



ANTIOCH TOWNSHIP SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

December 9, 2023

- I. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 10:00 A.M. by Supervisor Shaughnessy.
- II. **The Pledge of Allegiance:** Supervisor Shaughnessy led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- III. **Roll Call:** Roll call indicated the following Trustees were present: Shepard, Turner, and Davis. Also present were Supervisor Shaughnessy, Deputy Assessor Jackson, Clerk Dyer Dawe, and participants April Dattalo, Renee Mehring, and Bruce Goeckner. Trustee Smouse was absent.
- IV. **Citizen Comments:** None.
- V. **Northern Illinois University Center for Governmental Studies Strategic Planning Workshop:**
 1. Mel Heriksen - Assistant Director, Alli Hoebing – Research Specialist, and Mindy Schneiderman – Assistant Director from Northern Illinois University (NIU) led the workshop. An icebreaker activity was completed with everyone selecting an item from a table and sharing what they wish to see for the Township. NIU shared the survey results. 520 surveys were completed and 2,000 Township households received them. Marketing Systems Group in Pennsylvania provided the random sampling. It covered the topics of Awareness, use and satisfaction with services provided by the Township, current needs, Antioch area parks and facilities, future plans, and communication about the Township. The survey was multi-method: an e-mail invitation was sent to complete it online with seven reminders, mail was sent to non-responders, then phone calls made to non-responders. The data was weighted by gender, age, race/ethnicity, and annual household income. Overall, most respondents were satisfied with the quality of service provided by the Township. Increased awareness of services provided is needed. The survey suggested the Township consider helping residents with finding affordable dental care, property tax assistance to stay in homes, finding affordable healthcare, finding tutoring service for children, finding childcare, paying for childcare, and rent/mortgage assistance. Additional themes were the need for increased awareness of the available parks and recreation facilities, keeping the Township at the current location, creating a 501c3 for parks and senior services, and examining methods to communicate with residents. Stakeholder feedback was also received through three focus groups of ten to fifteen participants from three groups: front- and mid-line staff/business group, intergovernmental groups/civic organizations, and invitational residents. The themes from the focus group were to showcase the natural resources and amenities, collaboration and communication, and organizational advancement – services and programs. Interviews were also conducted with elected officials and administrative staff. Interview themes showed strengths in senior services programs, communication, general assistance work, proactive Township board and strong staff, smoothly run Highway Department, residents are assets, Assessor’s office does a great job explaining tax bills, Hyper-Reach is a good program, and there is lots of growth. Challenges that were identified were senior services transportation, all services in different locations (Assessor’s office, senior center), rough initial merger with Village senior services,

external communications, balancing small town feel with growth, creating a unified vision and mission, Main Street suffering, balancing proactivity and caution with spending. The top priorities coming out of the focus groups and interviews are consider moving the community center to an Antioch address, bring all Township services including senior services and the Assessor's Office in one physical location, complete Thelen Park, collaborate more with intergovernmental partners, collect information from all intergovernmental partners and agencies to create a one-stop-shop for community communications.

2. Visions of tomorrow for the Township were discussed and controlling negativity on social media, functioning as one Antioch, renewal of the park Co-op, the creation of a 501c3, larger senior services transportation bus, infrastructure to support water and sewer for the Chain O'Lakes, improving the Chain O'Lakes ecosystem, improving roads, modernizing transportation, continued growth of a stable business community, enhanced parks/playgrounds, and beautification of existing dead space were addressed.
3. Three small breakout groups with no quorum present in any were formed for a strength/weakness/opportunity/challenge (SWOC) analysis. The full group then discussed the themes that arose across all three groups – a new building, cooperation, and fiscal responsibility. Strengths identified were diversity of the board, fiscal responsibility, transparency, passion and commitment to move forward, a cohesive board, improved relationship with the Village. Challenges discussed were siloed work, more cross training opportunities needed, archaic senior services payment options, Township and Village communications, fiscal challenges, priorities with the Village, community agenda with the Village, and transportation services including cross state.
4. Three small breakout groups with no quorum present in any were formed for short term and long-term goal development. The full group then discussed the goals identified in each group. Short term goals that came out were a new building, park co-op and 5013c with the Village, completion of Thelen Park, website and communications, enhanced intergovernmental collaboration and communication, Osmond Park, obtain money from video gaming, and explore revenue generation ideas. Long term goals addressed were a community center/indoor sports complex without government offices, a public sewer system to protect the Chain O'Lakes, look for opportunities to increase the Township's value, community and government partnerships, and optimize a new building.
5. Next step is NIU consolidating the data from the survey, interviews, focus groups, and workshop to create Township goals. A survey will be sent to rank the goals. The goals will be turned into an action plan with timelines for an internal guide. NIU will provide an executive summary, the survey results, and action planning progress. Supervisor Shaughnessy noted if a new board comes in something tangible can be given to them.

VI. New Business: Trustee Shepard shared there is a potential solar farm coming into the Village.

VII. Executive Session: None.

VIII. Adjournment: There was no further business to come before the board. Trustee Shepard made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Trustee Davis. Motion carried with a voice vote, all in favor and the meeting adjourned at 2:33 P.M. Yes: 4, No: 0, Absent: 1 - Smouse.

Meeting place: 1625 Deep Lake Road, Lake Villa, IL 60046

Respectfully submitted,

Meghan Dyer Dawe