

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 21, 2015.

Members Present:

Beth Hartford, Trustee

Ronald Miller, Trustee

Diane Crittenden, Trustee

Corey Kirschhoffer, Trustee

Randy Whitmore, Supervisor

Debbie Spurgeon, Clerk

Jerome Berens, Assessor

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: The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Supervisor Whitmore.

Roll Call: In attendance were Beth Hartford, Ron Miller, Jerome Berens, Diane Crittenden, Corey Kirschhoffer, Debbie Spurgeon and Randy Whitmore. Rodger Edmonds, absent.

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

Approval of Minutes: Supervisor Whitmore requests motions and seconds to approve minutes from the December 17 and December 22, 2014 meetings, indicating he will call each individually. No discussion. *[Due to the Supervisor's subsequent order of calling, approval of December 17th and 22nd minutes are intermixed.]*

Motion made by Hartford seconded by Miller, to approve the minutes as presented from December 17, 2014 for Special Township Meeting – Truth in Taxation Hearing for the General Township.

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

Motion made by Kirschhoffer seconded by Crittenden, to approve the minutes as presented from December 17, 2014 for the Special Township Meeting – Truth in Taxation Hearing for the Road District.

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

Motion made by Miller seconded by Hartford, to approve the minutes as presented from December 22, 2014 for the additional Special Township Meeting regarding township tax levies.

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

Motion made by Hartford seconded by Miller, to approve the minutes as presented from December 17, 2014 for the Regular Township Meeting.

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

Township Business:

Supervisor Whitmore introduced internet consultant Craig Jordan of Unified Technology Devices to speak to the board regarding internet options for the Assessor's Office. Mr. Jordan, who works with many of the area townships, gave a brief summary of the assessor's internet connection requirements to the county extension office as well as, the challenges of providing secured service at the township offices. He expressed service concerns regarding the proposal for e-vergent, without additional site modifications. Mr. Jordan and Assessor Berens described possible modifications, noting the options will require cooperation and/or approval from Old Mill Creek. Assessor Berens has spoken with the landlord and the Old Mill Creek Village Board, noting they are willing to consider either sharing the cost for the T1 line or a possible variance to allow for modifications to the existing antenna tower. In the case of the variance, the Old Mill Creek Village Board will need to have the proposal presented to them at a board meeting for consideration. Assessor Berens stated, at this point AT&T is the only viable option. Trustee Kirschhoffer doesn't see why Old Mill Creek would not grant a variance. Kirschhoffer supports the e-vergent option rather than the existing T1 line; she and Berens dispute costs of the options.

A representative (Irene) from Old Mill Creek stated the village will need to have a public hearing in the case of the variance request once Newport has submitted specifics of a proposal. She noted the process can take some time.

Reports:

Supervisor's Report:

Supervisor Whitmore says he's been in contact with the Governor's office; requesting he come and meet the local mayors. He states the 173 Corridor Council is being restarted and they've got some developers who are looking around at the area property. Whitmore says he's getting the Governor up here because he needs some money for the sewer. Trustee Kirschhoffer asked if the Lake County Board has anything to do with this. Whitmore replied, they have everything to do with it. Whitmore says he's going to have a meeting next Wednesday at the Wadsworth Village Hall, and he will let everyone know the details. Assessor Berens asks if he has invited any Lake County Board members. Whitmore responded, he has asked a couple of them adding that he knows who to call.

Highway Commissioner's Report:

Highway Commissioner Edmonds was absent. From the audience, his wife, Toni Edmonds reported the road district is going forward with plans to pave Newport's portion of Delany Road this year. She indicated they are currently working with Lake County on the proposal.

Assessor's Report:

Assessor Jerome Berens recapped the situation with his office's internet connection to the county extension office, noting the T1 line was the only viable option. He added that in order to move forward with any alternative proposals under consideration, there is an assortment of items to consider including: the T1, the ICM, the penalty with AT&T, the variance, and locating an antenna vendor/installer. Berens says he has called three antenna vendors and has received no return calls. Whitmore says he has guys that do that. Berens reminded board members, that Old Mill Creek is entertaining sharing the cost for the T1.

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: No report.

Finances:

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's/General Town Fund bills.

Motion made by Crittenden; seconded by Kirschhoffer.

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

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.

Public Comment:

Donna Suwilla- Donna stated she is involved with a stakeholders group regarding the counties' proposals for Wadsworth Road at Dilly's, Route 41 and Kilbourne Road. She briefly reported on the first stakeholder's meeting held at Prairie School where safety and maintaining the integrity of the Village of Wadsworth including bike and horse riders were discussed. She urged concerned residents to view the information on the **wadsworthintersections.com** website. Another meeting is scheduled to take place in a couple of months. Trustee Kirschhoffer inquired whether the

stakeholders group is from Wadsworth or Lake County DOT. Ms. Suwilla indicated a cross-section of interests were represented including business owners, village officials, and people impacted by the proposals.

Executive Session:

No closed session.

Motion to Adjourn:

Supervisor Whitmore requested a motion and a second to adjourn the Regular Meeting.

Motion by Miller; seconded by Hartford.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Dated the 21st day of January, 2015.

 s/Debbie Spurgeon

Debbie Spurgeon, Township Clerk