

# 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 August 20, 2014.

**Members Present:**

Beth Hartford, Trustee

Ronald Miller, Trustee

Diane Crittenden, Trustee

Corey Kirschhoffer, Trustee

Randy Whitmore, Supervisor

Rodger Edmunds, Highway Commissioner

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:** 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, Ancel Glink Attorney, Tiffany Nelson-Jaworski.

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

**Approval of Minutes:** Supervisor Whitmore requested a motion and second to approve the minutes from July 23, 2014. No discussion.

Motion by Hartford, seconded by Miller to approve the minutes from July 23, 2014 as presented.

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

**Township Business:**

No new township business.

**Reports:**

**Supervisor's Report:**

The supervisor says the "Newport/Wadsworth Ditch" is going forward. Four property owners have said yes, therefore riffle dam structures will be installed in various areas. Whitmore says one will be installed near Trustee Hartford's area; indicating she can expect to be contacted in regards to this. Whitmore says they got funding from a group and now they can start installing these dams.

**Highway Commissioner's Report:**

Commissioner Edmunds inquired as to whether Whitmore has heard from Mayor Tim Smith of Old Mill Creek regarding de-annexing the portion of Edwards Road currently under Old Mill Creeks' jurisdiction, which was discussed at the July meeting. Edmunds referenced a letter to the board from Ancel Glink. Whitmore indicated he has not heard from Smith.

**Assessor's Report:**

Assessor Berens again briefly reviewed the 'blue sheet', his office's factoring down of assessments over the past several years, and the teeter-totter effect of assessed valuations and tax rates. He reported the tax rate went up 30% in recent years, while his office factored down 25% during the same period of time.

**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 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 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 Crittenden; seconded by Kirschhoffer.

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

3-2.

Whitmore asks why Trustees Hartford and Miller generally vote no on approval of bills.

Hartford says she does not agree with the current budget and spending on attorney

fees. Miller concurs. Trustee Crittenden wonders if they intend to vote no for the entire term.

Hartford notes township budgets are voted on annually and she has consistently noted concern

with the extensive legal line item in the current budget. Trustee Crittenden notes her

belief trustees should vote the same to support the township.

