

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 January 15, 2014.

Members Present:

Beth Hartford, Trustee

Ronald Miller, Trustee

Diane Crittenden, Trustee

Corey Kirschhoffer, Trustee

Jerome Berens, Assessor

Rodger Edmunds, Highway Commissioner

Randy Whitmore, Supervisor

Debbie Spurgeon, Clerk

Call to Order: Supervisor Whitmore called the Regular 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 were Beth Hartford, Ron Miller, Rodger Edmunds, Jerome Berens, Diane Crittenden, Corey Kirschhoffer, Randy Whitmore and Debbie Spurgeon. Also present, Attorney Tiffany Nelson Jaworski for Keri-Lynn Krafthefer.

Approval of Agenda: The agenda was not called for approval.

Approval of Minutes: Supervisor Whitmore requested a motion and second to approve the December 18, 2013 Regular Meeting minutes. No discussion.

Motion by Hartford; seconded by Miller to approve the minutes from December 18, 2013.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion passed 5-0.

Reports:**Supervisor's Report:**

Supervisor Randy Whitmore announced Wadsworth Village Hall will no longer be a site for early voting due to associated costs and increased state requirements for voting sites. Newport voters who wish to cast their vote during the allotted early voting period will need to do so at the Zion City Hall, 2828 Sheridan Road, Zion. Whitmore added his agreement with the county's decision, noting he felt it was a waste of money.

Supervisor Randy Whitmore indicated his intention to consolidate township rents by purchasing available properties that he is aware of. He will bring specifics to the board within the new few months. Trustee Cory Kirschhoffer inquired as to what the intention is for the existing property owned by the township. Whitmore stated it may possibly be kept as a site for industry, noting its proximity to Trumpet Park. Trustee Beth Hartford indicated Newport initially purchased this property as a possible township building site, and additionally to keep Zion from annexing into Newport. She added the parcel is the only thing that stands as a buffer between us and Zion. Trustee Kirschhoffer noted she is not in favor of selling the property already owned by the township. Whitmore agrees, adding he intends to make money off of the property somehow and does not intend to let it sit idle.

Highway Commissioner's Report:

Highway Commissioner Edmunds noted to date, the township has gone through about 50% of the road salt purchased for this winter.

Assessor's Report:

No report.

Clerk Comments:

No report.

Trustee Comments:

Beth Hartford—Trustee Hartford commented on the proposed meeting schedule received from Keri-Lyn Krafthefer for 2014, noting moving township meeting dates and times around is a nightmare for residents and board members alike, and increases the likelihood the public will not attend. She also commented moving the meetings back to the existing Township offices would eliminate any conflict and allow the meetings to be held in the normal schedule.

Hartford additionally thanked the Cornerstone Church for their recent support of the township during the December 18th Special Meeting for taxation, noting they were ‘on call’ as an alternate site in case the meeting attendance exceeded capacity at village hall. She suggested the township consider a small stipend at the next regular meeting, noting Cornerstone’s representative had reserved and heated a room for Newport, re-arranged furniture to accommodate the township, and remained on-site until notified the Special Meeting would not need to be relocated.

The board agreed to discuss Hartford’s request at the February meeting.

Ron Miller-- No report.

Diane Crittenden—No report.

Corey Kirschhoffer—No report.

Attorney’s Report: No report.

Township Business:

Supervisor Whitmore requested discussion and action to establish regular meeting dates for 2014 be postponed until he can discuss it with Attorney Keri-Lynn Krafthefer.

Finances:

The supervisor introduced the bills for approval by fund:

Supervisor Whitmore requested a motion to approve the General Town Fund bills.

Motion made by Kirschhoffer; seconded by Crittenden.

Voice Vote: Ayes, Crittenden, Kirschhoffer, Whitmore; Nays, Hartford, Miller. Motion passed 3-2.

Supervisor Whitmore requested a motion to approve the Assessor (General Town) Fund bills.

Motion made by Kirschhoffer; seconded by Crittenden.

Voice Vote: Ayes, Hartford, Miller, Crittenden, Kirschhoffer, Whitmore; Nays, none. Motion Passed 5-0.

Supervisor Whitmore requested a motion to approve the Road & Bridge Fund bills.

Motion made by Kirschhoffer; seconded by Crittenden

Voice Vote: Ayes, Crittenden, Kirschhoffer, Whitmore; Nays, Hartford, Miller. Motion passed 3-2

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Public Comment:

No public wishing to comment.

Motion to Adjourn:

Supervisor Whitmore requested a motion and a second to adjourn.

Motion by Hartford; seconded by Miller.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Dated the 18th day of January, 2014.

s/Debbie Spurgeon

Debbie Spurgeon, Township Clerk