

**Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Elk Grove Township
Elk Grove Township Hall, 2400 S. Arlington Heights Road
March 4, 2020**

Minutes

- I. Call to Order. Supervisor Sweeney called the meeting to order at 5:45 pm.
- II. Roll Call. Present: Trustees Satern, Niewiardowski, Ingraffia. Keenley and Supervisor Sweeney.
- III. Public Comment. Melissa Cayer of Arlington Heights offered comments on taxes.
- IV. Agency Interviews and Grant Approvals. Supervisor Sweeney reported that Fellowship Housing Corporation was unable to attend the meeting due to sickness. The Board agreed to allow them to present at the March Regular Board of Trustees meeting
 - A. Arts Refreshing the Soul (A.R.TS). Kim Stadler, the Executive Director and teacher, presented. A.R.T.S uses the arts as a tool to raise the academic, social and emotional potential of at-risk youth. They are currently working with 592 pre-school through high school youth. The request for \$1000 grant is to support a once a week teen moms group drumming and arts experience program. They are projecting that 30 Elk Grove Township teen moms and family will participate in the program. They will be operating the program in cooperation with the District 214 alternative education programs at the District's Forest View campus in Elk Grove Township
 - B. Earth Paint. Chistophir McCarty presented. Earth paint runs a paint recycling program that employees the disabled. The program benefits both the environment and the disabled. Initially, the disabled employees were largely from Little City but recent transportation issues have limited their participation. The current disabled employees are from across the northwest suburbs but, as of today, none are from Elk Grove Township. The grant request is for \$22,000 to provide salaries and transportation for two disabled Elk Grove Township residents and a salary for a job coach.
 - C. Hopeful Beginnings (St. Mary Services). Jennifer Valentine and a caseworker presented. Hopeful Beginnings provides maternity, miscarriage, postpartum depression, and motherhood counselling to area residents. They also provide limited adoption services. The organization is only two years old but the demand for its services is growing rapidly. Counseling is provided largely at their Palatine office but they will arrange for counseling services at the traditional District 214 High Schools if requested. They also run a teen mothers program in coordination with the District 214 alternative schools which are located on the District's Forest View campus. Weekly group meetings are held for teen mothers at Forest View that are focused on motherhood, parenting and high school graduation. Their \$5000 grant request is for support of the teen mothers program.

D. Cleanup - Give Back. Donna Adam, the coordinator of Cleanup – Give Back presented. The organization offerings individuals, groups, schools and companies the opportunity to make their community better through assisting in organizing clean up campaigns. They work with local officials to identify those areas that are in most need of clean up and to schedule clean up dates/times. They work within the community to recruit and coordinate cleanup teams and, at the end of the cleanup event, arrange for the proper disposal of the collected trash. In addition, they provide the cleanup teams with vests, grabbers, trash bags, gloves, water and signage. Cleanup-Give Back is requesting \$7500 to help defray the cost of the materials provided the cleanup teams.

E. League of Women Voters (LWV). Heidi Graham, President of the League of Women Voters of Arlington Heights, Mount Prospect and Buffalo Grove presented. The LWV is a national, nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in the government, works to increase understanding of public policy issues and influences public policy through education and advocacy. One of this chapter's programs is to encourage high school students to register to vote when they turn 18. Through District 214 high schools, they distribute voter registration information packages to all students on their 18th birthday. Each package costs \$1.00. Approximately 3500 packages are distributed each year. The request for \$3000 is to help cover the cost of the voter registration information packages distributed to the 18 year old students.

Supervisor Sweeney open a discussion on the 2020-2021 agency grant requests. Trustee Ingraffia asked if there were any guidelines to assist the Board in making their funding decisions. Supervisor Sweeney acknowledged that the Board had talked about establishing an agency grant policy/guidance last fiscal year but that such policy/guidance was never drafted. He stated that once the move to the new Township Hall was completed he would ensure that such policy/guidance was addressed. Clerk Busse stated that he already had a draft policy written which the Board could consider when desired. Supervisor Sweeney argued that, until there was policy/guidance in place, he would recommend that all current (FY 2019-2020) recipients of Township agency grants who request a grant for the 2020-2021 fiscal year should be approved for the grant amounts that they are currently receiving. Regarding the first time grant requests for the new fiscal year (2020-2021), he recommended that only the grant requests for social service programs and not the requests for civic service programs be approved. He felt that the real community need lies in the social service area. He also felt that civic services can often have political overtones to them that the Board should avoid. He recommended that Cleanup-Give Back and the League of Women Voters requests not be approved. Trustee Satern disagreed with the exclusion of civic service programs and argued that civic related programs, like protecting the environmental and encouraging voter registration, have just as positive of an effect on a community as social service programs. After further discussion the Board consensus was to disapprove the Cleanup-Give Back and LWV grant requests. Clerk Busse asked if the Board felt the Earth Paint request for \$22,000 for two disabled Township residents and a jobs counselor seemed reasonable and if they felt the cost-benefit was acceptable. The

consensus of the Board was that the cost-benefit was not attractive. Supervisor Sweeney suggested that the Board consider assisting the organization with the disabled transportation issues they are experiencing. He recommended that the Board not approve the Earth Paint agency grant request but, instead, allow him to contact Mr. McCarthy to see if there is any way that the Township could assist his organization with solving their disabled transportation problem. He would report back to the Board with his findings. The Board concurred with Supervisor Sweeney's recommendation. After some additional discussion, Supervisor Sweeney call for a motion to approve the grant requests for those organizations that are receiving an agency grant for FY 2019-2020 and are requesting an agency grant for FY 2020-2021 in the amount that was approved for FY 2019-2020. Such a motion was made by Trustee Satern and seconded by Trustee Niewiardowski. *The motion passed on a 5-0 roll call vote.* Supervisor Sweeney then asked for a motion to approve agency grants for A.R.T.S, Hopeful Beginnings and Fellow Housing Corporation in the amounts requested for FY 2020-2021. He reminded the Board that Fellowship Housing Corporation would be presenting at the next regular Board meeting before the budget final approval vote. He pointed out that its grant request could be removed from the budget if so desired at that time. A motion was made by Trustee Satern and seconded by Trustee Keenley. *The motion passed on a 5-0 roll call vote*

- V. Adjournment. There being no further business, Supervisor Sweeney ask for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion to adjourn was made by Trustee Satern and seconded by Trustee Niewiardowski. The motion passed on a voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



George Busse
Elk Grove Township Clerk