

**Committee Meeting of the Whole**  
**Elk Grove Township Hall, 600 Landmeier, Elk Grove Village, IL 60007**  
**February 15, 2021**

**Minutes**

- I. Call to Order. Supervisor Sweeney called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.
- II. Roll Call. Present: Trustee Satern (via Zoom), Niewiardowski, Ingraffia (via Zoom), Keenley and Supervisor Sweeney.
- III. Public Comment. None
- IV. Agency Grant Presentations.

A. AMITA Health Center for Mental Health. AMITA was represented by Julie Panicali and Karen Proctor. AMITA Health Center for Mental Health is a community mental health organization. Over twenty years ago the organization introduced a school-based mental health program focused on the mental health needs of children and adolescents. The program's mission is to ensure that all students in Chicago's northwest suburbs have access to early mental health education and intervention regardless of their family's financial capabilities. The program currently operates in seven public high schools, five public middle schools, and eight parochial schools. The program is supported entirely through donations and grants with no cost to the students or the schools. AMITA is requesting a \$32,000 grant from the Township to fund the placement of a mental health counselor one day a week at Elk Grove High School and one day a week at Rolling Meadows High School. These counselors will provide supplementary services that go beyond the schools limited counseling capabilities. Typically, the AMITA counselors provide individual and group counseling, crises intervention, special need referrals, and mental health educational classes for students, parents and teachers. During school year 2019-2020 over 590 Elk Grove Township students and parents utilized the program's services.

B. Connections of Illinois. Connections was represented by the founder Fred Chin and by Karen Kelly. Connections establishes relationships and works closely with other area social service organizations. Their mission is to provide supplemental assistance to other organizations who find themselves unable to completely meet the needs of their clients. The assistance they provide includes case management, financial counseling, and referral services. Connections currently works filling service gaps with over 45 social services organizations. In some situations, Connections will directly assist individuals who come to them seeking help. This direct assistance usually involves financial counseling and emergency monetary help. Connections is requesting a grant of \$5000 for the sole purpose of providing financial support to Township residents in need of "last dollar" assistance for food, clothing, transportation and housing. The support will be essential needs that are beyond what the Township is able to provide. The funds will not be used for any other purposes outside of the Township. Connections' operational costs are totally borne by the Chin family, so every grant dollar will go to meet the needs of a resident.

C. Shelter Inc. Shelter canceled their presentation for unknown reasons. Shelter is requesting \$70,000 to support programs involved with foster care, emergency group homes, transitional living, youth experiencing homelessness, abuse prevention, mental health therapy, and referral hotlines. Shelter received a Township grant of \$60,000 in 2019 but did not request funding in 2020. They reported that in 2020 over 160 Township residents made use of their services.

Supervisor Sweeney lead a discussion about the presentations and the agency grant amounts currently proposed in the 2021-2022 Township budget. He recommended that, given the difficulties created by the current health crisis, that the Board fully fund this fiscal year's grant requests. He also suggested that, once the health crisis is past, the Board direct a thorough review of the grant process to ensure that the program is achieving its stated purpose. There was Board concurrence. Supervisor Sweeney reminded the Board that the final 2021-2022 budget, which includes the agency grants, will be voted on at the next regular board meeting on February 22<sup>nd</sup>.

- V. Adjourn. There being no further business, 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 7: 53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



George Busse  
Elk Grove Township Clerk.