

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

December 14, 2020

Call to Order

The General Meeting of the Palos Township Board was called to order by **Supervisor Schumann** at 6:32pm. There was a determination by the Supervisor that it was unfeasible due to the COVID 19 resurgence to have an administrative officer be physically present in the township at the regularly scheduled meeting location. 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, and Woods, Supervisor Schumann. Also present was Township Attorney, Erik Peck.

Absent: Trustee Riley

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 Minutes General Meeting November 9, 2020

Trustee Jeanes moved to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2020 General Meeting. **Trustee Woods** seconded the motion. Roll call was taken. Ayes: Trustees Brannigan, Jeanes, and Woods, Supervisor Schumann. Nays: None. Motion carried 4-0.

Special Presentations/Communications

There were no special presentations or communications at this meeting.

Reports of Officials

a. Supervisor/Treasurer

1. Sexual Harassment Training

Supervisor Schumann reported that our insurance representative provided a no charge training session that everyone who needed the training could participate in. They would be given an email to complete the training. **Clerk Nolan** stated that the training was good, and she learned many things. **Supervisor Schumann** stated that she has already completed this training in 2020 for her nursing license. That training was also very well done.

b. Clerk

1. Township Communicators Zoom Meeting Update

Clerk Nolan reported that she attended the December Township Communicators Meeting. She shared with the Board some of the ideas that were of interest. Some of the things townships are doing during Christmas are toy drives, blood drives, pictures with Santa, drive-up lunches and kindness cards. Hanover Township has an outside tent for some Township Services, such as placards, etc. She also informed the Board that Worth Township no longer has a Health Service.

Attorney's Report

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

Reports of Standing Committees

a. Finance and Administration – Trustee Woods

Trustee Woods stated that we have the agreement with our finance software company. They gave Trustee Woods a timeline of implementation by May. There is a lot of work to do. They will be in contact with our finance person, and with the Office Manager as he has named her chief contact person. This should be up and running by May.

b. Policy and Personnel – Supervisor Schumann

Supervisor Schumann stated that the nurses in the Health Service have already taken the Sexual Harassment Training through the CEU's they needed for renewal of their state license.

c. Technology, Automation and Information – Trustee Riley

Trustee Riley did not attend the meeting, so there was no report from this committee.

Trustee Woods reported that the server is up and running. They are currently changing the e-mail server over to Microsoft 365 because the current server we have will no longer be supported. Dennis is working on

getting the township the best price possible for this. Then everything will be ready for approval at the January meeting

d. Building and Grounds – Trustee Jeanes

1. Com Ed Lighting

Trustee Jeanes spoke to the person who is doing the Com Ed updating. He went back to them and they have agreed to treat Palos Township as a small business. They are going to install 41 LED fixtures which are LED omni-directional lights. There will be remote occupancy sensors which will turn the lights on and off when you enter and leave a room. It would cost over \$6,000.00 to do this, and the cost to the township will be \$307.50. **Trustee Jeanes** is waiting for him to schedule us at this time, and she will let Supervisor Schumann know when this is scheduled.

2. Township Camera Update

There will be a report on this in the near future.

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 to come before the Board.

New Business

There was no new business to come before the Board.

Citizens Wishing to Address the Board

Speaker #1

Laura Hartman

Laura reiterated everything she said in the last meeting and before that she said all this again. She stated once more that Trustee Brannigan lied under oath during a trial and has not been censored by the Board for this. She stated she has called in several times with varied success at different meetings. At what point is the Board going to censure Trustee Brannigan? She stated the definition of a trustee once again. If her racism and misuse of public funds are not enough and her perjury and disrespect of local police officers and taxpayers' money What is? Trustee Brannigan is the disruptive force.

Speaker #2

Racist

He is saying "hello". He said they don't want to be here. Sharon, we don't want to be here. We want this all to be over, but Sharon unless you resign it will not be over. It is not going to happen your way; it is going to happen our way. Unless you condemn her publicly or censure her, we are not going to stop and that is it. I promise you that we hate you even more than you hate us. We are going to keep doing this because it is survival for us, but you will never understand this. The racist stuff toward our community is scary. That influences people to go out and commit crimes against us. We have said this 300 times and we are going to keep saying it. We went to Sharon's florist shop on December 12, and we rallied there. Sharon and her husband got mad at us. It was great. We are going to keep doing it, and all the trustees – we may show up at your work place or your homes and we are going to keep doing it and we will see you again. Until she resigns, we will not stop and we hope you have a terrible Christmas and a terrible New Year.

Speaker #3

Irving Katzenburg

Irving stated that he felt Laura spoke very well and he respects her comments. He would like to say to all the other people that call in, "Go fight for Palestinian Rights!" "What have you been denied by this Board or by this city that has been racist against you?" What? What have you been denied? You haven't been denied

anything. As far as racist attacks against you---- you have probably been walking out of your liquor stores on the East side and been attacked. So please, one person who voiced their comments, and she has already been censured. Give it up and go fight for Palestinian Rights! Palestinian homes are being demolished. Put your energy where it belongs! Not in this!

Trustee Brannigan stated that she wanted the Clerk to get this down. She stated that “she never lied under oath at the trial so what I have been accused of is false.”

Speaker #4

Keith Survillas

Keith wanted to make a shout out to this Board. It is not easy putting yourselves out there, and to step up to the plate for service when service is called, especially those who have put themselves out there for years and whether some folks are right or wrong they stand up when they are called. They say the Pledge. It is just a salute to you. Keep on this good job!

Speaker #5

I-Phone

I am calling in today to tell you how disgraceful it is that this Board has shirked their duty as American citizens and American leaders. You have responsibility to stand up for what our country stands for. We stand for the welfare of all, for equal rights and of protection for all people. You have violated that confidence that was placed in you. It is disgraceful that you have not censured Sharon Brannigan for her racist comments and her bigoted comments and have not kicked her off your Board. She is a disgrace to the community and a disgrace to you as well. I can't believe that you people sit there and tolerate this racism. This country is under attack from this kind of vile, disgusting disease known as racism. It has been a thorn in America's side since the beginning and it is a terrible epidemic. We need to fight now as hard as possible, and you guys are going in the opposite direction. So, stop it. Do your job as an American.

Speaker #6

Nareman Taha

You report nothing and none of you have integrity or ethics. We are fighting for all Palos Township residents. I am fighting for everyone. That is our priority and as an American that is what we stand for. "How dare you come in and tell us what to do!" Where did you guys get this person from? Apparently, you don't know what this is about. You are coming from a place of rank and privilege and comfort. You don't even know the community.

Speaker #7

Chad Foxworthy

Sharon Brannigan, Palos Township Trustee, while the Palos Township Board has endured years of protestors demanding your resignation, we stood by you without any issued censure or request for resignation. However, your continued posting on social media and specifically your incendiary remarks regarding "Black Lives Matter" has prompted specific action. The Township cannot be put in a dangerous situation with potentially more protestors and an increasing number of groups involving themselves because of the divisive views that you continue to share under social media. We are all elected officials under the name of the Palos Township Independent Party, we hereby condemn your continued use of derogatory language toward minority groups and inform you that you will not be on any slate of candidates for township election.

As a Trustee in Palos Township, you were elected to represent all the residents without biases. Your social media postings prove that you cannot meet that standard. For this reason, the following members of the Palos Township Independent Party insist on your resignation. This was followed by a whole list of people.

These people do not have the courage to say anything in public, but they sent the letter to dear Sharon to let her know in private what they are too cowardly to admit in public. I think everybody knows who the liar is, and we know it is Sharon.

Nobody wants to say a word. Are you all scared of her or are you scared of the people who think just like her? If you are covering for a liar and racist you are going to get that all on yourselves.

Speaker # 8

Nuclear Aladeen

It would be unheard of for one group to force their views on another group. That is despicable that someone would force their views on us. This is America and we are all supposed to have our own views. Freedom of speech is well within our rights, and hate speech is not acceptable. We should really consider all of the groups' views on this.

Speaker #9

Mike Wolfe

Sometimes when these comments are made, they are an attack just on that. I view the words that Sharon Brannigan puts out – the anti-Arab and racist remarks. I view them as an attack on me almost as much as I view them as an attack on my brothers and sisters in the Arab American community. This is an attack on all people. We are united against these things, and we are going to stand together. Any idea that you are going to divide folks is not going to work.

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 Woods** moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:03 P.M. **Trustee Jeanes** seconded the motion. Roll call was taken. Ayes: Trustees Brannigan, Jeanes, and Woods, Supervisor Schumann. Nays: None. Motion carried 4-0.

Meeting adjourned.

Jane A. Nolan
Clerk
Palos Township