

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING APRIL 9, 2024

SUPERVISOR DONNA DETTBARN'S STATE OF THE TOWNSHIP ADDRESS:

2023-2024 was finally a year where the pandemic was under control. It was not completely gone but better. Here at the Township we carried on the business of serving our Township residents with the Food Pantry, General Assistance and Emergency Assistance. We stopped requiring masks as the State rescinded the Policy so we made masks optional for anyone who felt safer wearing them as we have immunocompromised officials and staff. Our Covid office hours changed on May 15, 2023 back to 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Monday – Thursday and to 2:00 p.m. on Friday

FINANCIALLY THE TOWNSHIP IS IN THE BLACK. MONEE TOWNSHIP DOES A LOT WITH YOUR TAX DOLLARS. LAST YEAR WE RECEIVED **\$719,526** IN PROPERTY TAXES INTO THE GENERAL TOWN FUND AND WE WERE ABLE TO SUSTAIN ALL ON-GOING PROGRAMS, PAY ALL OFFICIALS SALARIES, AND FUND THE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE – WHICH GETS ALMOST A THIRD OF THE TAXES COLLECTED.

YOUR TAX DOLLARS WERE ALSO SPENT ON SENIOR PROGRAMS, WILL RIDE BUS SERVICE FOR SENIORS AND DISABLED, GENERAL ASSISTANCE, EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE AND OTHER OUTREACH PROGRAMS.

WE ALSO PUT MORE MONEY INTO OUR CAPITAL FUND ACCOUNT THAT WE USE TO SAVE TO PAY FOR THE COST OF THE PLANNED BUILDING RENOVATION SO WE WILL NOT HAVE TO BORROW HEAVILY.

SENIOR COMMITTEE: BEFORE COVID, THEY WOULD NORMALLY HOLD 6 EVENTS A YEAR FOR MONEE TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS 65 AND OLDER. FREE TO ALL WHO ATTEND. A FREE LUNCH, GREAT ENTERTAINMENT EACH TIME. AND BINGO FOR THOSE WHO STAYED AFTER LUNCH. WE HAVE A DEDICATED SENIOR COMMITTEE WHO PLAN ALL EVENTS AND DO THE SET UP WORK AND DECORATING FOR MOST PARTIES. THIS LAST YEAR WE STARTED OUT ON APRIL 25, 2023 WITH A DRIVE UP LUNCHEON EVENT BUT WERE HAPPY THAT ON June 28, 2023 SENIORS HELD THEIR FIRST INDOOR PARTY IN 3 YEARS. A DRIVE UP LUNCHEON WAS HELD AGAIN ON August 30th. On 10/31, THE HALLOWEEN PARTY WAS INDOORS AGAIN AND THEN THE DECEMBER HOLIDAY BRUNCH WAS HELD AT A NEW LOCATION: CARDINAL CREEK GOLF CLUB IN BEECHER, IL. IT WAS A GREAT PARTY ENJOYED BY ALL. THE LAST LUNCHEON OF THE FISCAL YEAR WAS FEBRUARY 14TH, 2024 AND WAS ANOTHER DRIVE UP LUNCHEON. DRIVE-UP SENIOR BOX LUNCH EVENTS INSTEAD OF OUR IN-PERSON PARTIES WERE SUCCESSFUL AND GOT BIGGER EACH TIME, WITH THE LAST TIME GIVING OUT OVER 195 SENIOR LUNCHES. IT WAS GREAT TO SEE SENIORS CHATTING AND MINGLING AT THE INDOOR LUNCHES

YOUTH COMMITTEE: LAST OCTOBER 2023, WE WERE SO EXCITED THAT AFTER A COVID DELAY OF 3 YEARS, WE WERE BRINGING BACK OUR YOUTH NIGHT BUT IN A DIFFERENT FORMAT. INSTEAD OF 2 HOURS OF RECREATIONAL ACTIVITY, WE DECIDED TO HELP STUDENTS ACADEMICALLY AS MANY FELL BEHIND DUE TO COVID. WE PLANNED AN HOUR OF STEM INSTRUCTION AND AN HOUR OF RECREATIONAL ACTIVITY AT THE CORETTA SCOTT KING MAGNET SCHOOL IN UNIVERSITY PARK. THE PROGRAM GOT OFF TO A LATE START AS OUR PLANS FOR THE SPRING FELL THRU DUE TO ILLNESS AND DEATH. THE NEW FORMAT WORKED WELL. WE HIRED TEACHERS FOR THE INSTRUCTIONAL STEM CLASSES AND AIDES AND VOLUNTEERS FOR THE RECREATION PART. FALL ATTENDANCE WAS OKAY BUT OUR FEBRUARY/MARCH SESSION DID NOT HAVE GREAT ATTENDANCE. IN THE FUTURE WE WILL PROBABLY GO BACK TO OUR RECREATION MODEL AS PREVIOUSLY DONE.

WILL RIDE PROGRAM: BUSSING THROUGH THE PROGRAM SET UP BY WILL COUNTY FOR TRANSPORTATION WITHIN THE EASTERN PART OF WILL COUNTY IS OFFERED TO SENIORS 60 AND OLDER TO HELP WITH TRANSPORTATION TO MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS AND SHOPPING ONCE A WEEK AND TO THE DISABLED OF ALL AGES WITH TRANSPORTATION TO LOCAL COLLEGES, JOBS. AND MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS. THIS IS A COSTLY PROGRAM AS IT COST US APPROXIMATELY \$46 PER RIDE, EACH WAY. WILL COUNTY DOES HAVE A GRANT WITH THE RTA TO PAY FOR ½ OF RTA RIDERS AND ALSO THEY HAVE AN AREA AGING GRANT WHICH PAYS AT 85% OF SENIOR RIDES SO THE TOWNSHIP PAYS MUCH LESS PER RIDE BUT IT IS STILL A COSTLY PROGRAM. THIS HAS PROVEN TO BE A MUCH NEEDED PROGRAM THAT OUR BOARD FEELS IS IMPORTANT TO PAY FOR AS IT HELPS SO MANY OF OUR RESIDENTS.

NEWSLETTER: THIS LAST YEAR WE CHANGED FROM PUBLISHING 3 TIMES A YEAR TO FOUR TIMES A YEAR. WE THINK 4 TIMES A YEAR BETTER SERVES OUR MONEE TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS AS MANY AREAS DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO LOCAL PAPERS. WE TRY TO DELIVER TO ALL MONEE TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS. STARTING IN APRIL OF THIS YEAR, WE WILL START MAILING OUR NEWSLETTERS FIRST CLASS TO PARK FOREST AND TO UNIVERSITY PARK AS WE HAVE BEEN HAVING MANY REPORTS THAT THEIR NEWSLETTERS WERE NOT RECEIVED. WE WILL CONTINUE USING THE DOOR TO DOOR DIRECT MAILING IN MONEE AS FEW PROBLEMS WERE REPORTED. IT WILL ADD TO OUR COSTS BUT AS THIS IS THE ONLY WAY TO GET OUR MONEE TOWNSHIP INFORMATION OUT TO ALL TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS, WE THINK THE EXTRA COST AND EXTRA WORK FOR OUR STAFF WILL BE WORTH IT. OUR NEWSLETTER GIVES AN OVERVIEW OF ALL TOWNSHIP ACTIVITIES AND HELPFUL PROGRAMS AND INFORMATION ON RECYCLING ELECTRONICS, EDUCATION TUTORING, LEGAL SERVICES, LIHEAP AND VETERANS ASSISTANCE AND WE HAVE AN "AROUND THE TOWNSHIP" COLUMN THAT GIVES LOADS OF COMMUNITY INFORMATION. THE ASSESSOR IS USUALLY ON THE BACK PAGE AND GIVES ADVICE AND UPDATES ON PROGRAMS THAT CAN HELP LIKE THE GENERAL HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION AND THE SENIOR FREEZE.

WEB SITE: MONEETOWNSHIP.COM - OUR OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR, WILLA SIMMONS, KEEPS IT UP TO DATE. YOU WILL FIND AGENDAS POSTED AND APPROVED MINUTES OF PAST MEETINGS. WE HAVE A CALENDAR SECTION AND HAVE MANY LINKS TO HELP YOU REACH OTHER SITES: CHECK IT OUT

WE CONTINUE OUR OUTREACH PROGRAMS FOR PEOPLE WHO HAVE FINANCIAL NEEDS: GENERAL ASSISTANCE, EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE, AND A YEAR ROUND FOOD PANTRY. ALSO THE WILL COUNTY CENTER FOR COMMUNITY CONCERNS OFFERS THE LIHEAP PROGRAM WHICH HELPS WITH UTILITY ASSISTANCE. LIHEAP AGENTS ARE AT THE TOWNSHIP EVERY OTHER MONTH TO MEET WITH CLIENTS WHO NEED HELP. LIHEAP IS ALSO AT 90 TOWNCENTER IN UNIVERSITY PARK EVERY TUESDAY.

OUR SANTAS SACK PROGRAM HELPED 125 FAMILIES IN DECEMBER – WE GAVE OUT FOOD BASKETS TO ALL ALONG WITH GIFTS FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS. A TOTAL OF 449 TOYS AND GIFTS WERE GIVEN.

OUR THANKSGIVING FOOD BASKET PROGRAM HELPED 85 FAMILIES..

OUR EASTER BASKET PROGRAM LAST YEAR IN 2023 WE GAVE OUT FOOD BASKETS TO 8 FAMILIES AND 22 CHILDREN IN THESE FAMILIES RECEIVED BEAUTIFULLY DECORATED EASTER BASKETS CONTAINING TOYS, BOOKS AND CANDY. THIS YEAR 2024, WE HAD 12 FAMILIES SIGN UP AND 33 CHILDREN RECEIVED EASTER BASKETS. **The baskets were put together by Willa, Shirley and Ruth and so wonderful!**

WE ALSO HAD OUR ANNUAL BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLY PROGRAM IN AUGUST. 21 FAMILIES SIGNED UP. A TOTAL OF 45 CHILDREN RECEIVED SCHOOL SUPPLIES IN BACKPACKS THAT WERE APPROPATE FOR THEIR GRADE LEVEL.

OUR YEAR ROUND FOOD PANTRY PROGRAM NUMBERS WERE HIGHER AGAIN THIS YEAR AS MANY COVID PROGRAMS WERE RETIRED AND PEOPLE RECEIVED LESS HELP SO THEY HAVE BEEN COMING TO THE FOOD PANTRY MORE OFTEN. WE ALSO SERVE THE MIGRANT FAMILIES LIVING IN UNIVERSITY PARK. WE DO NOT TURN ANYONE AWAY AND IF NOT A TOWNSHIP RESIDENT, WE HELP THEM BUT REFER THEM TO OTHER FOOD BANKS OR TOWNSHIPS..

WE CANNOT THANK OUR RESIDENTS, BUSINESSES AND SCHOOLS ENOUGH FOR ALL THEIR GENEROUS DONATIONS OF MONEY AND FOOD THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. THESE DONATIONS HELP KEEP ALL OUR PROGRAMS GOING. AND THANKS TO VOLUNTEERS WHO HELPED SORT FOOD, WRAP PRESENTS AND PREPARE FOR AND WORK ON THE GIVE AWAY DAY. **THANKS TO OUR HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER AND HIS CREW FOR ALL THEIR HELP.** THEY PICKED UP FOOD DONATIONS FROM BUSINESSES AND SCHOOLS AND ALSO PICKED UP THE TOYS FOR TOTS IN JOLIET. THEY ARE ALWAYS THERE WHEN WE NEED THEM. ALSO MANY THANKS TO ALL ON THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES WHO HELPED ON 1 OR MORE DISTRIBUTION DAYS, WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING STRONG MEN WHO HELPED CARRY VERY, VERY HEAVY FOOD BOXES AND BAGS TO RESIDENTS CARS: BOBBY LATHAN, THOMAS BOLES, OSCAR TREVINO, NICK RADITE, BILLY MORGAN AND JOHN KOOYENGA, A HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEE. WE WERE ALSO FORTUNATE THAT ON THE SANTA SACK

PICK UP DAY, WE HAD MANY YOUNG VOLUNTEERS WHO HELPED IN ALL CAPACITIES AND WERE THE CHILDREN OR GRANDCHILDREN OF STAFF MEMBERS..

COMMUNITY OUTREACH: THE TOWNSHIP BOARD PARTICIPATED IN THE UNIVERSITY PARK BACK TO SCHOOL PARADE LAST AUGUST. IN SEPTEMBER, THE BOARD WAS IN THE MONEE FALL FEST PARADE WITH JEFF ZIMMER, FROM THE HIGHWAY CREW DRIVING THEIR DECORATED NEW TRUCK.

PAPER SHREDDING EVENT: ON OCTOBER 28TH WE HAD A PAPER SHREDDING EVENT. PEOPLE COULD DRIVE UP, WATCH AS THEIR PAPERS WERE SHREDDED AND THEN DRIVE AWAY. THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELPED. TRUSTEE TERRI BOLES AND PLAN COMMISSION MEMBER THOMAS BOLES, OSCAR TREVINO, SENIOR COMMITTEE,, CLERK BOBBY LATHAN, ADMINISTRATOR WILLA SIMMONS, COUNTY BOARD MEMBER SHERRY NEWQUEST, AND MYSELF. WE ARE PLANNING ANOTHER EVENT JUNE 15TH.

THROUGHOUT THE YEAR WE HAVE GIVEN TO MANY COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS AND SPORTS GROUPS, AS WELL AS ORGANIZATIONS THAT HAVE HELPED OUR GENERAL ASSISTANCE CLIENTS: WE GAVE TO:

AMERICAN RED CROSS (CPR)

CASA OF WILL COUNTY

ILLINOIS FLAMES TRACK CLUB

MONEE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

MONEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MONEE MUD DOGS BASEBALL ASSOCIATION

NORTHERN ILLINOIS FOOD BANK

PARK FOREST SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM: DR. KENNETH KRAMER scholarship (former Township Trustee)

PEOTONE LIBRARY

UNIVERSITY PARK ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP FUND

UNIVERSITY PARK LIBRARY

UNIVERSITY PARK YOUTH ATHLETIC ASSN (FOOTBALL)

VILLAGE OF MONEE (150TH CELEBRATION)

WILL COUNTY CENTER FOR COMMUNITY CONCERNS

WILL GRUNDY MEDICAL CLINIC

NEW THIS YEAR:

SADLY, IN JULY WE LOST OUR LONG TIME FRIEND AND OUR TOWNSHIP COLLECTOR, CALVIN LACEFIELD. CALVIN HAD ALSO PREVIOUSLY SERVED AS A TRUSTEE. WE MISS HIM. AT OUR AUGUST 17 TOWNSHIP MEETING, WE APPOINTED RONALD POINDEXTER TO FILL THE COLLECTOR POSITION. HE WAS SWORN IN BY JUDGE JOHN ANDERSON. CONGRATULATIONS TO RON, HE IS A GREAT ADDITION.

DECENNIAL REPORT: THE STATE LEGISLATURE MANDATED THAT MANY LOCAL GOVERNING BODIES DO A DECENNIAL REPORT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCIES. IT MUST BE DONE EVERY 10 YEARS. WE HAD TO HAVE AT LEAST 3 MEETINGS. THE TOWNSHIP BOARD WAS REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE AS WELL AS 3 TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS. BOTH THE TOWNSHIP AND THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT WERE REQUIRED TO FILE A REPORT. WE HELD MEETINGS MAY 18TH, JUNE 15TH, AND JULY 20TH. THE FINAL REPORT WAS FILED WITH THE WILL COUNTY CLERK. IT IS A REPORT THAT REALLY TELLS YOU WHAT THE TOWNSHIP DOES. WE PUT IT ON OUR WEB SITE AND HAVE IT POSTED HERE AT THE TOWNSHIP. PLEASE READ IT, YOU WILL FIND IT VERY INFORMATIVE.

IN **AUGUST** WE HELD TWO **CPR CLASSES** AT THE TOWNSHIP. WE HAD STAFF MEMBERS, SENIORS AND TEENAGERS TAKE THE CPR TRAINING AND CERTIFY TO HELP SAVE LIVES IN AN EMERGENCY. THOSE WHO ATTENDED WERE HAPPY TO LEARN OR TO RE-CERTIFY. WE WILL TRY TO DO IT AGAIN THIS YEAR.

TOI RECOGNITION IN NOVEMBER 2023, BOBBY LATHAN, TOWNSHIP CLERK AND I, ALONG WITH SHIRLEY LATHAN, OFFICE ASSISTANT, ATTENDED THE TOWNSHIPS OF ILLINOIS EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE. THERE WERE MANY NEW THINGS TO LEARN, ESPECIALLY HELPFUL WAS THE INFORMATION ON THE NEW PAID LEAVE ACT THAT WENT INTO EFFECT ON JANUARY 1, 2024.

MONEE TOWNSHIP WAS RECOGNIZED AT THAT TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS OF ILLINOIS CONVENTION IN NOVEMBER. WE WERE AWARDED A PLAQUE FROM THE AITCOY (YOUTH) DIVISION THAT NAMED US THEIR **TOWNSHIP OF THE YEAR** FOR OUR NEWLY REVISED YOUTH PROGRAM WHICH WE HAD CHANGED FROM STRICTLY RECREATIONAL TO ONE HOUR OF STEM CLASSES AND 1 HOUR OF RECREATION. WE FELT IT NECESSARY TO HELP TOWNSHIP YOUTH WITH EDUCATION SUPPLEMENTS AS SO MANY STUDENTS HAD FALLEN BEHIND DUE TO COVID-19 ZOOM LEARNING. IT WAS MY HONOR TO ACCEPT THE PLAQUE ON BEHALF OF THE TOWNSHIP ALONG WITH CLERK LATHAN, AS OUR YOUTH CHAIR BILLY MORGAN COULD NOT BE THERE..

ARPA GRANT THRU WILL COUNTY: MONEE TOWNSHIP WAS AWARDED \$139,758 IN GRANT MONEY IN 2022. THIS WAS TO HELP WITH THE COVID AFTERMATH AND RECOVERY. WE HAD TO PREPAY AND FILE REIMBURSEMENT FORMS TO BE PAID FROM THE GRANT MONEY ALLOCATED TO US. IN FEBRUARY OF THIS YEAR, WE HAD DEPLETED THE GRANT. WE SPENT IT ON SENIOR LUNCHEONS, EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE REQUESTS THAT WE WERE ABLE TO PAY OUT UP TO \$1500 EACH IN 2022 AND 2023 (MUCH MORE THAN WHAT WE COULD HAVE DONE WITHOUT THE GRANT), AND WE WERE ABLE TO GIVE OUT \$100 DOLLAR GIFT CARDS (FOR THOSE WHO QUALIFIED). WITH OUR THANKSGIVING AND SANTA SACK PROGRAMS FOR BOTH

2022 AND 2023 WE HELPED SO MANY FAMILIES WITH THIS GRANT. WE ALSO PAID FOR OUR FALL YOUTH PROGRAM WITH THE GRANT.

TAX OBJECTIONS CAUSED BY THE ACCUMULATION OF FUNDS STATUTE: . ALMOST EVERY YEAR WE HAVE HAD PETITIONS FILED AGAINST US IN OUR GA FUND AND SOMETIMES IN OUR E&B FUND. THIS IS BECAUSE THE COUNTY AND THE LAWYERS WERE NOT FIGURING REVENUE CORRECTLY. WE ARE ON A MODIFIED CASH BASIS OF ACCOUNTING, THE COUNTY FIGURES USING THE ACCRUAL METHOD THUS CHARGING US FOR LEVIED MONEY WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED AND CANNOT RECEIVE IF NOT RECEIVED WITHIN THE FISCAL YEAR WE ARE DINGED FOR. I MET WITH STATE SENATOR PATRICK JOYCE IN EARLY 2023 AND WITH THE HELP OF OUR TRUSTEE BILLY MORGAN, CONVINCED HIM THAT WE NEEDED TO AMEND THE WORDING OF THIS BILL. SENATOR JOYCE AGREED TO SPONSOR IT AND BY THE END OF MARCH 2023 IT HAD PASSED THE SENATE AND THEN IT WAS SENT TO THE HOUSE SPONSORED BY REP. ANTHONY DeLUCA AND PASSED THERE. IT THEN WAS SIGNED INTO LAW BY GOVERNOR PRITZKER TO GO INTO EFFECT JANUARY 1, 2024. THIS NEW BILL SHOULD STOP ANY NEW LAWSUITS GOING FORWARD. THE WORDING CHANGE WILL HELP HIGHWAY COMMISSIONERS BY EXEMPTING THE E&B FUND FROM THIS STATUTE AS IT IS A CAPITAL FUND ACCOUNT, AND IT STATES THAT THE TOWNSHIPS ON A CASH BASIS OR MODIFIED CASH BASIS CANNOT BE CHARGED FOR MONIES NOT RECEIVED IN THEIR FISCAL YEAR. THIS IS A BIG WIN FOR US AND ALL TOWNSHIPS IN ILLINOIS.

PLANS FOR 2024-2025 FISCAL YEAR: WE CONTINUE TO SAVE MONEY IN OUR CAPITAL FUND TO HELP PAY FOR A BUILDING RENOVATION TO EXPAND OUR FOOD PANTRY AND TO ADD OFFICES. AS WE ARE LANDLOCKED, DAVID DEUTSCHE, OUR HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER, WAS KIND ENOUGH TO SUGGEST THAT WE COULD USE PART OF HIS GARAGE AREA SO WE WILL BUILD HIM A NEW BAY AND A NEW OFFICE TOO. IN DECEMBER, WE HIRED AN ARCHITECT, PRODUCT ARCHITECTURAL AND DESIGN, TO DO PRELIMINARY SURVEYS AND DESIGN. WE SHOULD HAVE SOME COST FIGURES SOON SO WE CAN DECIDE HOW TO PROCEED. THIS IS AN EXCITING PROJECT WHICH WILL ALLOW US TO HAVE FROZEN MEALS AND MEATS FOR PANTRY CLIENTS INSTEAD OF JUST OUR NORMAL NON-PERISHABLE FOODS.

WE WILL TRY TO HAVE A BLOOD DRIVE AND CPR CLASSES THIS NEW FISCAL YEAR.

ANOTHER PAPER SHREDDING EVENT IS SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 15TH, 9AM – NOON IN THE TOWNSHIP PARKING LOT.

SINCE WE ARE NOT HAVING SUMMER PROGRAMS, WE ARE WORKING WITH THE LOCAL LIBRARIES TO FINANCIALLY HELP THEM WITH THEIR SUMMER PROGRAMS.

WE WILL WORK ON CONTINUING OUR YOUTH NIGHTS IN A RECREATIONAL MODE ONLY. BILLY MORGAN, OUR YOUTH COMMITTEE CHAIR AND I WILL WORK ON FINDING A BETTER LOCATION.

TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATOR: WILLA SIMMONS: A BIG THANK YOU GOES TO WILLA FOR HER CONTINUED LEADERSHIP IN HANDLING ALL THAT WE DO. IT COULD NOT BE DONE WITHOUT HER. SHE ALWAYS HAS A VERY KIND, GENTLE WAY WITH ALL PEOPLE EVEN WHEN STRESSED. WILLA'S JOB IS COMPLEX: BESIDES THE DAY TO DAY OPERATIONS OF THE TOWNSHIP, WHICH INCLUDES BEING THE BOOKKEEPER/ ACCOUNTANT, CUSTOMER SERVICE, AND HEALTH CARE/INSURANCE COORDINATOR. SHE IS ALSO THE GA AND EA COORDINATOR. THE GA PROGRAM IS A MANDATED GOVERNMENTAL PROGRAM WHICH IS THE LAST PLACE PEOPLE GO WHO HAVE NO INCOME, DO NOT QUALIFY FOR SOCIAL SECURITY OR MEDICARE AND HAVE NOWHERE ELSE TO GO. GA GIVES THEM A SMALL MONTHLY SUBSIDY AND WE ASK THEM TO CONTRIBUTE WORK HOURS TO GET THAT. SHE ALSO WORKS WITH THE SENIOR PROGRAM. AND HANDLES THE EA WHICH HELPS INCOME CHALLENGED TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS PAY UTILITY BILLS OR GET RENTAL ASSISTANCE. THE GA AND EA TAKE UP APPROXIMATELY ONE THIRD TO ½ OF HER DUTIES, SOMETIMES MORE. WILLA KEEPS OUR TOWNSHIP RUNNING!

ANOTHER THANK YOU GOES TO OUR TOWNSHIP ASSISTANT, SHIRLEY LATHAN. SHE HAS REALLY BEEN A BIG HELP WITH ORGANIZING OUR HOLIDAY AND FOOD PROGRAMS, SHE ALSO ASSISTS WITH THE SENIOR PROGRAM AND THE GA AND EA INTAKES. HAVING HER HERE ALLOWS WILLA TO CONCENTRATE ON THE MORE DETAILED NEEDS OF THE TOWNSHIP. AND THANK YOU ALSO TO RUTH MARCUKAITIS, WHO IS OUR OFFICE ASSISTANT. SHE HELPS SHIRLEY WITH THE FOOD PROGRAMS AND HOLIDAY PROGRAMS AND SENIOR SERVICES. SHIRLEY AND RUTH ARE INTEGRAL TO OUR PROGRAMS SUCCESS.

TOWNSHIP GOVERNMENT:

ONE LAST THING I WANT TO ADDRESS AGAIN THIS YEAR IS THAT THE TOWNSHIP FORM OF GOVERNMENT IS UNDER CONSTANT ATTACK IN SPRINGFIELD. IT STARTED WITH FORMER GOVERNOR RAUNER WANTING TO CUT WHAT HE CONSIDERED EXCESS TAXATION WHICH STARTED AN ONSLAUGHT OF BILLS TO GET RID OF TOWNSHIPS.

MOST TOWNSHIPS IN ILLINOIS ARE NOT EXCESS. THEY ARE THE CLOSEST LOCAL FORM OF GOVERNMENT THAT HELPS PEOPLE. MONEE TOWNSHIP IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF OUR COMMUNITY. WE SERVE MANY UNDERPRIVILEGED RESIDENTS WHO WOULD HAVE TO DRIVE 30 MILES TO JOLIET TO GET FINANCIAL HELP IF WE WERE NOT HERE.

TOWNSHIPS ARE VERY COST EFFECTIVE, I DOUBT IT WOULD SAVE TAXPAYERS ANYTHING TO TAKE WHAT WE DO AND GIVE IT TO THE COUNTY. IT WOULD PROBABLY END UP COSTING MORE AND NOT SERVICING OUR RESIDENTS WELL. IF WE WERE NOT HERE, OUR SENIORS WOULD NOT HAVE A PLACE TO CONGREGATE AND SOCIALIZE, OUR YOUTH WOULD NOT BE SERVED, OUR ECONOMICALLY CHALLENGED RESIDENTS WOULD NOT HAVE A NEARBY PLACE TO GET FINANCIAL HELP, OR GET FOOD WHEN HUNGRY, OR JUST ADVICE ON WHERE THEY CAN GO FOR HELP.

GETTING RID OF TOWNSHIPS IS A VERY BAD IDEA, SO PLEASE ASK YOUR STATE REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATORS TO VOTE AGAINST ANY BILL TRYING TO DESTROY TOWNSHIP GOVERNMENT.

THANK YOU FOR COMING TONIGHT. I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AGAIN AT A MONTHLY BOARD MEETING OR AT ANOTHER ANNUAL TOWN MEETING. THE BOARD AND I WILL CONTINUE TO WORK HARD FOR MONEE TOWNSHIP.