

Minutes Board of Town Trustees

STATE OF ILLINOIS

LAKE COUNTY

TOWN OF NEWPORT

THE BOARD OF TOWN TRUSTEES met at the office of the Town Clerk at the Village Hall on December 20, 2017

Members Present:

J. Daryle Spiller, Trustee

Stan Williams, Trustee

Corey Kirschhoffer, Trustee

Jerome Berens, Assessor

Mike Wells, Trustee

Randy Whitmore, Supervisor

Debbie Spurgeon, Clerk

Rodger Edmonds, Highway Commissioner

Call to Order: Supervisor Whitmore called the Special Township Meeting of the Board of Town Trustees to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance: Supervisor Whitmore led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: In attendance, Daryle Spiller, Stan Williams, Rodger Edmonds, Jerome Berens, Mike Wells, Corey Kirschhoffer, Debbie Spurgeon and Randy Whitmore.

Approval of Minutes: Supervisor Whitmore requests a motion and a second to approve the November 15, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Motion to approve the November 15, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes by Kirschhoffer, seconded by Spiller.

Voice vote: Ayes, Spiller, Williams, Wells, Kirschhoffer, Whitmore. Motion passes 5-0.

Reports:

Supervisor's Report:

Supervisor Whitmore spoke with the TOIRMA attorney who assisted Ancel Glink in the defense of the recently concluded lawsuit against Newport Township (Reno v. Newport Township, Chancery Case No. 16CH00001341) and states TOIRMA attorney is happy with the results and says an appeal from the other party would be foolish. Whitmore says the success of the outcome was mainly due to Whitmore and Edmonds sitting down with TOIRMA and telling their story.

Edmonds is concerned other parties could file similar lawsuits and says the township's win was mainly due to incorrect wording by the other party. He wonders what will prevent others from modifying the wording and filing a similar suit.

Trustee Spiller believes the precedent of the Reno v. Newport case would help Newport win any future cases based on the same premise.

Whitmore prompts Trustee Williams to read a statement. Williams thanks Keri-Lyn Krafthefer and Ancel Glink for making Newport compliant within the law. He comments they have provided good and correct advice beginning with the Daniel Dziekan/Newport lawsuit and continuing with the defense of the most recent suit against the township. He continues, stating that Ancel Glink has always had the correct legal side.

Whitmore says the defense of the most recent lawsuit will be entirely covered by TOIRMA through the township's insurance policy, which covers \$50,000 in legal expenses. Edmonds inquires as to whether TOIRMA will go after Doug Reno to re-coup TOIRMA's outlay. Whitmore says the TOIRMA attorney indicates they will likely not do so.

Whitmore updates the board on his contact with a Georgia resident interested in purchasing the township property to open a scrap iron plant. Whitmore informed the potential buyer the use would not be approved with area zoning regulations. Whitmore sent him to Zion and says Zion is going to put the scrap metal plant on the lakefront.

Highway Commissioner's Report:

Commissioner Edmonds reports the highway district has received \$2,700 for the sale of the GMC truck at auction.

Edmonds additionally reports that SWALCO will accept tires from the township annually. His employees recently took two truckloads of discarded tires to SWALCO's recycling center.

Edwards Road is closed east of Route 45 and will likely remain so all winter. Antioch's highway commissioner Eric Ring extended Antioch Township financially with engineering costs, etc. for road maintenance, anticipating FEMA funds. Antioch Township was later informed by FEMA not to expect any monies. The township is now on the hook for \$500,000 in outlay costs and has subsequently closed the road until spring when money may be available to re-open the road.

Edmonds says Commissioner Eric Ring has asked Newport to plow snow for Antioch Township. Edmonds has requested Ring's road district attorney draw up an IGA.

Newport has taken delivery of 170 tons of salt at a cost of \$68.00 per ton. The salt is being housed at Campanella's garage for the township.

Commissioner Edmonds has hired two part-time employees, Richie Schultz and Mike Sivia, for the winter plowing season.

Dilly's Road and the roundabout are on Lake County's spring road plan. Additionally, the state has the infamous 'Milburn Strangler' (Route 45 and Milburn Road) scheduled to begin the bypass work in April.

Assessor's Report:

No report.

Clerk Comments:

The clerk reminds the board the township needs to have an alternative meeting location established, prior to the April Annual Town Meeting. Berens states the landlord at the township's prior offices is open to allowing the 2018 ATM meeting to be held at the Hunt Club location. Additional discussion needed on the arrangement details.

Trustee Comments:

Daryle Spiller – No report.

Stan Williams— No report.

Mike Wells-- No report.

Corey Kirschhoffer— No report.

Attorney's Report:

No attorney present.

Township Business:

The supervisor introduces the adoption of a sexual harassment policy resolution (20171220A) for the township as required by the State of Illinois. Trustee Williams is concerned about the quality

of the written document provided by Ancel Glink. He also inquires about training of the township employees (road district and assessor's office). Edmonds and Berens will train their respective employees and have them sign-off on the training. Whitmore notes instruction from Ancel Glink is that the road district resolution (20171220B) does not need to be voted on by the township board, only signed by the Highway Commissioner.

Motion by Spiller; second by Williams to adopt Resolution 20171220A.

Voice vote: Ayes, Spiller, Williams, Wells, Kirschhoffer, Whitmore. Motion passes, 5-0.

Finances:

Supervisor Whitmore requests a motion to approve the General Town bills.

Motion by Wells; seconded by Williams.

Voice Vote: Ayes, Spiller, Williams, Kirschhoffer, Wells, Whitmore. Nays, none.

Motion passes, 5-0.

Supervisor Whitmore requests a motion to approve the General Town/Assessor Fund bills.

Motion by Kirschhoffer; seconded by Wells.

Voice Vote: Ayes, Spiller, Williams, Kirschhoffer, Wells, Whitmore. Nays, none.

Motion passes, 5-0.

Supervisor Whitmore requests a motion to approve the Road district bills.

Motion by Spiller; seconded by Williams.

Voice Vote: Ayes, Spiller, Williams, Kirschhoffer, Wells, Whitmore; Nays, none.

Motion passes, 5-0.

Public Comment:

Toni Edmonds – Township resident Toni Edmonds wishes everyone a Merry Christmas.

Motion to Adjourn:

Supervisor Whitmore requests a motion to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting.

Motion by Williams; seconded by Kirschhoffer.

Voice Vote: Ayes, all; Nays none. Motion passes, 5-0

Meeting adjourns at 7:31 p.m.

Dated the 20th day of December 2017.

_____s/Debbie Spurgeon

Debbie Spurgeon, Township Clerk