

# Minutes Board of Town Trustees

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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 February 18, 2015.

**Members Present:**

Beth Hartford, Trustee

Ronald Miller, Trustee

Diane Crittenden, Trustee

Corey Kirschhoffer, Trustee

Randy Whitmore, Supervisor

Rodger Edmonds, Highway Commissioner

Jerome Berens, Assessor

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:** The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Supervisor Whitmore at the preceding Truth in Taxation Hearing.

**Roll Call:** In attendance were Beth Hartford, Ron Miller, Rodger Edmonds, Jerome Berens, Diane Crittenden, Corey Kirschhoffer, Debbie Spurgeon and Randy Whitmore. Also present, Attorney Keri-Lyn Krafthefer of Ancel, Glink, Diamond, Bush, DiCianni, & Krafthefer, PC.

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

**Approval of Minutes:** Supervisor Whitmore requests a motion and second to approve the minutes from January 21, 2015. No discussion.

Motion made by Hartford seconded by Miller, to approve the minutes from January 21, 2015 as presented.

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

**Reports:**

**Supervisor's Report:**

Supervisor Whitmore says he talked to the Governor's Office about getting him to come up here. He adds, Tim Smith and Old Mill Creek are working on getting the sewer rights to go up Route 41 and says hopefully this week he will have a meeting to see what Tim Smith has planned. Whitmore indicates the Governor cannot get anyone up here until April.

Whitmore further indicates he spoke with Moses Amidei from the Village of Wadsworth regarding writing a letter to solicit Menominee casino operations to the Newport-Wadsworth area. Trustee Hartford interjects that there is no state gambling license to allow this. Whitmore says he has some property available.

Whitmore indicates he is working on an air show for September 12-13 with Waukegan's airport, and he is looking for volunteers.

**Highway Commissioner's Report:**

Commissioner Edmonds reports less salt and fuel expenses for the fiscal year.

**Assessor's Report:**

No report; lease agreement update to be discussed in Township Business.

**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.

**Township Business:**

Township Attorney Keri-Lyn Krafthefer of Ancel, Glink, Diamond, Bush, DiCianni & Krafthefer, PC indicates she was contacted by Attorney Douglas Stiles of the Village of Old Mill Creek (OMC) last Thursday regarding a desire by Old Mill Creek to convey the ownership of Edwards Road to the Newport Township Road District. Krafthefer says she summarized past township discussions with Stiles including, that some people felt they want the road fixed, but did not want Newport tax dollars to be used to do so, while other people felt the township should take over the road and maintain it. Attorney Krafthefer says she indicated to Stiles she would poll the board tonight. She inquired with Attorney Stiles about what would happen to the property if Newport did not agree to accept ownership and thus the costs to resurface and maintain the roadway. Krafthefer comments Stiles said the property was originally private, then later annexed into the Village of Old Mill Creek and sold to the forest preserve district. Old Mill Creek is not going to spend the money to fix the road. Krafthefer comments the roadway is surrounded by forest preserve property, and Stiles indicated to her if the township does not want the road Old Mill Creek will either vacate the roadway and close it, or convey it to the forest preserve district. Krafthefer says the question for the board is do the taxpayers of Newport find value in keeping the road open, or not. Trustee Kirschhoffer comments if the road is eventually closed, the fire department would need to use Crawford Road from Newport's west-side station to access the area. Krafthefer suggests if Newport feels there is value, perhaps Old Mill Creek will consider concessions in regards to rent and internet costs associated with the Township Offices. Assessor Berens attended Old Mill Creek's most recent board meeting and suggests one-third of heating expenses versus the current split (one half) indicated in the contract, to begin with the new township fiscal year in March. Old Mill Creek agreed. Additionally, sharing the costs of the reliable T1 line--- one-third to be paid by Old Mill Creek; two-thirds by Newport. Krafthefer says this is all good, but perhaps we can get something better from the village if they wish to convey the road to Newport. She indicates the process will start with the Newport Road District,

however, the Highway Commissioner will have to bring it forward to the township board.

Highway Commissioner Edmonds says he is not sure where some of this information comes from, indicating in the October/November timeframe he attended the OMC board meeting and says the village voted on/approved keeping the road, because they do not wish to see Antioch annex across and reach the toll way. If the village vacates the road, this opens up Antioch to run/own any sewer lines in the area. If OMC keeps the road within their village, they are able to keep it locked-up from Antioch's reach. Edmonds says they have offered Newport \$10,000 to defray culvert replacement or repair costs. Edmonds says Newport would be responsible to repave and maintain the road in perpetuity, adding OMC will contract with Newport for snow removal, brush trimming and mowing. Edmonds calls the proposal a pretty good deal. Whitmore definitely wants to get the \$10,000 from OMC. Edmonds reiterates this has all been voted on and approved by the village. Attorney Krafthefer inquires as to what the maintenance fee arrangement is. Highway Commissioner Edmonds says he already has an IGA with them, but it cannot be located by either party. Krafthefer suggests Newport could negotiate reduced or free rent and/or internet. Edmonds requests Attorney Krafthefer assist him with negotiations. Trustee Kirschhoffer says the township needs to get everything we ask for, or Old Mill Creek can keep the road. Commissioner Edmonds disagrees. Trustee Hartford sympathizes with the few residents who are impacted by the state of disrepair of the section of road; on the other hand she thinks Newport should call the village's bluff. Kirschhoffer says OMC created the situation. Hartford agrees. Edmonds insists the IGA will allow him to recoup money from the village. Hartford says it will take a hundred years to recoup this kind of money. Edmonds says he does not disagree. Attorney Krafthefer asks if we are better off owning the road or being paid to repair it. Kirschhoffer says the road section needs to be taken down to the base and culverts replaced--- indicating the resurfacing will not be cheap. Commissioner Edmonds agrees. Krafthefer again asks if the township is better off owning the road or not---stating if Newport owns it, the repairs become our responsibility. A brief discussion occurs on what Newport is seeking in a further

negotiation. Krafthefer will bring the details back to Attorney Stiles.

Supervisor Whitmore introduces a number of assorted budget line item transfers identified by his bookkeeper, Nancy Lech as being necessary. He indicates the board needs to vote on the fund transfers. Attorney Krafthefer interjects that the line item transfers are not on the agenda and therefore cannot be voted on. She suggests holding the transfers over to the next Regular Meeting. Trustee Hartford notes February ends the township's fiscal year. Trustee Miller inquires as to why the transfers were not included on the agenda. From the audience, Toni Edmonds says the error lies with Nancy Lech; Whitmore concurs. Krafthefer suggests a Special Meeting. The board agrees to hold a Special Meeting to address the budget line item transfers on Monday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Attorney Krafthefer will prepare the agenda.

**Finances:**

Supervisor Whitmore requests 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, 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:**

No public wishing to comment.

**Executive Session:**

No closed session.

**Motion to Adjourn:**

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

Motion by Hartford; seconded by Miller.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

**Dated the 18<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2015.**

                  s/Debbie Spurgeon                  

**Debbie Spurgeon, Township Clerk**