

Dundee Township Board of Trustees – Regular Meeting  
April 21, 2021

Supervisor Glees called the April meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 7:03PM at the Dundee Township Meeting Room, 611 East Main Street, Suite #201, East Dundee, IL. Supervisor Glees read the notice regarding the modifications to the IL Open Meetings Act as contained in SB 2135 which modified the procedures necessary to conduct a meeting via remote access. As required in the Act, the meeting will be video recorded, and the recording will be made available to the public via the Township’s website.

**Roll call:** Supervisor Glees and Office Manager Block were in attendance at the Township office. Trustees Harney, Johnson, Schaffer, and Ahrens were participating in the meeting via remote access.

Trustee Harney led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Agenda:**

Trustee Harney made a motion to approve the Agenda for the April 21, 2021 Board of Trustees meeting as presented with a second by Trustee Johnson. Supervisor Glees called the motion to approve the Agenda as presented and with a roll call vote Supervisor Glees, and Trustees Harney, Johnson, Ahrens, and Schaffer voted “aye”; the motion to approve the Agenda was approved.

**Minutes/Treasurer’s Report:**

Trustee Schaffer made the motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the March 17, 2021 Board of Trustees regular meeting and approve the minutes as presented. Trustee Ahrens seconded the motion. Supervisor Glees called the motion to approve the minutes from the March 17, 2021 Board of Trustees Regular Budget meeting and upon roll call vote Supervisor Glees and Trustees Harney, Ahrens, Johnson, and Schaffer voted “aye” – motion carried.

Trustee Harney made the motion to accept the March 31, 2021 Treasurer’s Report and Financial Reports through April 20, 2021 as presented subject to audit – Trustee Johnson seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, Supervisor Glees and Trustees Harney, Ahrens, Johnson, and Schaffer voted “aye” – motion carried.

**Reports:**

**Kane County Board Member Chris Kious:** Mr. Kious updated the Board on several County programs including:

- a) He noted the grand opening of the new Kane County multiuse building which houses the new Coroner’s office, and the Office of Emergency Management would be holding an open house for the public on April 30th and tours will be given between the hours of 3-6 PM for the general public.
- b) The Kane County Board adopted a revised ordinance to permit the sale and growing of cannabis in unincorporated areas.
- c) Kane County has received approximately \$13 million in Cares Act money which is earmarked to assist low-income families with rental payments. The program is designed to help “Mom and Pop” landlords and not corporate landlords. There is a \$20,000 maximum payment per landlord. The County Board has voted to approve a contract with the Illinois Department of Housing to administer this program.
- d) He noted that Kane County will have a total of 3 permanent Covid 19 vaccination sites.
- e) Finally, he noted that the County has voted to go green in their purchasing and require that all items purchased be from renewable sources.

**Highway Commissioner:** Mr. Sinnett noted that the staff is continuing to work on preparing the roads, picking up trash along the right of ways and general maintenance on the equipment.

**708 Mental Health Board :** 708 Board Chairman, Paul Setze stated that he had hoped to say that the Board had released a list of resources that they are working with and that the Board had asked for applications from these

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resources for services within the Township. Unfortunately, these actions have been canceled due to the Kane County Clerk's refusal to fund the 708 Board Levy.

**Open Space:** Supervisor Glees presented the Open-Space report as written. She reported that the Open Space Department had conducted a number of successful burns including one at the Dixie Briggs West Prairie, a second at Salamander Springs and also a burn at Snuffy's Prairie in March. She said plants are beginning to grow back in these areas. She related the story of a Cooper's Hawk being trapped in the Open Space barn and the trials and tribulations of getting the Hawk to leave the building. She also reported that the Open Space staff has installed additional doggy stations by the various trailheads. Finally, she noted that at the Braewood trailhead, volunteer workers have planted 2 trees and installed fencing as well as doing a lot of clearing. This was done by over 30 volunteers.

**Supervisor:** Supervisor Glees reported on the following items:

- a) Supervisor Glees received the follow-up report from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources regarding the Chronic Wasting Disease results in Kane County. The report noted that in Kane County there are 4 management zones, and the staff collected their total allotment of deer (21 deer) from the zones. Fortunately, Chronic Wasting Disease was not detected in any of the samples.
- b) With regards to the Wencek house, the Township currently does not have a property tax exemption on the land area due to the rental house being included in the pin number. It will be in the best interest of the Township to work to subdivide the property so that an exemption can be filed on the vacant land.

Trustee Johnson asked a question regarding a recent coyote issue where a pack of dead coyotes were dumped on a property near the Dixie Briggs site. He noted that the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) police came to the site to investigate, but he has not heard the results of the investigation. Supervisor Glees stated that she had written a report and shared it with the IDNR, but they said that there would be no action taken as the incident occurred on private property.

**Assessor:** Assessor Bielak reported that he and his staff are reviewing the properties in each subdivision. He again confirmed that the new State of Illinois equalization factor is 1.023%. This means that all properties will increase in value by that factor unless changes are made by the Assessor's office. Mr. Bielak noted that the real estate market has been really hot, and he anticipates that next year will be a different story with regards to values. He anticipates that his department will close their books by the end of May. The staff is also beginning their work on measuring new construction in the area.

**Office Manager:** No Report

**Trustees:** Trustee Johnson noted that the Dixie Briggs site is becoming very popular. He also noted that some biking is occurring and believes the signs restricting biking at the facility are too small. He believes the site needs improvement in the overall signage and that the problem stems from mountain bikers preferring the most sensitive areas at the facility in which to ride.

**Public Comments:** Supervisor Glees opened the Public Comment period.

- 1) Diana Eckert of Roselle, member of the Mental Health Board in her area, commented that she was here because she had heard of the problem and wants to see how it goes. She stated that out of her last property tax bill of over \$11,000, only \$31.09 went to the 708 Board.

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- 2) Bernie May of Family Services commented that they provide a wide array of services to individuals. At the present time, they are serving over 287 individuals from Dundee Township, and they have 83 persons from the Township on their waitlist to receive services. The area is in a Mental Health crisis and she would request the Township file an injunction against Kane County to right the wrong.
- 3) Cheryl Anderley of West Dundee commented about the news article in a recent Kane County Connects which showed that Mental Health issues are the number 1 health priority in Kane County.
- 4) Sue Berna of West Dundee stated she was here to listen to the response regarding the 708 Board.
- 5) Dalila of Alegria LLC stated she was here to help lend support for the 708 Board.
- 6) Dawn Arimura of Sleepy Hollow stated she is the Clinical Supervisor at Bloomingdale Township and also a member of the Dundee Township Mental Health Board. She stated that in the 3 years that Bloomingdale Township has had a 708 Board, they have been able to fund 8 ½ new therapists including 4 in the police department. The added therapists help serve low-income individuals and also work in the schools. She believes the Kane County Clerk illegally overturned the referendum for the Dundee Township 708 Mental Health Board. She emphasized the strong need to help Mental Health patients. She said the Kane County Clerk cannot overturn the referendum and feels Dundee Township must sue to execute the will of the voters and to fund the critically needed Mental Health programs. She believes we need to provide services to young people.
- 7) Denna Coda of the DeKalb County Mental Health Board expressed her support for the Dundee Township Mental Health Board.
- 8) Dean Scripps stated he is a long-term resident of the area. He believes the Board must address the Kane County Clerk's actions. He stated his wife worked for over 13 years at Ecker Center and that they have knowledge of the critical Mental Health issues. He stated he would be satisfied with the increase in the tax bills in order to help cover Mental Health expenditures. Not usually in favor of lawsuits but would recommend that if it is necessary.
- 9) Dr. Holly McNeil of West Dundee stated she has been an educator for 23 years and expressed frustration over the Kane County Clerk's decision to cancel the 708 Board Levy. She gave an example of students apologizing for not being able to do their homework as they are living with Mental Health issues and need help. She believes that the Township cannot ignore this matter.
- 10) Jackie Bakker noted that the 2020-2021 Community Health Survey said that Mental Health issues were the top concern and currently there is no 708 Board that is active in northern Kane County.
- 11) Jodie Dart from the Associates of Mental Health expressed her support for the 708 Board.
- 12) Lori Baker of AID reviewed the Mental Health services provided by AID. She again referenced the April survey which showed Mental Health as a top priority in the area. She stated that currently 84 Township residents are on the waiting list to get Mental Health services through Medicaid. She stated the voters will has been usurped and that the Township needs to do legal action to get the Kane County Clerk to do his job.
- 13) Mark Avelar questioned why the Township missed the PTELL requirements. He stated that with the new administration coming into the Township, he did not want to see tax dollars used to do litigation. He recommended that the Board not take any action at this time. He stated the people of the Township were not properly informed about the referendum. He asked if the 708 Board could continue to develop a plan and then proceed with the plan once a new referendum is drafted and adopted.
- 14) Mike Tennis of Sleepy Hollow asked the Township to listen to what Mark Avelar had said. He also recommended the Township put together a detailed cost estimate and redo the referendum. He emphasized that the referendum be reworded using the PTELL language.
- 15) Maria of West Dundee said she was here to support other residents and support the 708 Board. She stated that mental illness is a reality, and that educators and law enforcement agencies need support to handle mental illness cases.

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- 16) Paula Lauer of East Dundee stated that she supports the 708 Board and that Mental Health care, and its concerns are undervalued. She raised a question regarding the status of the 708-Board referendum in Elgin Township and whether a lawsuit had been filed in that matter. Carol Grom replied it is the same situation as Dundee Township, and no action has yet been taken. Ms. Lauer asked if there were any economies of scale in combining the 2 lawsuits into a single case.
- 17) Pop Murray of Roselle stated that he has worked as an organizer for the adoption of 708 referendums. He noted that in his opinion the language in the Mental Health Board law states that a 708-Board referendum is exempt from PTELL. He stated he hopes the issue can be resolved.
- 18) Wendy Witt of West Dundee, who is a local pastor and member of the Dundee Township 708 Board reviewed her support for the adoption of the 708 Board Levy.
- 19) 15 additional written comments regarding the 708 Board were submitted prior to the meeting. They were read at the meeting and are included as an attachment at the end of these minutes.
- 20) Chris Kempf commented that he objected to the Supervisor exceeding the 15-minute total time limit for public comments at the meeting.

**New Business:**

At the conclusion of the public comment period, Supervisor Glees suggested that the Board modify the Agenda and move to executive session in order to discuss the potential legal actions against the Kane County Clerk regarding the 708 Mental Health Board Levy. Trustee Johnson made the motion to enter executive session to discuss potential litigation with a second by Trustee Harney. Upon roll call vote, Supervisor Glees and Trustees Harney, Ahrens, Johnson, and Schaffer voted “aye” – motion carried. The Board entered executive session at 8:45 PM.

At 9:30 PM, Trustee Johnson made the motion to return to open session with a second by Trustee Harney. Upon roll call vote, Supervisor Glees and Trustees Harney, Ahrens, Johnson, and Schaffer voted “aye” – motion carried.

**Review/Approve Legal Actions against the Kane County Clerk in the 708 Mental Health Levy:**

Trustee Johnson made a motion to approve legal actions to reverse the Kane County Clerk’s decision regarding the Dundee Township 708 Mental Health Board Levy. Trustee Harney seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, Supervisor Glees and Trustees Harney and Johnson voted “aye” – Trustees Ahrens and Schaffer voted “nay” - motion carried. Trustee Johnson asked that counsel keep the Trustees informed of actions taken.

**Review/Approve Resolution #2020-002 – May is Motorcycle Awareness Month:**

Supervisor Glees presented Resolution 2020-002-May is Motorcycle Awareness Month. After a brief discussion, Trustee Ahrens made the motion to approve the resolution as presented with a second by Trustee Harney. Upon roll call vote, Supervisor Glees and Trustees Harney, Ahrens, Johnson, and Schaffer voted “aye” – motion carried.

**Review/Approve AID Agreement for the Ride in Kane Program:**

Supervisor Glees presented the new AID/Ride in Kane agreement. She noted that this agreement allows Dundee Township to get funding to help support the cost of the rides. Also, the agreement as necessary in order to allow the ride program to continue. Trustee Harney made the motion to approve the AID/Ride in Kane agreement as presented with a second by Supervisor Glees. Upon roll call vote, Supervisor Glees and Trustees Harney, Ahrens, Johnson, and Schaffer voted “aye” – motion carried.

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**Discuss retention and maintaining video, written, legal files, information systems and data retention for all departments for the upcoming transition to the new Board:**

The Board reviewed the types of data that need to be maintained and are part of the Township's formal records and the policies which govern the review and possible disposal of these records.

**Discuss transition to the new Board, documentation of financial requirements normally included as part of the annual township meeting and how best to facilitate the transition to the new Board and departments/divisions:**

The Board reviewed the financial documentation which would be normally part of the Annual Township Meeting and received a commitment that this documentation would be prepared prior to the completion of the transition. The Board also briefly discussed the facilitation of the transition to the new Board.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Presentation/Review of slides on the breakdown of expenses for FY 2022:** The updated slides showing the expenses through April were presented.

Supervisor Glees reviewed the design for the building of a new bridge at the Dixie Briggs site. The details of the design were discussed as well as the cost for the construction and installation of the bridge.

**Review/Approve Payment of the following bills related to the Whistle Blower Case:**

- a) Harrison Law Offices bills for investigator services**
- b) Highway Department Invoice 650990 for recoupment of wages paid to individual while on administrative leave.**
- c) Modification of Highway and Town Fund Budgets to reflect results of above actions.**

The Board first reviewed the bill from the Harrison Law office for the investigator services. Several potential options were discussed including the suggestion from Trustee Johnson to split the bill between the town fund and the road district, Trustee Schaffer's suggestion that the initial and subsequent bills should be paid for by the town fund. At the conclusion of the discussion, Trustee Johnson made the motion that the bill should be paid for equally by the road district and the town fund. However, that motion was not seconded. Trustee Johnson then made a motion that the entire second bill from the Harrison Law offices should be paid for by the town fund. The motion was seconded by Trustee Schaffer. Upon roll call vote, Trustees Ahrens, Johnson, and Schaffer voted "aye" – Supervisor Glees and Trustee Harney voted "nay" - motion carried.

Trustee Schaffer then asked to get a review of the initial bill and have the town fund split the bill with the road district. Supervisor Glees reviewed the history of the case and the reason the charges initially were made against the road district. A motion not to review and split the bill was made by Trustee Harney with a second by Supervisor Glees. Upon roll call vote, Supervisor Glees and Trustees Harney and Johnson voted "aye" – Trustees Ahrens and Schaffer voted "nay" - motion carried.

The Board then moved on to the discussion of the Highway Department invoice number 650-9904 recoupment of wages paid to individual while on administrative leave. Trustee Schaffer made a motion for the town fund to reimburse the Highway department for the wages paid to the individual on administrative leave with a second by Trustee Ahrens.

Trustee Harney stated that under the federal mandate a whistleblower needs to be put on administrative leave. It was noted that during a conference call between Township counsel, Supervisor Glees and Highway Commissioner Sinnott, the Highway Commissioner agreed to put the whistleblower on administrative leave. Trustee Ahrens asked if there was a prohibition on volunteering during administrative leave. Counsel Asprooth said that there was no such prohibition. Trustee Johnson questioned what account would be used to pay the reimbursement. After some

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additional discussion, a motion was made by Trustee Harney to deny reimbursement for the whistleblower's wages to the Highway Department. The motion was seconded by Trustee Johnson. Upon roll call vote, Supervisor Glees and Trustees Harney and Johnson voted "aye" – Trustees Ahrens and Schaffer voted "nay" - motion carried.

No modifications were necessary to the Highway in town fund budgets based on the above actions.

**Audit/Approve Bills and Payrolls:**

Audit Bills – Pending Town Fund Bills \$47,939.59; Pre-Paid Town Bills \$320.46; Payrolls \$31,825.10, \$31,230.37 & \$31,284.19; Pending General Assistance Bills \$3,005.91; Prior Month's General Assistance Costs \$5,110.81; General Assistance Payrolls - \$622.22, \$603.91 & \$640.52; Pending Cemetery Fund Bills \$5,987.40; Pre-Paid Cemetery Bills \$308.34; Payrolls \$8,191.71, \$7,877.67 & \$8,191.71; Pending Road & Bridge Fund Bills \$9,709.36; Pre-Paid Road & Bridge Bills \$1,334.79; Road & Bridge Insurance Fund Bills \$506.21; Payrolls \$14,646.16, \$12,800.32 & \$12,314.16; Road IMRF/FICA Payrolls of \$2,318.83, \$1,988.78 & \$1,901.85.

Office Manager Block presented the bills that had been added to the payables since the packet was sent to the Trustees.

The Board briefly reviewed the bills. Trustee Harney made a motion to approve the bills as audited with a second by Trustee Johnson. Supervisor Glees called the motion and upon roll call vote Trustees Harney, Ahrens, and Johnson and Supervisor Glees voted "aye" – Trustee Schaffer voted "nay" - motion passed.

**Budget Transfers:**

No budget transfers were presented for approval.

Prior to motion to adjourn. Trustee Johnson took the floor to say goodbye to all, as his term as Trustee was coming to an end. He stated he felt privileged to have been on the Board and to be part of the accomplishment of many things including the Open Space sites such as Jelke Creek, the construction and opening of the Wahoo Woods facility, the expansion of the Ride in Kane program, the development of the Dixie Briggs natural areas, the move of the Township into the new office, the Longmeadow bridge meeting, and the authorization of the Mental Health Board. He challenged the new Board to continue the good work. So long!

Supervisor Glees asked if there were any additional items that needed to be brought before the Board and hearing none, she asked for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Johnson made the motion to adjourn with a second by Trustee Harney. Upon roll call vote, Supervisor Glees and Trustees Harney, Ahrens, Johnson, and Schaffer voted "aye" – motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 PM.



Robert Block  
Dundee Township Deputy Clerk

**From:** Susan Gould <[skogmom58@gmail.com](mailto:skogmom58@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 15, 2021 11:23 AM  
**To:** Trish Gleys <[trishg@dundeetownship.org](mailto:trishg@dundeetownship.org)>  
**Subject:** Public Comment

This is for Public Comment at the Dundee Township Board meeting of 4/21/21:

I am writing to reiterate my support for the formation of a 708 board in Dundee Township. I am the parent of a young man with developmental disabilities; I am also a retired special education teacher in District 300. I work and live with a population that desperately needs our support. People with disabilities have so much to contribute to our community, if we just help to provide the support. People with mental health issues and substance abuse issues need our support. How we as a community and society support those who need help says an incredible amount about us as human beings. Developmental disability, mental illness or substance abuse can hit any family at any time. Please keep that in mind as the discussion continues. I'm also very disappointed, angry and suspicious that the passage of this tax is being questioned. Please make sure the community knows that their wishes are not being followed, per a legal election.

Susan K. Gould-Carpentersville resident, parent and retired Special Education teacher  
[skogmom58@gmail.com](mailto:skogmom58@gmail.com)  
847-426-3163

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**From:** MARLENE JOHNSON <[marlene.johnson@pna-znp.org](mailto:marlene.johnson@pna-znp.org)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 15, 2021 6:32 PM  
**To:** Info <[info@dundeetownship.org](mailto:info@dundeetownship.org)>  
**Subject:** Re: 708 Tax please read at April 21 Dundee Township meeting

Please read at April 21, 2021 Dundee township board meeting  
Sent from OWA on Android

**From:** MARLENE JOHNSON  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 14, 2021 10:08:00 AM  
**To:** [info@dundeetownship.org](mailto:info@dundeetownship.org)  
**Subject:** 708 Tax

To Whom it May Concern:

I learned today the approved tax for the Dundee Township 708 Board will not be collected by the Kane County Clerk's Office.

It is my understanding that the people of Dundee Township overwhelmingly approved this tax for the 708 Board.

I trust that Kane County Clerk will do as requested by the people of our township and, without further delay, begin the collection of this tax.

Marlene A. Johnson, ALHC, ACS, AIAA  
Human Resource Manager  
Polish National Alliance of the U. S. of N.A.

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To the Dundee Township Board of Trustees

The Kane County Clerk's Office illegally overturned the results of a referendum which the voters overwhelmingly approved on March 17, 2020 and the County Clerk certified as PASSED on April 7, 2020. Assisting those who have a mental health, disabilities or addiction challenges and are unable to obtain the assistance they need on their own is one of societies most sacred duties. The current Dundee Board of Trustees understood this and trusted the voters of Dundee Township to render their decision. It is not the County Clerk's responsibility to unilaterally declare his office will not enforce the will of the voters.

Therefore, as a voter in Dundee Township who cares deeply about the residents of the Township, I urge the Dundee Township Trustees to have the County Clerk's illegal action reversed by suing Kane County in court to execute the will of the Dundee Township voters and collect the taxes to fund the critically important Dundee Township 708 Mental Health Board.

Thank you,

Dawn Arimura

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From: Cindy Oldin

Subject: Letter to the Dundee Board of Trustees

The Kane County Clerk's Office has overturned the results of a referendum which the voters approved back in March 2020 and the County Clerk certified in April 2020. The new 708 Mental Health Board would like to help those not receiving assistance for issues such as mental health problems, developmental disabilities or substance abuse. The Dundee Board of Trustees trusted voters of Dundee Township to read and understand referendum and vote accordingly.

So as a voter and mother of an adult person with developmental disabilities I would urge the Dundee Board of Trustees to have the County Clerk's action reversed, if need be by suing and collect the funds needed by the Dundee Township 708 Mental Health Board.

~\*Cindy Oldin\*~

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Public Comment:

Ecker Center for Behavioral Health wants to convey our support for the 708 mental health referendum that was passed by the voters last March. The language used on the ballot was directly from the Community Mental Health Act that deems authority to 708 Boards. We respectfully request the voters decision to create a 708 Mental Health Board be honored. Thank you.

Deb Howe  
Development Director  
[dhowe@eckercenter.org](mailto:dhowe@eckercenter.org)  
1845 Grandstand Place  
Elgin, IL 60123

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For more than one and one-half years I have attempted to get the Dundee Township Trustees to identify for the public what the Township's priorities should be. The Trustees have failed at this task. The closest you have come is the idea that looking at past spending, presenting the spending in a pie chart, and concluding that the priorities are where money has been spent in the past is how to identify the Board's priorities for today and tomorrow. It is, to say the least, an absurd approach. It is a good thing that none of you run a business, because this approach would doom you to failure.

There was, however, a glimmer of hope when the Trustees decided to put to the voters whether to create and fund a Mental Health Board even though some of you were holding out hope that the question would fail. But the voters of the Township overwhelmingly voted to create and fund the Mental Health Board. Further, the County Clerk certified the vote, and no one raised any objections to the vote prior to or after the vote was certified.

That is, until now, more than ONE year after the vote certification. For reasons that are murky, the County Clerk now refuses to collect the tax levy. Well, the reason is not murky, but the timing clearly is. For those residents of the township who are under the impression that there is enough help for the mentally ill, the disabled and those dealing with addictions, you are wrong. If there are residents who believe that the referendum was not properly worded, then they should stand up and sue the County to overturn the election and have their day in court. Overturning a legally certified election and the will of the voters should not be unilaterally decided by a County bureaucracy.

I believe that assisting those who have a mental health, disability or addiction challenges and are unable to obtain the assistance they need on their own is one of societies most sacred duties. The current Dundee Board of Trustees understood this and trusted the voters of Dundee Township to render their decision – which is what is supposed to happen in a Democracy.

As the outgoing board it may be an easy to push the problem off on the next board, but that would be a mistake. Three of the four of you have been re-elected and you supported putting the referendum on the ballot. If you believe in the sanctity of the vote, you need to make a stand now.

So, as a voter in Dundee Township who cares deeply about the residents of the Township and voting in general, I urge the Dundee Township Trustees to have the County Clerk's illegal action reversed by suing Kane County in court to execute the will of the Dundee Township voters and collect the taxes to fund the critically important Dundee Township 708 Mental Health Board. I also urge the Dundee Township Trustees to file an emergency order with the courts to stay the decision of the County Clerk and collect the levy. Otherwise, the mentally ill, disabled, and addicted in Dundee Township will continue to needlessly suffer without the help they truly need.

In conclusion, do the job you were elected to do.

Paul Setze

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Residents of Dundee Township didn't want the Longmeadow Toll Bridge. We got the Longmeadow Toll Bridge anyway.

Residents of Dundee Township wanted the 708 Mental Health Board. We're now being told that a certified election where we overwhelmingly voted for it is now being unilaterally thrown out and we can't have the 708 board.

After fifteen years of living here, I am beginning to wonder if I have my family in the wrong place. What's the point of any of this if nobody cares about what constituents actually want for the community?

My grandfather used to tell us kids “any jackass can kick down a barn door. It takes a real person to build something and sustain it.”

It seems to me that Republicans in Kane County from Batavia to Algonquin really don't care about building anything. If I want empty promises and false rhetoric about lowering my taxes, I know where to go for that. When it comes to building and improving a community, I'll look elsewhere. Most people in Kane disregard Dundee Township anyway, but when Dundee Township starts disregarding itself, maybe it's time to go.

I'm incredibly disappointed with what is happening with the 708 Board. THIS is stealing an election. I urge the current board to take the county to court. This service is needed now more than ever as we recover from this global pandemic. The people spoke loud and clear. See it through.

Jake Serafini  
Carpentersville IL

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Hello there, I request that this statement be read this evening at the meeting for the Dundee Township Mental Health Board.

I can be reached at [bullard.tif@gmail.com](mailto:bullard.tif@gmail.com) or 773-454-7703 if you need to reach me for any reason. I am unable to attend the meeting live on zoom to read this myself due to a conflict I have with a temple zoom meeting at the same time. Have a great meeting and I appreciate you doing this for me.

My statement:

Hello, I am Tiffany Bullard and I write on behalf of my family of 5 in Sleepy Hollow. To have a context of my passion on mental health and why I am writing in to this meeting this evening, I wanted to start off by giving a bit of context. I grew up in areas of the Fox Valley (Carpentersville and East & West Dundee) through high school and have returned back to Sleepy Hollow to raise our three children. I am the only daughter of my father who is a previous Dundee Township voter for most of his adult life – my father, now retired, was placed on disability since age 35 for mental illness and still continues to battle simple tasks such as long drives or visiting crowded places to this very day - he is now in his late 60s. My parents are divorced, and when his second wife died of cancer, he was priced out of his home and now must live alone in a low-income apartment complex in a rough area of Rockford. He lives a frugal lifestyle now, barely on any means – deciding sometimes if food will sacrifice that month to pay for his medicine. He has had to reduce his therapy appointments to quarterly due to lack of funding. To come to terms with his mental illness and be as able-bodied as he is now only came from when he had proper funding to battle alcohol abuse, paranoid gun possession, and fear of even leaving his home (getting groceries to feed me on his weekends was impossible so he resorted to feeding me gas station food, \$1 frozen pizza, or heated up taco shells as dinner). While he is thankfully now sober and in a much stronger state of mental health, I can state that while I was on my court-demanded weekends as a young child, I would fear for my life. I can attest that truly the only thing that turned him around was regular - and funded - therapy sessions and medical assistance. Therefore, as someone who witnessed the damage improperly managed mental illness can do, it is imperative that the board take any action possible to assure justice for those with mental illness.

It is to my knowledge that the Kane County Clerk's Office has illegally overturned a County Clerk certified and voter-approved referendum (approved on March 17, 2020 and certified on April 7, 2020).

Overturning an approved vote is absolutely dangerous and against the wishes of the Dundee Board of Trustee's request to assist with their decision. If there is reasoning behind this action, such as wording the statement in a different way, a claim must be taken in court. We, the Dundee Township, vote with our hearts and expect the elected officials to listen to our demands and put it forward regardless of his or her own political stances or biases on mental health funding.

Proper funding and care for mental health only strengthens a community. My family asks that you assure you are taking the proper tax funding and putting it towards the Mental Health Board as voted for by the Dundee Township! I ask board members to fight for this in court to assure those in need receive all that they deserve.

Thank you.  
Tiffany Bullard (and family) of Sleepy Hollow, IL.

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I am James Gould. I live at 309 Sedgewick St., Carpentersville. I wish to offer the following public comment.

It is said that the goodness of a society is judged by how it cares for its most vulnerable people. Some of our most needy neighbors are those with developmental disabilities, mental health needs and substance abuse conditions. The Illinois system of care is severely underfunded, and as a result the state ranks at the bottom in terms of services.

My son David is 28. He is developmentally disabled and will require care his entire life. Four years ago, he received state funding that pays for services I cannot afford on my own. But in Dundee Township, where I live, approximately 200 individuals with developmental disabilities are waiting for services. I have a friend whose son died from an opioid overdose, and another whose son is incarcerated for drug use violations. Neither received adequate treatment. And the Kane County jail is filled with individuals whose criminal behavior is due to unaddressed mental health conditions.

Last March voters in Dundee Township approved a referendum to create and fund a mental health board to provide comprehensive local support services targeted at disability, mental health and addiction. It will generate funds for things like counseling, drug treatment and rehabilitation, day training, accessible transportation and respite care for families.

As you know, the Kane County Clerk has decided not to collect the taxes that were approved for those services. They say there was an error in the referendum language. The referendum question,

however, was taken verbatim from wording provided by the state. In addition, the county is overturning the will of Township voters, who approved the referendum by a wide 67% margin.

I am protesting this move by the county and asking you, the Township Board, to fight this unfair and undemocratic decision. Please provide a safety net for our most at-risk residents. Thank you.

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Public Comment. The 708 Mental Health board was approved and should be given tax support. Denying services to the mentally ill would end in more shootings or assaults. Then you're needing increased police intervention. And causing more death and injuries to your citizens.

Sincerely, Deborah Russo RN

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Dear Ms. Glee,

I intend to make the following comments at tonight's meeting, and would like them included as such in the minutes/recording:

"In 2020, by a wide margin, the voters of Dundee Township approved the referendum for the creation of a 708 mental health board, and a tax levy to support it. Therefore, it is my opinion that the Dundee Township Board must challenge the decision of the Kane County Clerk's office to invalidate the referendum and thus refuse to collect the corresponding taxes. Thank you."

Thanks,

Walter Grom

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Public Comment:

Dear Ms. Glee,

While I am unable to virtually attend this evening's township board meeting, I will trust that this email will arrive in time to express my support for the creation of the 708 mental health board and the tax levy needed to fund their work.

I am greatly dismayed that our County clerk is not implementing the tax levy for the 708 mental health boards of Elgin and Dundee townships.

According to John Lopez's April 16 post in the McHenry County Blog, Dundee Township Assessor and chair of the Dundee Township Republican Organization chair, Mike Bielak, is cited stating that "The people voted for something they were not fully informed about." It is my understanding that Mr. Cunningham's office reviewed the wording of the referendum prior to placing it on the April 2020 ballot, and then again when announcing the results, and then again in December when the Townships submitted the application for an increased levy. It seems odd that now, following an election in which the Elgin Township trustees changed from Democrats to Republicans, the Republicans are claiming that voters were misled by the wording of the 2020 referendum.

I voted in favor of the 708 referendum. The wording of the referendum left no doubt in my mind that I was voting in favor of increasing my tax burden. I strongly support the creation and funding of the 708 boards in Elgin and Dundee townships. There is significant need for services among those with mental illness and substance issues in our community. We need the 708 boards and the money to fund their work.

This action looks very much like a Republican effort to suppress the will of the people - not protect it. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Scott W. Douglas  
6 White Oak Lane  
Elgin, IL 60123

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Dear Superintendent Gles and Board of Trustees,

For the Public Comment segment of the April 21, 2021 Dundee Township Trustees Meeting, here are my comments on whether to approve legal actions against the Kane County Clerk in the 708 Mental Health Levy.

The Kane County Clerk's office is belatedly challenging the legality of the 2020 Dundee Township referendum that authorized the creation of a 708 Mental Health Board. I question both their reasoning and their timing in challenging the referendum now, when they could easily have voiced any concerns over the wording before placing it on the ballot. The referendum clearly stated that the Township would levy an annual tax not to exceed .15%. There was no confusion as to whether a tax increase was authorized, and Dundee Township voters approved the measure as written. Therefore, I am requesting that the duly elected Dundee Township Supervisor, Clerk, and Board of Trustees honor the intent of the residents by pursuing legal action to force the Kane County Clerk's office to extend the tax levy for the 708 Board.

Evelyn Carol Grom  
Sleepy Hollow

I would like to submit the following public comment for the Dundee Township Board Meeting re: the 708 Board.

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"My name is Anna Czerniak and I am a resident of Kane County. I am also a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and I provide mental health services in Kane County. I would like to express my strong support for the implementation of the 708 Mental Health Board Tax Levy approved in Elgin and Dundee Townships. As a mental health professional, I have seen an increase in the demand for mental health services and the poor outcomes that result when there is not adequate funding and resources to address those needs. Increased hospitalizations, overdoses, incarceration, suicides, truancy, and homelessness are just a few of the outcomes that you can expect if the mental health needs of Elgin and Dundee Township residents are not met. The voters have spoken and they approved the implementation of the 708 Board to increase access to critical mental health and substance abuse services. The language on the ballot for Elgin and Dundee Township is the same language that has been used throughout Kane County and Illinois where other 708 Boards have been approved. By not listening to the voters you are doing a huge disservice to the residents of Elgin, Dundee Township, and Kane County. This will do harm to children, individuals, and families in our community. Please immediately levy the approved tax so implementation of the 708 Board can continue."

Thank you!  
Anna Czerniak

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Supervisor Glee and Township Trustees:

As you are already aware, Dundee Township voters approved a referendum to create and fund a mental health board by a nearly 2-to-1 margin last year. Kane County Clerk John Cunningham recently announced that his office will not collect the tax, due to what he perceives as an issue with the wording of the referendum. This decision is entirely outside of the Clerk's authority, and jeopardizes services that are needed by some of the most vulnerable residents of Dundee Township.

As one of the thousands of people who voted in favor of the referendum, I find it unacceptable that this critical service is being threatened, and that the results of a legal, certified election are being undermined by the very official who certified them.

I urge you to file a lawsuit against the Clerk's office immediately and demand that the voter-approved funding for the mental health board be collected. It is not only the right thing to do; it is your duty as elected officials to respect and defend the decisions made by Dundee Township voters.

Thank you.

Devin McCrate  
West Dundee

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Dear Supervisor Glee

Steve and I are both completely in favor of taking the steps necessary to follow the direction of the Dundee Township voters when our residents passed the referendum to create the 708 Mental Health Board and fully fund the 708 Mental Health Board by a tax increase as approved at our consolidated election on April 6, 2021 by a 63% majority. To do less would be to ignore the will of our residents, deny the democratic process and set a terrible precedent.

Thanks you,

June Keibler  
Steve Keibler