



**TOWN OF THE CITY OF PEORIA  
DECENNIAL COMMITTEE MINUTES  
June 27, 2023**

A Meeting of the Decennial Committee of the Town of the City of Peoria was held on Tuesday, June 27, 2023, at 5:00 P.M. at City Hall, 419 Fulton Street, Room 404, Peoria, Illinois.

**ROLL CALL**

Decennial Committee Members present: Trustee Allen, Trustee Cyr (Arrived at 5:39 P.M.), Trustee Gordon-Young, Trustee Grayeb, Trustee Jackson, Trustee Kelly, Trustee Oyler, Trustee Riggenbach, Trustee Velpula, Trustee Vespa and Chairwoman Ali, Township Supervisor LaTrina Leary, Evonne Fleming, and Pastor Irene Lewis-Wimbley,

Others present: Township Collector Stephen Morris, Township Assessor Max Schlafley, Township Clerk Stefanie Tarr, Deputy Clerk I Amanda Hilde, Deputy Clerk II Courtney Coe.

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS BY THE CHAIR ON DECENNIAL COMMITTEE**

Chairwoman Ali gave a few comments regarding the creation of the committee and the requirements outlined in the law. She introduced the members, and stated the composition of Committee was the Town Board, Town Supervisor, and two residents.

**GENERAL DISCUSSION AND PRESENTATION BY TOWN OFFICIALS**

Supervisor Leary handed out a presentation to the Committee that overviewed the Township and the duties of her office. She showed the population breakdown of Peoria County and indicated the large number of citizens served by the Township. Supervisor Leary said 24% of Peoria Township residents were living at or below the poverty level and explained 150-200 families received assistance each month. She stated there are two types of assistance, General Assistance and Emergency Assistance. She said the General Assistance program provided a voucher that helped with rent, utilities, clothing, and food if it fell under the State guidelines. She reviewed Emergency Assistance was available for high utility bills and help with vision care assistance. Supervisor Leary stated all age demographics seek out assistance but clarified families and senior citizens made up the majority of applicants. She gave an overview of the IRIS (Integrated Referral Intake System) Program that helped connect people to assistance programs and provided agencies a way to work together.

Discussions were held regarding the Township's ability to meet the needs of residents, the tax levy rate and accessibility of the resources to residents. Supervisor Leary said she was confident in the ability to meet needs and said she thought it would be hard to quantify how many people were turned away.

Trustee Kelly requested a Report Back about the specifics of the budget and the breakdown of spending on General Assistance versus Emergency Assistance.

Questions were exchanged regarding the specifics for each program, the changes in poverty level over the years, and the Township's ability to track where the assistance was being used. After thanking Trustee Gordon-Young for her praise on the use of the IRIS Program, Supervisor Leary said she had found it very useful because it provided the ability for a caseworker to match residents with assistance programs.

Trustee Cyr arrived at 5:39 P.M.

Discussions were held about the practical use of vouchers, residents who received aid from multiple sources, and the rate of the tax levy in relation to the Township's role in road maintenance.

Township Assessor Max Schlafley provided a handout that outlined the duties of his office. He emphasized his role was the only political office in the state of Illinois that required to be State certified. He said the property evaluations were a valuable tool for taxing bodies.

Township Collector Morris said when he assumed his office, he asked the Town Board to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with Peoria County to assume the duties of his office in collecting property taxes.

Township Clerk Tarr gave a brief overview regarding the duties of her office. She said the Town Clerk duties were nearly identical to the duties she performs as City Clerk; however, her office also provided some informal auditing of finances.

### **REVIEW OF MEETING SCHEDULE**

Chairwoman Ali reviewed the requirements regarding how many times the Committee would need to meet to fulfill the obligation set in the state law. She suggested going forward, any meetings should be as convenient as possible for all committee members and remarked the meetings should be held on the same night as the regularly scheduled Town Board meetings. Chairwoman Ali said early December would be the next best time to meet and would provide plenty of time for all the discussion from this meeting to be absorbed. Supervisor Leary said that date was still far enough in advance from the deadline the report from the committee is due to the state.

### **CITIZENS OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS DECENNIAL COMMITTEE**

It was determined that there were no citizens wishing to address the Township Officials Decennial Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Allen moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Trustee Oyler.

Approved unanimously 6:02 P.M.



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Stefanie Tarr, RMC, CMC  
Town Clerk

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