I don't compromise on those values. I don't vote "blue no matter who," and I don't support the "lesser of two evils" when that choice still contributes to the suffering of my people. I will only support those who are firmly committed to human rights, justice, and the dignity of all people—including Palestinians. True advocacy for justice must be universal and inclusive, and I can't, in good conscience, support candidates who ignore or perpetuate the suffering of Palestinians. There is a line, and the line is genocide.

At the end of my term, I will step away from politics to focus on my family and my career. I want to build a strong foundation for the future, and if the time is right, I hope to return to politics with a renewed commitment to justice. I'm deeply grateful for the support of my family, friends, and all those who have stood by me. I remain hopeful that we will see a free Palestine, from the river to the sea, in our lifetime. Thank you.

Thanks, Barb!

Kindly,  
Reem

—

Reem Townsend (she/her)  
DuPage Township Trustee  
[Rtownsend@dupagetownship.com](mailto:Rtownsend@dupagetownship.com)