

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF THE BOARD OF  
TRUSTEES OF PALATINE TOWNSHIP  
December 15, 2025  
7:00 P.M.**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Supervisor Kalkounos called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Palatine Township Center.

**ROLL CALL**

Clerk Svenson called the roll and the following members were present:

**PRESENT IN THE ROOM:**

Voting Members- Supervisor Kalkounos, Trustee Smolka, Trustee Freese, Trustee Sloan, Trustee Sahinoglu

Non-Voting Members- Clerk Svenson, Assessor Pohlman

Other Invited Participants- Administrator Chychula, Assistant Administrator Veller, and Attorney Airdo.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

At the Supervisor's request, Assessor Pohlman led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Justin O'Rourke, Palatine, asked for the mental health board to be fully funded. He believes that the state and local governments need to pick up the slack from the cuts from the federal government.

Dana Prohaska, Palatine, encouraged the board to fund the mental health board in the amount of \$1.7 million dollars.

Tracy Coleman, Palatine, reiterated the need for mental health services and urged the trustees to vote to fully fund the mental health board.

Joyce Slavik, Palatine, also asked that the township fully fund the mental health board.

Elizabeth Linden, Palatine, is concerned about special education students in the area. She asked to fully fund the mental health board.

Tracy Boland, Palatine, asked the board to fully fund the mental health board.

**PRESENTATION**

**A. Human Needs Funding Presentations**

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Grace Drake of Reading Power presented first. RP was founded in 2023 and serves underprivileged schools to assist with literacy development. Their volunteers tutor many students in Palatine Township.

Paul Cusimano of Little City spoke. LC assists people with developmental disabilities. They assist 1000 individuals with its core campus located in Palatine Township.

Sister Amy Marie presented for Little Sisters of the Poor. LSP has a home for the elderly and their mission is to welcome the neediest elderly with dignity and respect. They seek to maintain their independence and self-worth. Mario James also provided more details about the restorative program.

Carol Roberts of Hands on Suburban Chicago indicated that they connect organizations who want to volunteer. This grant supports school programs starting with fifth graders. Their focus is on improving intergenerational connections.

Lucas Stivey of the Children's Advocacy Center made a presentation. CAC assists survivors of abuse and neglect. Team of law enforcement, lawyers and DCFS provide a neutral space for the children.

Karen Fey of Center for Enriched Living made a presentation. CEL assists youth and adults with developmental disabilities. Their request is to assist with adult life skills primarily for those who have aged out of the school system.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**A. Approval of Minutes:**

1. Finance Committee Minutes 11-17-25
2. Regular Board Minutes 11-17-25

**B. Acceptance of Township Elected Officials' Reports:**

1. Assessor's Report
2. Highway Commissioner's Report

**C. Department Reports**

1. General Assistance
2. Food Pantry
3. Transportation
4. Outreach

**D. Audit and Approval of Payroll and Bills**

1. Approval of Payroll & Bills for Town Fund
2. Approval of Payroll & Bills for General Assistance

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3. Approval of Payroll & Bills for Road District

*Town Fund-* \$213,230.22

*General Assistance-* \$19,757.61

*Road District-* \$104,450.48

MOTION by Trustee Smolka, seconded by Trustee Freese to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Kalkounos, Smolka, Freese, Sloan and Sahinoglu

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED 5-0

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Administrator Chychula gave a brief monthly report.\* She reported on the following successful events:

1. Rep. Canty's Government Access Fair at Palatine Township Library
2. Palatine Township, Rep. Syed and Secretary Of State's Office Mobile DMV event
3. Rolling Meadows Fill the Humvee with Rolling Meadows Police Department
4. Program Distribution of Angel Tree gifts and Distribution of Adopt-A-Family gifts

**SUPERVISOR'S REPORT**

Supervisor Kalkounos gave a brief monthly report.\* He also gave a statement as follows:

"In addition to continuing to strengthen the Township's online information hub, Trustee Natalie Sahinoglu brought to my attention the need for a more coordinated approach to supporting residents with disabilities and asked to champion this effort. I strongly and enthusiastically support her interest in doing so.

Approximately 10 percent of Palatine Township residents live with a disability, and many families currently rely on informal networks to learn about available resources. A focused task force, led by Trustee Sahinoglu, would help centralize and highlight existing information for the Board's consideration, including resources such as the Police Premise Alert Program, District 15's free preschool needs assessment, and guidance on accessing the PUNS list for long-term planning after students age out of the school system.

I am asking our legal counsel to prepare a resolution for the Board's consideration at the next meeting. If it is the will of the Board, I would like to proceed accordingly."

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*\*Please note that all monthly Regular Meeting Reports from Board and Staff are available, in their entirety, from each member upon request.*

**OLD BUSINESS:**

A. Consideration of 2026 Township Meeting Schedule

Motion by Trustee Sahinoglu, seconded by Trustee Sloan, to approve the 2026 Township Meeting Schedule

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Kalkounos, Smolka, Freese, Sloan, Sahinoglu

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED 5-0

**NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Approval of Ordinance 04-25, 2025 Palatine Township Town Fund, General Assistance and Community Mental Health Board Levy

Supervisor Kalkounos made a brief prepared comment about the \$1.7 million dollar tax levy as follows:

“Tonight, Palatine Township stands at an important and historic moment.

This Board is preparing to consider a new \$1.7 million mental health levy—an action that directly reflects the clearly expressed will of our voters and the tireless work of a community that believes mental health support is not optional, but essential.

The referendum presented to the public was thoughtful, deliberate, and rooted in real community need. And when the voters spoke, they spoke decisively. This Board listened—and we acted.

Following that vote, this Township moved swiftly and responsibly to appoint a Mental Health Board that is capable, qualified, and deeply committed to serving our residents. Through a strong partnership—sharing staff, space, and expertise—this Board carefully considered the recommendations brought forward, grounded in a comprehensive needs assessment and a well-conceived, fiscally responsible budget.

From the very first year, that budget reflects discipline and foresight, including the establishment of meaningful capital reserves. That is not accidental—that is intentional governance.

I want to sincerely thank the members of the Mental Health Board for their extraordinary efforts, professionalism, and dedication. I also want to recognize the Township staff who

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helped navigate entirely new territory—often reaching out to other townships, studying best practices, and ensuring we did this the *right* way. And I thank our legal counsel, whose experience across municipalities and mental health boards helped guide us carefully and responsibly.

Finally, I want to thank the Township Board itself—for trusting one another, for trusting the appointed experts placed in these roles, and for committing to work through complex issues as partners, not adversaries.

There are many voices in conversations like this—advocates, watchdogs, and residents with differing perspectives. That diversity of opinion is healthy. But what matters most is that decisions are made transparently, responsibly, and with respect for the people we serve.

What we see tonight is an example of good government: listening to the public, relying on qualified expertise, and acting with integrity and purpose.

I am proud of the way Palatine Township has approached this responsibility—with clarity, collaboration, and a shared belief that mental health is a priority worthy of thoughtful investment.

With that, we will now move into the levy discussion.”

The Supervisor also thanked legal counsel for their expertise with careful guidance as well as the actual township board. The Supervisor then articulated the numbers for the Ordinance as follows:

General Town Fund	\$1,957,830.00
One Million, Nine Hundred, Fifty-Seven Thousand, Eight Hundred Thirty Dollars, and Zero Cents.	

General Assistance Fund	\$244,000.00
Two Hundred Forty-Four Thousand Dollars, and Zero Cents.	

Community Mental Health Board	\$1,650,700.00
One Million, Six Hundred Fifty Thousand, Seven Hundred Dollars, and Zero Cents	

For an Estimated Total Tax Levy	\$3,852,530.00
Three Million, Eight Hundred Fifty-Two Thousand, Five Hundred Thirty Dollars, and Zero Cents.	

Motion by Trustee Smolka, seconded by Trustee Sloan to Approve Ordinance 04-25, 2025 Palatine Township Town Fund, General Assistance and Community Mental Health Board Levy

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Kalkounos, Smolka, Freese, Sloan, Sahinoglu

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Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED 5-0

**B. Consideration of T.R.I.P. Transit Grant and Service Agreement**

Administrator Chychula reported to the board. The agreement was reviewed by legal and is standard with five other townships, and meets the requirements to provide transportation outside township boundaries.

Motion by Trustee Freese, seconded by Trustee Sahinoglu to approve the Agreement subject to final approval by legal, the Clerk, and the Supervisor.

**ROLL CALL:**

Ayes: Kalkounos, Smolka, Freese, Sloan, Sahinoglu

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED 5-0

**C. Consideration of Palatine Township Renewal of Ecolane License**

Administrator Chychula reported that we received the renewal which provides transportation and routing for our 5 buses. She recommended the SMS texting option so that the staff doesn't have to make phone calls.

No motion presented, so no vote taken.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

- A. Biannual Review of the Following Sets of Unreleased Executive Session Minutes: 5-20-19, 1-25-21, 8-22-22, 8-28-23, 3-11-24, and 5-20-24 as pursuant to the Open Meetings Act Sec 2C21
- B. Review of Draft Executive Session Minutes from 4-28-25 as pursuant to Open Meetings Act Sec.2C21

MOTION by Trustee Smolka , seconded by Trustee Freese moving that the Board adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to Section 2(c)(21) of the Open Meetings Act, in order to conduct the bi-annual review of unreleased executive session minutes: 5-20-19, 1-25-21, 8-22-22, 8-28-23, 3-11-24, and 5-20-24 and review of draft executive session minutes from 4-28-25

**ROLL CALL:**

Ayes: Kalkounos, Smolka, Freese, Sloan, Sahinoglu

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED 5-0

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*\*The Board adjourned to Executive Session at 8:22 p.m.*

*\*The Board reconvened into Regular Session at 8:47 p.m.*

Clerk Svenson called the roll and the following members were present:

**PRESENT IN THE ROOM:**

Voting Members- Supervisor Kalkounos, Trustee Smolka, Trustee Freese, Trustee Sloan,  
Trustee Sahinoglu

Non-Voting Members- Clerk Svenson

Other Invited Participants- Administrator Chychula, Assistant Administrator Veller,  
Attorney Airdo

**OTHER BUSINESS (INCLUDING ACTION ON MATTERS FROM EXECUTIVE  
SESSION)**

A. Approval of Resolution 15-25, Regarding Consideration of Closed Session  
Minutes

Motion by Trustee Smolka, seconded by Trustee Sahinoglu to approve Resolution 15-25  
Regarding a Resolution Regarding the Consideration of Closed Session Minutes as  
presented, and authorizing the Supervisor and Clerk to attest.

**ROLL CALL:**

Ayes: Kalkounos, Smolka, Freese, Sloan, Sahinoglu

Nays: None

**MOTION CARRIED 5-0**

B. Approval of Executive Session Minutes of 4-28-25

Motion by Trustee Smolka, seconded by Trustee Freese to approve Executive Session  
Minutes of 4-28-25 as presented, and authorizing the Supervisor and Clerk to attest.

**ROLL CALL:**

Ayes: Kalkounos, Smolka, Freese, Sloan, Sahinoglu

Nays: None

**MOTION CARRIED 5-0**

**ADJOURN**

**MOTION** by Trustee Sloan, seconded by Trustee Smolka to adjourn at 8:50  
pm.

**ROLL CALL:**

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Ayes: Kalkounos, Smolka, Freese, Sloan, Sahinoglu  
Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED 5-0

Respectfully submitted,

  
TOWN CLERK