

MINUTES OF THE YORK TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Regular Meeting: Tuesday, January 13, 2026

Call to Order: Supervisor Tim Murray called the meeting to order at 7:28 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Clerk Gary Kleppe called the roll (at right). Also attending: Attorney Kelly A. Krauchun of Odelson, Murphey, Frazier, and McGrath, acting as legal advisor; Highway Commissioner Jim Kehring; and Assessor Anthony Pacilli.

Trustee C. Joseph Amore	<i>Present</i>
Trustee Engy Sutherland	<i>Present</i>
Trustee Al Rago	<i>Present</i>
Trustee Ilse Messner	<i>Present</i>
Supervisor Tim Murray	<i>Present</i>
Quorum	<i>Met</i>

Minutes Approval: Trustee Amore moved to approve the December 9 Regular Board Meeting minutes, seconded by Trustee Rago. On roll call, all voted in favor of the motion.

Public Comments: None. The Supervisor read a Civility Pledge which has been signed by all current York Township officials.

Bills for Payment: Trustee Messner moved to approve the bills for payment from the audit report of 1-13-26 for \$557,074.39, seconded by Trustee Sutherland. No discussion. On roll call, all members voted yes; motion carried.

Staff Reports: We gave over 400 rides, and are looking to hire an additional driver. General Assistance has four active cases. Our Adopt A Family program helped over 101 families this year; major donors to the program were Willowbrook High School, Lombard Church, St. Alexander's Church, The Gathering Lighthouse, Peace Lutheran Church, and DuPage County's "Shop with the Sheriff." The Food Pantry served over 352 families, well over 800 individuals, providing on average over 25 pounds of product per client per visit. Joanne and Jim Tyree sponsored holiday hams this year. We received over \$1000 in donations from Lombard VFW, West Suburban Teacher's Union, and a variety of individuals. The Senior Center celebrated two birthdays this month of persons of ages 95 and 97, helped 608 people in person or by phone, and served over 1200 people for lunch in December. Our holiday party with over 150 attendees featured Illinois State House Speaker Welch, who gave out free vouchers. We have 786 followers on social media with over 600 visits, 472 contacts and interactions. The Highway Department dealt with seven snow events during December. The new Assessor took office on January 1 and hired three deputies with no lapse in service. His priorities are to insure equitable and accurate assessments, modernize operations, lead in transparency, increase media outreach, and assist residents in obtaining exemptions.

Trustee Reports: Trustee Rago reported that we have an outline of changes that will be made to the yorktwsp.com website, hopefully by February. Trustee Amore reported that the Raised Bed project will begin this weekend, with thanks to Homer Garza of Home Depot who donated some materials and discounted others. Trustee Messner commends her fellow Trustees for their hard work.

Chief of Staff Promotion: Trustee Rago moved to approve the job description for the new Chief of Staff position; no one seconded the motion, killing it. The Supervisor moved to table the discussion of compensation for this position until after the Closed Session item, seconded by Trustee Rago. On roll call, all members voted yes.

Senior Advisory Committee: Trustee Sutherland moved to approve the Senior Advisory Committee guidelines and roles, seconded by Trustee Amore. Trustee Sutherland asked whether we should spend some time discussing the details. The Supervisor said that this committee had been dissolved by the previous administration, and that the current draft was developed with Townships of Illinois. Trustee Sutherland noted that at least a third of the committee had to be 55 or older (is this a legal requirement? Attorney Krauchun didn't know) and would like to clarify how this committee will integrate with Board operations. Krauchun suggested that the statute could be interpreted broadly. Trustee Sutherland asked how the number of committee members was determined. The Supervisor answered that this is up to us and the proposal was developed by himself and staff. Trustee Amore suggested that younger members could still have valuable input, and asked whether we will be advertising for these positions on social media; Supervisor Murray answered yes. With no further discussion, the roll was called, and all five members voted yes, passing the motion.

Youth Advisory Committee: Trustee Amore moved to approve the guidelines and roles, and Trustee Messner seconded. Trustee Amore asked whether such a committee currently existed, and if this one would be promoted. The Supervisor said that the previous Board had a youth committee and that this one would be promoted. Trustee Messner asked whether these committees would have Board members as liaisons; this is not a requirement, the Supervisor answered. Trustee Sutherland asked whether these committees are subject to the Open Meetings Act; we will conduct every committee that way, the Supervisor answered, and said that there is a budget line item of \$15,000 for the Youth Committee. Trustee Sutherland suggested requiring a minimum number of committee members to be young people; others agreed. On roll call, all voted to approve the motion.

Highway Commissioner Attorney: Trustee Messner moved to approve the Highway Commissioner's request to hire legal counsel of his choice, seconded by Trustee Amore. No discussion. On roll call all members voted yes.

Strategic Planning Discussion: Supervisor Murray recently received authorization from the Supervisor of Schaumburg Township for his administrator to consult on our planning process; Trustees are invited to meet with her individually. Trustee Messner asked whether needs assessment voted on months ago would be part of this, and Trustee Rago asked whether this consultation would encompass the 704 Mental Health Board. The Supervisor answered yes to both.

Budget Planning: Board members had been invited to propose new services that could be offered and/or old ones that could be cut. Trustee Amore suggested adding a Community Health Office similar to what Hanover Township has. Trustee Messner asked how Hanover's office is funded; Trustee Amore suggested touring their facility and asking such questions there. Trustee Rago liked the idea but noted that Hanover's budget is three times York's. Trustee Messner noted that we already offer many health services but would need more data on costs; would not want to get rid of anything. Trustee Sutherland said that Hanover applies for a lot of grants, and we could do that. Trustee Messner pointed out that some services are available to us for free. Trustee Rago said that the Needs Assessment would suggest some things. Trustee Amore said that most services currently offered are screenings. The Clerk said that there had previously been a proposal to extend transportation services to all age groups, which many current Board members were involved in trying to get on the ballot as a referendum at the 2024 public town hall but was voted down; we could consider doing this. Trustee Sutherland would like to see more youth events with opportunities to volunteer.

Appropriation Budget: The Supervisor said that specific appropriations would be voted on over the next two months. The current budget is in the Board packet and on the website. Trustee Rago commended the staff for supporting transparency. Trustee Sutherland suggested there might be math errors; this would be discussed offline later.

Approval of Hiring and Salary Ranges: Trustee Messner pointed out that Finance and HR duties are in the job description of the Chief of Staff, and suggested that we don't need these as separate positions. The Supervisor agreed, but had put this on the agenda in case the Board wanted to discuss alternatives. The only jobs open now are maintenance person and part-time driver. Trustee Sutherland asked whether it would be beneficial to have an additional employee to manage the Food Pantry during expanded hours; the Supervisor said that it could be run by volunteers and he is working with the insurance company to make it possible to transition to this. Trustee Amore suggested offering staff flex time; others agreed.

Closed Session: The Supervisor moved that the Board adjourn to Closed Session pursuant to Section 2 (c) (1) of the Open Meetings Act to consider compensation of one

or more specific employees. Trustee Messner seconded. On roll call, all members voted yes. The meeting was adjourned to Closed Session at 8:27 PM.

At 9:26 PM the Supervisor reconvened the regular Board meeting with all members still present.

Chief of Staff Promotion, again: Trustee Rago moved to reconsider the previous agenda item dealing with the job description and compensation for the Chief of Staff position, seconded by Trustee Amore. On roll call, all members voted yes. Trustee Messner moved to create the Chief of Staff position as described with an annual salary of \$115,000, seconded by Trustee Sutherland. On roll call, all members voted yes. Trustee Messner then moved to promote Stacy Schroeder into the Chief of Staff position with retroactive pay to October 1, seconded by Trustee Sutherland. On roll call, all members voted yes.

New business: Trustee Amore suggested discussing at the February meeting changes to the Food Pantry operations: Standardizing ordering, maintaining a balanced inventory, carrying non-traditional food items, staffing, and spacing. Trustee Rago received an email from a constituent asking the Board to pass a resolution supporting uprisings in Iran. Trustee Amore suggested that a Board resolution could support all freedom-loving people over the world. Clerk Kleppe urged caution, as this effort seems likely to be part of a regime change campaign of the type often fomented by the CIA and aligned forces, and such operations rarely turn out well for the people of the country in question.

Old Business: The Clerk noted that there is a backlog of Closed Meeting minutes that still need to be reviewed (we are supposed to do this every six months). The Supervisor said that this would happen after the session next month. This would **not** include minutes of tonight's session – these go back 20-30 years. Trustee Amore asked whether the old Deputy Supervisor position would be eliminated. The Supervisor responded that this position has been eliminated by default since it will never be filled.

Adjournment: Trustee Rago moved to adjourn until the next scheduled meeting, seconded by Trustee Amore, approved by unanimous show of hands. The meeting adjourned at 9:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary Kleppe". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gary" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Kleppe".

Gary Kleppe

York Township Clerk