

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 18, 2013.

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 7:47 p.m. [The Regular Meeting was preceded by a Special Township Meeting.]

Pledge of Allegiance: The clerk previously led the Pledge of Allegiance at the preceding Special Township Meeting.

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 Keri-Lyn Krafthefer.

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

Approval of Minutes: Supervisor Whitmore requested a motion and second to approve the November 25, 2013 General Town Budget Hearing Minutes, Road District Hearing Minutes and the Regular Meeting minutes. No discussion.

Motion by Kirschhoffer; seconded by Hartford to approve the minutes from November 25, 2013.

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

Reports:

Highway Commissioner's Report:

Highway Commissioner Rodger Edmunds thanked those who came out to help at the preceding Special Township Meeting.

Assessor's Report:

Assessor Jerome Berens presented his budget proposal for 2014, noting the statute requires the budget presentation take place 60-days prior to the end of the fiscal year. He indicated he is requesting the same budget as he had in 2012. Berens cited accomplishments during his tenure such as staffing reductions and increased efficiencies. When he took office in 2009, Berens stated the previous assessor had a \$72,000 budget, which he subsequently reduced to \$54,000 in 2010, to \$48,000 in 2011, and then to \$45,000 in 2012. He commented his budget is one of the lowest of the 18 townships in the county and he feels his office is heading in the right direction.

Assessor Berens went on to describe a situation with his 2013 budget, indicating that a technical communication issue with the previous township supervisor caused him to inadvertently receive a lower budget in 2013 than he had intended. To explain the confusion, Berens referenced a portion of the meeting minutes from his 2013 budget presentation, concluding this is why he is asking for the same figures in 2014 as was approved in 2012.

Berens says with the real estate market picking up he will need more feet on the streets. Additionally, he would like to reward his outstanding office manager with a deserved pay raise.

Supervisor Whitmore asked Berens what his current 2013 budget is. Berens indicated he asked for \$45,000, but he ultimately ended up with \$38,950. He is requesting \$45,000 for FY 2014. Berens said he did not discover the issue until recently when he was contacted by Whitmore's administrator, Nancy Lech who indicated Berens was over-budget in a couple of line items. Beren's says he needs \$45,000 to properly operate the assessor's office.

Whitmore inquired what the board wanted to do or if there were questions. Hartford explained that the assessor's budget is a part of the supervisor's general township budget and that Whitmore will need to take this into consideration when preparing his 2014 budget.

Whitmore indicated he would take Beren's presentation under consideration.

Clerk Comments:

The clerk indicated her appreciation for the individuals who assisted with tonight's Special Township meeting.

Trustee Comments:

Beth Hartford—Trustee Hartford again noted that the extra \$1,000 Supervisor Whitmore is taking in his annual salary is improper. She noted this decision would have had to have been determined by the prior board. Whitmore cannot change his salary within his term.

Whitmore says he is not taking the additional salary which continues to be included in the monthly financial reports. He acknowledges he needs to get this fixed with Nancy Lech.

Ron Miller-- No report.

Diane Crittenden—No report.

Corey Kirschhoffer—No report.

Supervisor’s Report:

No report.

Attorney’s Report: Attorney Krafthefer indicated the board will need to discuss the 2014 meeting schedule at the next meeting.

Township Levy Ordinance:

Supervisor Whitmore passed copies of the Township Levy Ordinance out to the board, inquiring if the board had questions. Attorney Keri-Lyn Krafthefer noted the figures are the same as the Estimate of Township Levy which the board approved at the previous meeting.

Hearing no further discussion, Supervisor Whitmore requested a motion to approve the Township Levy Ordinance.

Motion made by Kirschhoffer; seconded by Crittenden.

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

The clerk requested the board to sign two originals.

Road District Levy Ordinance:

Whitmore requested a motion to adopt the road district levy as presented.

Hearing no discussion, Supervisor Whitmore requested a motion to adopt the Road District Levy Ordinance.

Motion made by Crittenden; seconded by Kirschhoffer.

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

The clerk requested the board sign 3 originals; with the extra original intended for the highway commissioner.

Finances:

Supervisor introduced the bills for approval by fund:

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

Motion made by Miller; seconded by Kirschhoffer

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

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

Motion made by Kirschhoffer; seconded by Miller.

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 Miller; seconded by Hartford.

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

Public Comment:

No public wishing to comment.

Motion to Adjourn:

Supervisor Whitmore requested a motion and a second to adjourn.

Motion by Miller; seconded by Hartford.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Dated the 18th day of December, 2013.

_____ s/Debbie Spurgeon

Debbie Spurgeon, Township Clerk