

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 August 21, 2013.

Members Present:

Beth Hartford, Trustee

Ron 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 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. All present. 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 July 31, 2013 Regular Meeting Minutes. Diane Crittenden commented her reason (at the July Regular Meeting) for wanting to move Public Comment to the beginning of the meeting was not adequately reflected in the clerk's minutes. She would like more included. Attorney Krafthefer questions if Crittenden would like to move to approve the minutes with this amendment. Crittenden says yes. Cory Kirschhoffer then requested additional details of what she termed "an outburst during Public Comment" also be included.

Motion by Crittenden to approve the minutes with amendment. No second. No vote. Whitmore stated the July 31, 2013 Regular Meeting minutes will be held over to the next meeting.

Supervisor Whitmore requested a motion and second to approve the July 31, 2013 Road District Budget Hearing Minutes. No discussion.

Motion by Kirschhoffer; seconded by Crittenden.

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

Reports:

Supervisor's Report: Supervisor Whitmore says he will give his report at the end of the meeting.

Highway Commissioner's Report:

Highway Commissioner Rodger Edmunds reported he was able to get out of moving forward with the Mill Creek road project initiated by former commissioner Dan Dziekan. He indicated it will, however, cost us our portion of the bond. Commissioner Edmunds passed out an assessment to the board, which he prepared on the condition of Newport's roadways. In general, he says the roads are in pretty good shape but need routine maintenance. He noted Edwards Road is "breaking out" and this is an issue he will need to deal with going forward. He stated the bottom line is that his department will utilize crack sealing and other measures in an attempt to buy a couple of years so that he can get some money back into the road district funds. Edmunds praised Dan Dziekan's excellent care of the township roadways. Assessor Berens is confused, believing Edmunds has sufficient funds available to maintain the roads. Edmunds says he has money in the funds to survive for 1-2 years, but that major road projects like Edwards Road could cost ~\$14/yard to repair/resurface. Supervisor Whitmore commented that he visited the Newport Highway Department Building and noted that the equipment is in good shape and that the highway commissioner has some pretty nice equipment to work with. Edmunds agrees he is good shape with equipment.

Assessor's Report:

Assessor Berens commented that the 'blue sheets' are now out and that he wrote an article for the Village of Wadsworth newsletter. He added that again this year the township was factored down on average about 9%, however, the tax rate will likely go up again this year. Assessor Berens noted the 'blue sheets' contain a wealth of information for taxpayers. He invited township residents with questions to call his office Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Clerk Comments:

No report.

Trustee Comments:

Beth Hartford-- No report.

Ron Miller-- No report.

Diane Crittenden—No report.

Corey Kirschhoffer—No report.

Attorney's Report: Newport Township Attorney Keri-Lyn Krafthefer reported on a bill passed permitting townships to sell surplus property on eBay. Ancel Glink will be providing information to the board on this legislation in the coming days.

Township Business:

Supervisor Whitmore introduced a proposal to schedule a public hearing to amend the General Township Budget at the September meeting. Whitmore says he needs to amend the budget, because he is running out of money, adding he needs to move money around from one account to another. Attorney Krafthefer suggests Whitmore post the current budget for public display unless he already knows what the tentative budget will be. Trustees Hartford and Miller note there is not enough time for the required public display period for September. Whitmore and Krafthefer agree on 6:45 p.m. on October 16, 2013, noting waiting until the October meeting will provide a couple of weeks for them to put together the tentative budget information. Krafthefer says she will put together the notice and email it to the clerk.

Motion by Whitmore to schedule a GT Budget public hearing on October 16, 2013 at 6:45 p.m.
Motion seconded by Kirschhoffer.

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

Finances:

Whitmore introduced discussion on the payment of the bills. Hartford asked if trustees are able to see the bills. Whitmore responded affirmatively.

Township Business, continued:

Whitmore says he is returning to unfinished business and comments that he and Rodger Edmunds have been discussing and looking at available space with the plan of moving the township offices out of the current Hunt Club Road facility and moving the Road District out of its current Old

Route 41 location. Randy and Rodger would like to have everything in one place, pay less money and own it. He vaguely referenced a location he and Edmunds have looked at with enough space for a park. Whitmore invited board members to bring other possible locations up at the next meeting. He added that he intends to speak with “one other party” over the next couple of weeks about a location, which he says will work out real nice. Assessor Berens indicated his concern that Whitmore and Edmunds are mixing “apples and oranges”, noting that road maintenance equipment and office space requiring public access do not generally work well together, although he added that it is possible it could. He commented that the county has spent quite a bit of money to wire up the current Assessor’s office with the required computer lines vital to the assessor’s operation. Trustee Hartford noted that the township bore the expense of the required wiring and urged Whitmore to include this expense in his calculations.

An audience member noted the township owns property for the future possibility of erecting a township center, and that there are architectural plans which already exist.

Public Comment:

No public wishing to comment.

Trustee Hartford reminded Supervisor Whitmore that the bills have not yet been voted on.

Finances, continued:

Hartford suggested board members be provided the warrants prior to the meeting as is the practice. Whitmore says he will work on this. He requested a motion to approve the General Town Fund.

Motion by Kirschhoffer; seconded by Crittenden.

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

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

Motion made by Miller; seconded by Kirschhoffer.

Voice Vote: Ayes, Hartford, Miller, Crittenden, Kirschhoffer, Whitmore. Motion passed 5-0.

Hartford requested to see detail from Rodger Edmunds on the road district bills. Whitmore requested a motion to approve the Road & Bridge and Gravel Fund bills. Trustee Kirschhoffer noted the two funds are now on the same warrant. Trustee Hartford requested the bills continue to be separated as the funds themselves are.

Motion made by Kirschhoffer; seconded by Crittenden.

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

Trustee Miller questioned Supervisor Whitmore on the new bill payment process and how bills are being paid before the board has an opportunity to review them. Whitmore says the bills have not been paid yet, because the checks are sitting in front of him.

Public Comment, continued:

No public wishing to comment.

Motion to Adjourn:

With no further business, Supervisor Whitmore requested a motion and a second to adjourn.

The clerk interjected that she just was handed the road district budget to add her signature, noting the other board members have now signed it tonight, however the figures do not match the budget which was approved last month. Whitmore says the budget was updated and the new version presents a clearer picture of what is in the funds. Attorney Krafthefer noted that no changes can be made to a budget after the board has voted on it, and clarified the intention tonight is only for the board to sign what was passed at the previous meeting. Following additional discussion on the variation in figures, it was agreed to move the signatory and certification pages.

Motion by Miller; seconded by Hartford.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Dated the 21st day of August, 2013.

_____s/Debbie Spurgeon_____

Debbie Spurgeon, Township Clerk