

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 March 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 Regular Meeting minutes from February 18, 2015 and the Special Meeting minutes from February 23, 2015. No discussion.

Motion made by Kirschhoffer seconded by Hartford, to approve the minutes from February 18, 2015 and February 23, 2015, as presented.

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

Reports:

Supervisor's Report:

Supervisor Whitmore says he received a letter from the IRS regarding \$323.69 owed from 2009. The board recalls a similar communication received approximately a year or so ago, noting the amount relates to the remittance of taxes surrounding the annual Assessor's bonus for previous Township Assessor, Linda Raymond. The supervisor suggests paying the bill in full and the board agrees.

The supervisor comments that the township had to assist someone with room and board during the past month at the Rosecrans Motel. He also indicates he has been contacted by *[name withheld for privacy]* requesting General Assistance from the township for utility bills due to recent personal hard ships. Supervisor Whitmore says the township will help with the family's utility bills. Trustee Kirschhoffer inquires whether the supervisor has copies of the bills. [No.] Trustee Hartford notes GA policy dictates the entire utility bill must be able to be paid, noting payment cannot be a partial one.

Highway Commissioner's Report:

No report.

Assessor's Report:

No report.

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:

Supervisor Whitmore moves to adopt tentative budgets for the Township and Road Districts. Board members and Attorney Krafthefer briefly comment on various pieces of legislation currently under consideration at the state level. Hearing no discussion on the proposed tentative budgets, the supervisor requests a motion to adopt a tentative budget for the Town Fund.

Motion made by Kirschhoffer; seconded by Crittenden.

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

Supervisor Whitmore requests a motion to adopt a tentative budget for the Road District Fund.

Motion made by Crittenden; seconded by Kirschhoffer.

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

Supervisor Whitmore introduces the approval of the Annual Town Meeting Agenda, as provided to the board by the clerk.

Motion made by Hartford seconded by Miller, to approve the Annual Town Meeting Agenda as presented.

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

Supervisor Whitmore calls on Attorney Krafthefer to update the Board on conversations

regarding Edwards Road with the Village of Old Mill Creek (OMC), since last month's meeting. Attorney Keri-Lyn Krafthefer indicates she contacted OMC Attorney Doug Stiles for further discussions on Edwards Road. Stiles inquires how the township would like the road conveyed to it; Krafthefer asks how the village owns the road. Stiles did not know. Noting her frustration, Krafthefer enlisted another attorney colleague for assistance, admitting at this point the township is doing the research Old Mill Creek should be doing. Highway Commissioner Rodger Edmonds interjects, noting in the past, someone from the county looked into the ownership issue at Edmonds' request. Trustee Hartford indicates it is clear Old Mill Creek is happy to have Newport paying for and doing the work for them. Edmonds indicates Newport is going to pave the road, who cares? Hartford says who cares are the taxpayers whose Tax dollars will be used to pave the portion of roadway Old Mill Creek annexed. Edmonds noted his focus is recouping some amount from Old Mill Creek, adding he wants to put the road on the county's Spring bid list. Keri-Lyn Krafthefer advises Edmonds he can move forward with placing Edwards Road on the Spring bid list, while she continues to work on the issues surrounding the road. She adds, apparently everyone wants this to go thru. Whitmore introduces 'Unfinished Business' of the lease agreement with Old Mill Creek. Attorney Krafthefer indicates she included this item on tonight's meeting agenda in case the Board needs to discuss the subject further. [No discussion.] Whitmore additionally introduces options regarding an internet provider for the Assessor's office. Assessor Jerome Berens notes the issue is concluded.

Finances:

Supervisor Whitmore requests a motion to approve the Assessor/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 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 requests 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.

Public Comment:

Mark Kirschhoffer – Mr. Kirschhoffer comments his visit tonight is to provide information on an upcoming Newport Fire District referendum on the ballot for the upcoming April 7, 2015 Consolidated Election. [Kirschhoffer provided the Board informational materials on the need/reasons for the proposed increase.] Kirschhoffer lamented decreased assessed values in recent years resulting in reduced tax revenues, calling Beach Park’s Cambridge housing development the one ‘shining star’. Mark Kirschhoffer says the districts’ desire to build a second station was met when local contractor Mike Gross retired and the fire department moved to acquire Gross’s building, opening a second station in the area of Russell Road & Hwy 94. At this time, Kirschhoffer says the district is in need of a tax increase to purchase new/replace aging vehicles which could result in increasing maintenance costs in years forward. Kirschhoffer indicates the proposed increase will cost the owner of a \$300,000 home ~\$132.00 annually. He says with the expenditure of capital monies for the additional station, the district has fallen behind on apparatus replacement. Kirschhoffer says the department, which has 4 full-time employees and 34 part-time employees, carries a fully-funded benefit and pension plan for full-timers. The

district is current on all pension contribution obligations. Kirschhoffer goes on to briefly explain the training & certification process for new trainees, the districts' relatively low part-time wages, and the current practice of billing users of ambulance services, an expense which he says can be covered by homeowner's insurance. Kirschhoffer further notes, a lot of Newport's ambulance customers are transients (people passing through the area) on Hwy. 41 or Interstate 94. If ambulance service fees are not remitted, the district does not pursue collections. Kirschhoffer says the district currently receives about \$1,248,000 in annual tax revenue.

Executive Session:

No closed session.

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 7:57 p.m.

Dated the 18th day of March, 2015.

_____s/Debbie Spurgeon_____

Debbie Spurgeon, Township Clerk