



4/9/19 Annual Town Meeting

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

- First, thanks to our great Township staff – Caseworker / Bookkeeper Doris Quigley, Custodian Terry Harris and Office Assistant Tim Smith who make it easy for me to do whatever it is I do, while they handle details, respond to resident and client needs and keep the building from falling down.
- Second, we're just going to take a look at program impacts and Township initiatives over the past fiscal year:

❖ GENERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

- 112 applications distributed; about 9 per month
- 52 were returned or about 46% of those handed out (down from 55% last year, 41% in 2017, 38% in 2016, 46% in 2015 and 66% in 2014)
- We have an average of 37 active clients per month receiving rent assistance and food and personal item vouchers, down from 45 last year
- During the course of the year we had 61 clients leave the GA program (up from 50 in 2017-18)
 - 15 clients found work
 - 3 moved out of the Township
 - 10 clients had either their disability approved (which translated into deposits to the GA Fund) or unemployment approved
 - 14 clients were dismissed for "cause" – meaning noncompliance with program rules, such as job search violations, improper use of vouchers, incarceration, no contact, etc.
 - 3 of our clients passed away
- It cost nearly \$96,500 during the past fiscal year to provide services, including \$94,900 for food, shelter, bus passes and utilities; the remainder was for supplies and printing. This is about \$214 per client per month.
- There were \$50 holiday vouchers issued in November 2018 to 35 GA clients, costing \$1,750

❖ EMERGENCY FOOD AND SHELTER GRANTS

- The United Way / FEMA grant was available again this year. It provided up to \$450 towards rent or mortgage payments that were not paid due to a household or family emergency. Rock Island Township did intake and

processing for our residents; Moline Township handled final approval and payments.

- 31 applications were picked up; 16 were incomplete, never returned or denied; and 15 were approved (total cost of \$6,495 or \$433 average).

❖ **EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

- Originally approved in September 2015, this program provides up to \$400 to cover rent or utility (MidAmerican or City water / sewer) expenses that were unpaid because of a family or household emergency. Current GA clients or those who potentially qualify for GA are not eligible
- 192 applications were distributed during the fiscal year, with 125 approved at a total cost of \$40,000, an average of \$320 per client. All budgeted funds were spent.
- Primary reasons for assistance continue to be reduced hours of work, job loss and medical emergencies. Recipients must provide evidence that they can meet their future obligations for the next 30 days.

❖ **WORK READINESS**

- 238 people benefitted from MetroLINK bus tickets to get to interviews or to work at a total annual cost of \$5,750. This is an average of 20 clients per month, with expenses up compared to last fiscal year due to higher program demand – more job seekers and jobs available
- 141 people received assistance (\$75 maximum per year) for steel-toed boots, clothing, other employment related items, birth certificates, State ID's or driver's licenses for a total cost of \$6,573, up from \$3,438 in FY 17-18 (\$46.62 average versus \$35.81 the previous year). Demand is up based on more job opportunities for unemployed and underemployed residents within the past year compared to prior years. Kmart's closure in Moline also affected this program. Since Target does not carry scrubs or steel-toed boots (some of the more common uses of these funds), the Township has made use of an Amazon Prime account.

❖ **PROGRAMS / CONTRIBUTIONS – BENEFITTING SENIORS, YOUTH, VETERANS and LOWER INCOME RESIDENTS**

- **Senior Cares:** 40 seniors per month receive a \$35 voucher to Save-A-Lot II for food until they closed and we switched to Hy-Vee. We spent \$15,039 on this program.
- **Christmas Lunch for Seniors**
 - 65 guests and caregivers and 20 servers (including Township elected officials and staff plus Safer Foundation and Delacerda House staff) enjoyed a delicious full course meal catered by Montford and Friends. Gift certificates, a visit from Santa Claus and a performance by the Rock Island High School Chorus plus good company resulted in another wonderful event
 - Total cost was about \$2,375 or \$27.94 per person for food, decorations, gifts, etc.
- **Flu shots**
 - 5 staff and 4 members of the public received flu shots last year
- **Blankets**
 - 160 surplus emergency blankets were distributed at no cost.

- **Meal Site**
 - Lund Hall continues to be the site of the St. Joseph's / St. Pius X Catholic Church's evening meal served Monday through Friday
 - There were 9,900 people served last year; a 12.8% decrease from 2017 / 2018. This is about 38 per night (down from 44 last year)
 - Thanks, as always, to the Meal Site Board, cooks, servers and all the volunteers for this extraordinary effort. Trustee Rita Kirk does an extraordinary job of lining up the volunteer cooks / servers. And, thanks to site coordinators Tim Smith (who recently added a third evening per week) and Mike Clark for their tireless efforts!
- **Food Pantries**
 - Food Pantry grants of \$3,000 each were budgeted for the 2nd Baptist and Sacred Heart sites and \$1,500 to the Church of Peace pantry
 - 2nd Baptist assisted about 5,000 people over a 12-month period
 - Church of Peace served 8,002 residents last year, or 160 per day (open Saturday 9 – 11 a.m.)
 - Sacred Heart's Pantry is still located in the Town Hall's lower level
 - 11,583 people were assisted (about 45 per day) for this Monday through Friday operation. This was down nearly 1,100 people or about -8.5% compared to last year. Thanks again (and again) to Mike Clark for his dedication and service and to all the other volunteers who make this possible!
- **Direct contributions** (\$13,350 approved)
 - \$200 co-sponsorship with South Rock Island Township for Metro Youth's Steppers / Drum Line at the annual Labor Day Parade
 - \$3,000 to the King Center's A.C.T.I.V.E. Club for Senior programs and activities
 - \$500 to Spring Forward Learning Center's Kids on Campus program
 - \$1,000 to Thy Loving Kindness' sock, scarf and underwear program
 - \$500 contribution to Parks and Recreation Department's Spring Egg Hunt (another co-sponsorship with South Rock Island Township). Unfortunately, the March 24, 2018 event was snowed out
 - \$500 to Parks and Recreation for Fright Night (10/25/18) in the District. More than 1,000 kids got candy
 - \$850 to Urban Gardeners / Broadway Presbyterian Church for air compressor purchase and reestablishing strawberries at the Markell Garden
 - Rocky Resource Room received \$1,000 for its direct assistance to students (backpacks, PE shirts, bus passes, etc.)
 - \$1,500 went to the TRY-Play program for scholarships to Rock Island Parks and Recreation Department programs. This is another on-going joint venture with South Rock Island Township (and others).
 - \$1,500 to the Open Door Assistance program for direct client services.

- \$2,500 to the KeyStone Neighborhood Association / Rebuilding Together Quad Cities partnership for exterior home improvements.
- \$500 to Local 309's Veterans Assistance Fund for their work to install flagpole and picnic benches (in Parker Memorial Garden).

❖ **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 in Lund Hall (on Tuesdays).
- Greenbush Neighbors Association met regularly in 2018 (February – November) and 2019 (February). About 20 neighbors get together for a potluck followed by a program and sharing of ideas and concerns. Thanks to 5th Ward alderman Dylan for his continuing attendance and to the City of Rock Island for having the Police (Officer Brooks) and CED staff (Miles Brainard) share information.
- Lund Hall has been and will be a Cooling / Heating Center when there are temperature extremes.
- Our rent paying tenant mix changed, with the Roofers Union departing for new space in October 2018; Delacerda House and Safer Foundation remain.
- The Roofer's departure provided an opportunity for Delacerda House to expand its office space. QCGeneral was hired to merge what had been two separate offices by installing a new doorway (and associated improvements) at a cost of \$5,220. Architect Italo Milani assisted with the plans and bid review.
- Cooperation and communication remain open between the G.A. Program and Safer Foundation and Delacerda House.
- All tenants continue to make use of the Town Hall and/or Board Room for board meetings, as does the Elevator Union. The Roofer's Union had Apprentices and Journeymen meetings until their departure.
- The building's exterior was painted prior to the 2018 Township Day. W.F. Scott Decorating did the job at a cost of \$8,274. The two-tone blue color scheme was suggested by local artist / muralist Sarah Robb.
- Work began in September to seal and stripe the parking lots. Cracks were sealed and the rest of the work will be completed in 2019 by FW Asphalt at a \$3,150 cost.

❖ **BOARD INITIATIVES**

- (Another) Clean **Audit** for fiscal year 2017 – 2018
- **Budget** – Levy approved in November 2018 and the fiscal year 2019 – 2020 budget is being reviewed, with May 2018 approval expected. Levy was reduced by -0.95%, from \$525,000 to \$520,000. The Certified to Collect amount was set by Rock Island County at \$520,697.66. Total annual budget for the Town Fund, General Assistance Fund and Building Fund equals approximately \$860,150.
- **Clerk Attestation Law** – The Township approved having the Town Clerk attest the Supervisors signature on all Township payments by either original signature or a signature stamp. This was implemented by the law's January 1, 2019 deadline.

- **Website** continues to be used for on-going information, but needs to be revamped.
- **Newsletter** was produced and distributed in March and September 2018 (12 pages each). Argus / Dispatch / Lee Enterprises did the advertising sales, layout and printing; J.V. Consulting did the mailing.
- **Facebook** – Township page is used frequently to share information with our group (407 members) and also through the NEXTDOOR app
- **Sign** – Our LED message board sign promotes Township, neighborhood, City, Library, Park, DeLaCerde House and Roofer’s Union (until they moved out in 10/18) and other information on a routine basis
- **Township Flag** – Trustee Kerr again proudly displayed our flag during the Parade of Flags at the 2018 Township Officials of Illinois Annual Conference in Springfield.
- **3rd Annual Illinois Township Day** – On September 29, 2018 we celebrated Township programs and activities, those of our tenants and organizations we support. The Hanson Family Jugglers put on a great show of skill and daring, Kendall Davis of Master Designs Boomerang showed how to throw and make boomerangs, the Rock Island Fire Department and Police K-9 units were there to show off their skills and equipment, Metro Youth’s Drill Team performed and Elizabeth Russell did face painting. The King Center’s A.C.T.I.V.E. Club prepared and served their famous and delicious “walking tacos”.

What’s in store for 2019 / 2020?

We will be making physical improvements to the property, including completing the parking lot sealing and striping, chain link fence repair (or replacement), sidewalk replacement and some minor electrical upgrades.

We will also periodically review program and services to see if they need to be modified or eliminated.

A multi-township luncheon to recognize Viet Nam Era Veterans is set for May 22nd at the Riverfront Grille in Rock Island. Rock Island, South Rock Island, Moline, South Moline and Blackhawk Townships are participating.

Rock Island Township will be part of an area-wide consortium to assure a complete and accurate 2020 Census count. Remember, Census Day is April 1, 2020!

The Township connected (through direct service, supported activity or conversation) with about 50,000 people last year. That’s been a fairly consistent number over the past few years and I expect that to continue in the future.

With our 2018/19 expenses of \$624,590, the approximate cost per person served equaled \$12.49 or \$36.74 per Township resident (approximately 17,000 according to the Census). We continue to provide services not available or offered by other governments or agencies

Rock Island Township is an extraordinarily cost-effective and innovative entity led by a diverse group of elected officials!