

# 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 March 21, 2018

**Members Present:**

J. Daryle Spiller, Trustee

Stan Williams, Trustee

Corey Kirschhoffer, Trustee

Randy Whitmore, Supervisor

Rodger Edmonds, Highway Commissioner

Mike Wells, Trustee

Jerome Berens, Assessor

**Call to Order:** Supervisor Whitmore called the Regular Township Meeting of the Board of Town Trustees to order at 7:01 p.m.

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

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

Trustee Daryle Spiller is recording the meeting for the clerk tonight.

**Approval of Minutes:** Supervisor Whitmore requests a motion and a second to approve the February 21, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Motion to approve the February 21, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes as amended by Kirschhoffer, seconded by Williams.

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

**Reports:**

### **Supervisor's Report:**

Supervisor Whitmore suggests he may reschedule the May Regular meeting from May 16<sup>th</sup> to May 23<sup>rd</sup>. He expects tentative budgets to be available for discussion at the April Regular meeting.

Whitmore indicates he received a report from the attorney and the township is still being sued. Trustee Williams indicates he thought the suit was previously dismissed with prejudice. Whitmore says they took it to a different court/different judge. The supervisor says it's a formality and anticipates the suit will be dismissed.

Trustee Williams comments that the previous board sued Dziekan and caused all the costs in legal fees and now they are just doing it again to suck money out of the township.

Williams asks who is funding the suit. Whitmore says Rick Daniels is funding the suit. The report he received suggests the suit was done incorrectly. The supervisor says the township's tax is not new and that's how the township will win the case.

Supervisor Whitmore comments the senior luncheon will be held June 7, 2018 and inquires with the highway commissioner if the fire department needs workers to help with the luncheon (yes).

Highway Commissioner Edmonds indicates the fire department has rented tables for the upcoming senior luncheon and the event will again be catered by Stone Creek. Last year, the luncheon fed approximately 160-170 people and this year's attendance is expected to top 200. The luncheon will be held at the fire station. Help is welcomed. Trustee Williams indicates he will help. The commissioner says door prize donations are also welcome.

Supervisor Whitmore states the township's levy is upcoming. Commissioner Edmonds comments the levy is being turned in to Lake County tomorrow. Whitmore asks if the amount is less than last year (yes). Edmonds says it is because the village's take their share of road and bridge monies and thus the township is receiving ~\$27,000 less as the villages will get ~\$18,000-\$19,000. The supervisor indicates it will be a tight budget for the township next year.

### **Highway Commissioner's Report:**

Commissioner Edmonds reports snow season is winding down and ~230 tons of salt was used by the district. He notes the Village of Wadsworth is doing its share in replacing the salt owed to the district. The road district participated in the county bid last week, bidding for 300 tons. The tonnage cost can vary as the vendor's 3-phase bid pricing encourages recipients to take at least a portion of their deliveries early.

The highway commissioner reports on recent equipment issues: The district's 550 Ford truck's turbo went down. Highway Commissioner Edmonds anticipates the repair bill to be ~\$3,000 or slightly more. While the turbo is being repaired, belts and hoses were checked for replacement at the same time as the truck is already apart. Edmonds reports the 6-wheeler received new brakes last week.

Lastly, Edmonds notes the district is currently doing brush cutting with the big mower.

**Assessor's Report:**

No report.

**Clerk Comments:**

No report.

**Trustee Comments:**

Daryle Spiller – No report.

Stan Williams— Trustee Williams announces an open house for the area historical society will take place on Saturday, April 7<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to noon at Shield's on Wadsworth Road. He notes the historical society has put together information that hasn't been put together before and says a ton of work has been compiled on the history of Wadsworth. Trustee Williams says there is a lot of information and contributions have been made by a number of residents including Susie Anthony.

Mike Wells-- No report.

Corey Kirschhoffer— Trustee Kirschhoffer reports Wetlands Research, Inc. (WRI) would like to do something with the property at 9<sup>th</sup> and Kilbourne and says the company is already working with water quality credits at Kelly's Farm in Russell. She notes the 70-some acre farmette property at the northeast corner of 9<sup>th</sup> and Kilbourne is for sale for \$1.1 million. Trustee Kirschhoffer doesn't know if this is something the township could legally get involved with, however, Wetlands Research, Inc would be willing to take over the parcel and let Newport Township obtain water quality credit sales, which would be ongoing. Kirschhoffer says if WRI could get investors to purchase into the property and if the township would put money toward it, then it could turn around and sell 5 acres with two homes on it. Trustee Kirschhoffer comments in the long-term it would give the township an income on the property.

Trustee Wells briefly describes a situation near his property involving 150 acres and a local wetlands investment firm.

Supervisor Whitmore says water quality credits would be income-generating every year. He suggests Kirschhoffer ask the Newport attorney at the next meeting. Whitmore asks what water credits pay. Kirschhoffer does not know as it depends on multiple factors. She thanks the supervisor for putting her on the Wetlands Research Inc. board.

**Attorney's Report:**

No attorney present.

**Township Business:**

Supervisor Whitmore says the board needs to adopt the Annual Town Meeting agenda.

Motion to approve the Annual Town Meeting agenda with the addition of the township office address. Motion by Wells; seconded by Kirschhoffer.

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

Motion passes, 5-0.

**Finances:**

Supervisor Whitmore invites the board to review warrants for the monthly bills.

Whitmore initially didn't anticipate being in attendance for the meeting, so the bills are with bookkeeper, Nancy Lech. He would like to pass monthly bills tonight.

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

Motion by Williams; seconded by Spiller.

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

Motion passes, 5-0.

**Public Comment:**

No public comment.

**Motion to Adjourn:**

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

Motion by Williams; seconded by Wells.

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

Meeting adjourns at 7:42 p.m.

**Dated the 21<sup>st</sup> day of March 2018.**

                  s/Debbie Spurgeon                  

**Debbie Spurgeon, Township Clerk**