



4/12/16 Annual Town Meeting

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

BUSY AND INNOVATIVE YEAR

- This is the third Annual Meeting that I've reported at. We've moved from year one being of **transition** to year two's **productive** period (not that any previous year was unproductive), to this past year being labeled as **sustain and innovate**. We've continued the excellent programs developed over the years, making minor adjustments as needed, have added the new Emergency Assistance Program as of 9/14/2015, improved the website and newsletter, added a Facebook presence and installed our new message board sign.
- Once again thanks to our staff – Doris Quigley, Terry Harris and Tim Smith who all do an excellent job of providing customer service and keeping this building in operating shape.
- Special thanks to our elected Township officials – Trustees Rita Kirk, Heather Gray, Jim Kerr and Vince Thomas, Town Clerk Joan Clark and Assessor Brenda Carmen
- Rock Island Township's history of progressive, innovative programs continues, along with multiple partnerships; with South Rock Island Township, the King Center, Park and Recreation Department, among others that you'll hear about shortly.

Let's take a look at what we've accomplished during the past fiscal year:

❖ GENERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

- 221 applications distributed
- 83 were returned or about 38% of those handed out (down from 46% last year and 66% in 2014)
- 42 of the 92 (46%) were approved; 50 denied
- We have an average of 50 active clients per month.
- During the course of the year we had 89 clients leave the GA program:
 - 21 clients found work
 - 14 moved out of the Township
 - 11 clients had either their disability or unemployment approved (which translated into deposits to the GA Fund)

- 51 clients were dismissed for “cause” – meaning noncompliance with program rules, such as job search, improper use of vouchers, etc., plus 17 denied assistance for not complying with requirements during the 30 day intake process
- 2 former clients died
- It cost more than \$121,000 during the past fiscal year to provide services, including \$119,000 for food, shelter, bus passes and utilities; the remainder was for supplies and printing
- There were \$50 holiday vouchers issued in November 2015 to 49 GA clients, costing \$2,450
- Demand seems to be up, but follow-through continues to be an issue. There’s no question that the GA program meets a community need not filled by anyone else, nor could anyone else do it as effectively and efficiently!

❖ **EMERGENCY FOOD AND SHELTER GRANTS**

- The United Way / FEMA grant did not happen this past year. But the Township implemented an Emergency Assistance Program as of 9/14/15 that provides up to \$400 to cover rent or utility expenses that were unpaid because of a family or household emergency. Current GA clients or those not qualified for GA were not eligible
- 103 applications were distributed from 9/14/15 – 3/31/16, with 56 approved at a cost of \$20,799.55, an average of \$371.42 per client.
- Primary reasons for assistance include reduced hours of work, job loss and medical emergencies. Recipients needed to provide evidence that they could meet their future obligations for at least the next 30 days.

❖ **WORK READINESS**

- 50 people per month benefitted from bus tickets to get to interviews or work at a total annual cost of \$6,000. This is a slight decrease compared to last fiscal year
- 55 people received vouchers for steel-toed boots, clothing, other employment related items, birth certificates, State ID’s or driver’s licenses for a total cost of \$2,461, (\$45 average).

❖ **PROGRAMS / CONTRIBUTIONS – BENEFITTING SENIORS, YOUTH OR VETERANS**

- **Senior Cares:** 30 seniors per month receive a \$35 voucher to Save-A-Lot II for food
- **Christmas Lunch for Seniors**
 - 55 guests (5 caregivers) and 17 servers (including elected officials, Township, Safer Foundation and Delacerda House staff) enjoyed a delicious full course meal catered by the Montford’s. Gift certificates, a visit from Santa Claus, a performance by the Rock Island High School Chamber Singers plus good company resulted in another wonderful event
 - Total cost was about \$2,353 or \$32.68 per person for food, decorations, gifts, etc.
- **Flu shots**
 - 6 people, including 2 staff, received flu shots last year at a total cost of \$120

- **Blankets**
 - More than 130 surplus emergency blankets were distributed at no cost. We still have some if anyone wants one.
- **Meal Site**
 - Lund Hall is the site of the St. Joseph's / St. Pius X Catholic Church's evening meal served Monday through Friday
 - There were 12,048 people served last year; a 13% increase from 2014 / 2015. This is about 46 per night (up from 42 last year)
 - Thanks to the Meal Site Board, cooks, servers and all the volunteers for this extraordinary effort. Special thanks to Trustee Rita Kirk for lining up the volunteer cooks / servers. And, thanks to site coordinators Chris Dunn, Tim Smith and Mike Clark.
- **Food Pantries**
 - Food Pantry grants of \$3,000 each made to 2nd Baptist and Sacred Heart sites
 - 2nd Baptist assisted about 17,000 over a 12 month period
 - Sacred Heart's Pantry is located in the Town Hall rent free
 - 13,108 people were assisted, about 50 per day, for this Monday through Friday operation. This was down about 240 people or about -2%. Thanks again (and again) to Mike Clark for his dedication and service and to all the other volunteers who make this possible!
- **Direct contributions** (\$11,495 approved; some payouts were in installments based on program demand or multiple grants in one fiscal year due to the activity's schedule – such as baseball or basketball)
 - \$100 to NAACP brochure
 - \$200 co-sponsorship with South Rock Island Township for Metro Youth's Steppers at the annual Labor Day Parade
 - Up to \$1,500 + \$1,500 to the Rock Island / Milan Little League for fee scholarships
 - \$300 to sponsor a Little League team
 - \$1,000 to co-sponsor the 70th Anniversary of the end of World War II Veterans Breakfast at Friendship Manor
 - \$1,000 to PaPa's Helping Vets – they provided furniture, kitchen items, bedding, etc. to veterans, families and individuals in need. Are now out of business
 - \$500 + \$700 to the King Center's 340's Basketball Program – assists with travel costs
 - \$500 to the Telecompioneers for its shoe program
 - \$1,500 to Spring Forward Learning Center's after school program
 - \$200 to Thy Loving Kindness' sock program
 - \$125 on bus tickets through MetroLink, Rock Island High School and TRY-Play / RICAP for Rocky students (cooperative venture with South Rock Island Township)
 - \$250 contribution to Parks and Recreation Department's Spring Egg Hunt (another co-sponsorship with South Rock Island Township)
 - \$2,120 to Broadway Presbyterian Church to support the Urban Gardeners program

❖ **TOWN HALL BUILDING USE**

- Ethel Shurlock Giving Center continues to accept donations of clothing, books, miscellaneous items for those in need to take at no charge
- AARP offered its Income Tax service in February through April here in Lund Hall
- Greenbush Neighbors Association meets here monthly; also did Trunk or Treat in October 2015 and Easter Egg Hunt in Spring 2015 in cooperation with Greenbush Neighbors
- Lund Hall has been and will be a Cooling / Heating Center when there are temperature extremes.
- We continue with our three long-term rent paying tenants:
 - Delacerda House
 - Safer Foundation
 - Roofer's Union
- Cooperation and communication continues between the G.A. Program and Safer Foundation and Delacerda House
- All three tenants continue to make use of the Town Hall for board meetings, as does the Elevator Union
- National Alliance on Mental Illness uses the Board Room for meetings

❖ **BOARD INITIATIVES**

- (Another) Clean **Audit** for fiscal year 2014 – 2015
- **Budget** – Levy approved in December 2015 and the fiscal year 2016 – 2017 budget is close to being approved. Levy was reduced by 0.2%, from \$546,075 to \$545,000. Total annual budget for the Town Fund, General Assistance Fund and Building Fund equals approximately \$800,000.
 - The Township Administration office ordered a new copier that we expect will save money over time versus the previously leased machine
- **Website** continues to be used for on-going information AND won the Township of Illinois' Mighty Message Award in the 15,000 – 25,000 population category
- **Newsletter** was produced and distributed in March 2015 (4 pages), September 2015 (8 pages) and February 20156 (8 pages).
- **Facebook** – Township page created and used frequently to share information with our group (320 members)
- **Signs** – north façade using our logo and double sided full color electronic message board sign installed in December 2015 at a cost of \$24,000. Used extensively for public messages
- **Locks and Keys** – replaced all locks in the building so they all work easily, so there's key control and so there is a master key system in place.

So, there you have it – another successful and productive year!

Questions?