

**PALOS TOWNSHIP
GENERAL MEETING
10802 S. ROBERTS ROAD PALOS HILLS, ILLINOIS 60465**

July 13, 2020 – 6:30 P.M.

Call to Order

The General Meeting of the Palos Township Board was called to order by **Supervisor Schumann** who was in attendance at the Township Hall. The meeting was held via internal conference call pursuant to the Executive Order of the Governor.

All persons interested in attending were able to do so by visiting our website at WWW.palostownship.org and selecting the link to JOIN THE MEETING.

All persons wishing to address the Board will be permitted to do so through the web-conference platform following the standard rules previously adopted by the Board.

The Township Hall was not opened for the meeting.

Roll Call

Roll call was taken by the Clerk of the Township, **Jane Nolan**. Present were Trustees Brannigan, Jeanes, Riley and Woods, Supervisor Schumann. Also present was Township Attorney, Erik Peck.

Officials Present: Clerk Nolan

Pledge of Allegiance

Supervisor Schumann led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Disposition of Prior Minutes from Previous Meeting

- a. **Approval of the Minutes - General Meeting May 11, 2020**

Trustee Jeanes moved to approve the minutes of the May 11, 2020 General Meeting. **Trustee Woods** seconded the motion. Roll call was taken. Ayes: Trustees Brannigan, Jeanes, Riley and Woods, Supervisor Schumann. Nays: None. Motion carried 5-0.

Special Presentations/Communications

There were no special presentations or communications at this meeting.

Reports of Officials

a. Supervisor/Treasurer

Supervisor Schumann reminded everyone that she is speaking from her desk at the township, 10802 S. Roberts Road for this zoom meeting.

Supervisor Schumann stated, once again, that the township is open. There have been more visitors to the Health Service. They are wearing masks as are the employees if people are present in the building. There are physicals and immunizations for sports and school. The food pantry continues to be busy. There are patients being seen in the Health Service and residents are being seen in the administrative side.

b. Clerk

1. Webinar Notes Media, Elections FYI

Clerk Nolan informed the Board that she has participated in several webinars recently. One was concerning social media, and the other Township elections (April, 2021) which the Board has received. These were very informative. She stated that she will be providing them with more information about elections as soon as it is in her possession. There were no questions concerning the webinars from the Board.

2. TOI Educational Session July 23, 2020

Clerk Nolan reported that she will be in Springfield on July 22nd and 23rd for a TOI Educational Session dealing with the April, 2021 Township Election. She will update herself on the duties of the Clerk for this election. As Clerk of the Township, she is in charge of the Township Election.

3. MTA Zoom Meeting Notes July 8, 2020

Clerk Nolan stated that she attended the Metropolitan Township Association Zoom meeting on July 8, 2020. She did send the meeting notes to the Township Board. She did emphasize a few points during this meeting.

1. Cook County has given no CARES money to townships.
2. Other counties received more money from CARES (COVID-19) than Cook County.
3. Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle has just started to release the money. (Clerk Nolan just received this information today.)
4. IHEPH is supposed to start at the end of July.
5. MTA taking applications (still) for the MTA Director of Training and Operations.

If interested, please apply or inform any residents of this offering who might have an interest.

6. The Summer Symposium which was presented by MTA and TOCC was cancelled this year due to COVID-19. This Symposium will return in 2021.

Attorney's Report

Attorney Peck stated that he had no report for the Board.

Reports of Standing Committees

a. Finance and Administration – Trustee Woods

Trustee Woods stated that he had no report for the Board.

b. Policy and Personnel – Supervisor Schumann

Supervisor Schumann reported that there have been no new changes. There will be some manual changes and updates concerning Sexual Harassment. This is somewhat behind due to the pandemic.

c. Technology, Automation and Information – Trustee Riley

Trustee Riley had a question for **Trustee Woods** concerning Dennis Poznak, who is the person installing the new server. He asked how Dennis was feeling as he had the COVID-19 virus. Dennis is recovered. **Trustee Woods** stated that Dennis has already begun the work on the server.

d. Buildings and Grounds – Trustee Jeanes

Trustee Jeanes reported that Mr. Dan Drew will be coming to the township office on July 20, 2020 to quote a price on LED lights for the township. **Trustee Jeanes** is looking to save the township money on these lights. Mr. Drew works with ComEd. She received his name from the Orland Fire Protection District. He was able to save them a good amount of money.

e. Public Services and Health – Trustee Brannigan

Trustee Brannigan stated that she had no report for the Board.

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business for the Board.

New Business

Clerk Nolan stated that if a resident has voted in the last two or three years, they will receive a Mail Ballot **APPLICATION** at their place of residence. She has been told that residents who have moved will also receive one. She will know more information at a later date. Township residents can also receive a Mail Ballot Application at Palos Township or on line at their municipality.

Citizens Wishing to Address the Board

Speaker #1

Nick Sous had some questions. The community has questions and you ignore us. Where do we go for answers to our questions? He has problems with Trustee Brannigan being in charge of the pandemic. (which she is not) The Board is not talking about COVID-19 and no one but the Clerk has their camera on.

Speaker #2

Mark Kuehner has been interested in what the township board has been up to. He feels since the death of George Floyd most people have been deeply thinking and addressing racism in our society. The Palos Township Board is not trying to get rid of racism. They are encouraging racism for the last three years. You refuse to censure Sharon Brannigan for her comments, you refuse to push her off the Board, you refuse to publicly address the issue. You make it look like racism is OK in Palos Township. He disagrees with the Board. Palos Township residents do not approve of racism.

Speaker #3

Paul stated that we have had three years of an open racist and an open Islamophobe on the Board. We have had three years of the Board members supporting her lies, including the lies she has told to the media. When Brannigan lies no Township Board member will call her out on her lies. Your complicity lies in covering up for her. You have had three years of protests from community members who are outraged at Brannigan's racism, her lies, and your own inaction. Her only supporters have been members of a hate group and Arthur Jones, an actual Nazi. We have seen five very brave protestors who got arrested for speaking the truth. They got arrested because they are confronting you with your own cowardice. If you are afraid of Brannigan or her voters that is no excuse. If you don't stand for something, you will stand for anything. I don't expect a response.

Speaker #4

Mohammed read from the Palos Township Code of Ethics discussing what officials and employees are supposed to do. The Public Interest must be the primary concern. You must listen to the public as citizens in Palos Township. He went on reading Section #1 Paragraph 7 of the Code.

Speaker #5

Hassam would like to congratulate community members and community leaders and activists for doing three years in this campaign. We are still going at it strong and we will never stop, you can bring armed security, etc. We will not stop; we will keep going. You want to keep these meetings going on zoom because you want to hide, and you have more control on zoom. We will keep demanding the resignation of Brannigan and keep demanding the resignation of all of you at some point. We will not stop until the township has no more racists in it. We will not stop until we have the people representing us serving us. It has been three years, and you tried every tactic to scare us, but we still kept going. We did more disturbance to your business than you did to us. Nothing you ever do will scare us, and nothing you do will ever stop us. We will still find ways to stop your meetings. We will find ways to come to your meeting, disrupt, and make it Hell!

Speaker #6

Jeffrey Calhoun

Thanks Colleen. I left you a few messages. Thumbs up to the Arabian Community. I think you are on board. The only way is to vote them out. I have my ongoing problems with my ditches for a while and still to no resolve yet since 2019. Each time I get the runaround from April (not true.) I don't know if any of the Trustees have received my phone calls as I have yet to have any returned to me. I guess you don't have to return phone calls or get in touch with people who work for you. I would really appreciate if you guys would be a little more "transparency." I never see anything about where all these job bids are going for all these jobs. Who is bidding on them? What happened to our website and don't tell me it is under construction after eight months? I could have a couple of high schoolers do it in one week. Supposedly you have a lawyer there, and he may be fumbling up

the books himself. I would appreciate it if I could get some phone calls back from my trustees for my problem, but it doesn't happen. I can see where everyone is getting mad because this Board is not "transparency" at all.

Speaker #7

Tammy Georgiou stated that Sharon Brannigan's hate speech is what brought us here to Palos Township for our sustained protest for three years and counting. Systems of white supremacy maintain the status quo and go unchecked in government. That is one way the police feel secure and emboldened in their continued violence against black and brown communities. This includes over policing black and brown bodies, and using taxpayers' money to hire armed security for township meetings when there is no threat. This is a perfect example of where systems of white supremacy are embedded in the township government. This kind of racist environment is how George Floyd was able to be murdered without any regard or possibility of repercussion. The police know that the local governments have their back, and they are going to cover for these types of murderers. So I ask the Palos Township to publicly denounce white supremacy and commit to anti-racist training for all employees and elected officials Also make a statement in support of "Black Lives Matter Movement" and also commit to supporting this movement throughout the township with sustainable actions and not just words. Tammy also stated that Colleen misspoke concerning the food pantry. "Colleen, the township itself does not run a food pantry. You are a drop off location for Stagg High students who need volunteer time. You are not running a food pantry so don't misinform." Tammy Georgiou also took her time to ask "If anyone on this call is interested in running against this board, please reach out to me directly!"

Speaker #8

Brannigan Is A Racist is the name that was given. Do any of you care if you endanger the community you are serving? Why has the township made no statements about Black Lives Matter and the Black Lives Matter Movement? These are questions the community deserves answers to. You act like you are doing something for this community. You are acting like you are doing a service when you are doing a disservice to every human being in the community that you supposedly serve. She continued calling us racists, etc.

Speaker #9

This speaker's name was unclear. She stated that they have been here every month for the past three years, and every month you never fail to show us your incompetence. You never failed to unanswer our questions. Now we want to know why you ignore our actual points. Do you ignore community members who have actual points? Where is your professionalism? None of you have cameras on. How are we supposed to trust you either way? What are you hiding? Show your cameras. Show your faces. Own up to what you have to say and answer our questions.

Speaker #10

Riffka said for the past three years you leave us with no answers. That is OK, we are just going to keep on coming. We are 37 members here, and we have been coming every month, and this shows the momentum of grassroots organizing. You have not said anything about "Black Lives Matter" so I wanted to ask you about that. Also, I know you won't answer my next question so I am going to do a reading on the lyrics of love. She read it aloud. She started laughing and then stopped reading.

Speaker #11

Jinan Chehade would like to say that they have shown up for the last three months and they do what our Trustees are supposed to do. She gives the definition of a representative. All she sees is completely opposite of this definition. Not only have you refused to care about the community, but you also refused to take a stand on issues such as the Black community and revolutions. This is disappointing and I can't wait to vote you out!

Speaker #12

Deliah is a DePaul graduate student studying politics and policy. I am Muslim and Palestinian. I have lived in this area my whole life and I have worked in politics in this area. All over Cook County and beyond we know what is happening here and we talk about it all the time. It is absolutely unacceptable that each of you

trustees will not force her to resign. Nolan, all of you should speak out against what she is saying. You have the power to do it. If you don't, we will find ways to overtake this trusteeship and this council. We are not first generation, we are not second generation, we have been here a lot longer than that. We pay taxes, we own businesses in this area. We will come up and represent this area. We are not leaving. If you do not speak up and make her resign, we will overtake them. We will! There is no other option. We are working on ways to fix this problem.

Speaker #13

Moto-Doug Fellows wanted to speak about hatred. Wisdom comes in many forms and from many cultures. Often the same wisdom comes from different cultures in varying but still recognizable shapes. We may say the wisdom is concrete and abstract. The piece of cultural wisdom I would like to share is found in many literatures. He shared a short Cherokee Fable about an old grandfather and his grandson. The fable was about the good wolf and the bad wolf fighting inside people. The grandson asked which wolf will win? The one you feed.

Speaker #14

Fatimeh Hussien read a quote about superiority that the prophet Mohammed said. She read this aloud. Sharon Brannigan feels that she does have superiority and she and her "white Nazis" feel and believe they are better than we are. You will never be better than us. We will overcome this. We will strive and we will get you out of that office. All of you and your fellow comrades that support your racism, and support everything that is wrong in this community. And when you guys are out, the community will start to strive. They are not striving under your fellowship, and under your "quote, unquote" trustees. That is all I have to say. Thank you.

Speaker #15

Thaer Mohammed

There was a "Black Lives Matter" protest in Palos Heights on June 12, 2020, and to my knowledge none of you trustees were there. Why not? Why when the people who represent us, and should be advocating for us are not there. All of us black,

Mexican, and white are holding hands and standing against you strong. Just get that in your heads please!

Executive Session:

There was no motion to enter Executive Session.

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Board, **Supervisor Schumann** asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. **Trustee Jeanes** moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:13 P.M. **Trustee Woods** seconded the motion. Roll call was taken. Ayes: Trustees Brannigan, Jeanes, Riley and Woods, Supervisor Schumann. Nays: None. Motion carried 5-0.

Meeting adjourned.

Jane A. Nolan

Clerk

Palos Township