

Minutes Annual Town Meeting

STATE OF ILLINOIS

LAKE COUNTY

TOWN OF NEWPORT

THE ELECTORS OF NEWPORT TOWNSHIP met at the office of the Town Clerk at the Village Hall on April 14, 2015.

Public Present: The voters present at the Annual Town Meeting were verified by Clerk Spurgeon with the registered voter list as provided by the Lake County Clerk's Office on April 6, 2015. Additionally present in the "press/non-voter" area is Attorney Tiffany Nelson-Jaworski, an attorney with Ancel, Glink, Diamond, Bush, DiCianni & Krafthefer, and P.C.

Call to Order: Clerk Spurgeon called the Annual Town Meeting of Newport Township to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance: The clerk led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Appointment of a Moderator and Oath of Office: Spurgeon requested nominations for a Moderator of tonight's Annual Town Meeting.

Motion made by Millie Corder, seconded by Beth Hartford to nominate Tom Hartford as Moderator for the April 14, 2015 Annual Town Meeting.

Voice vote: Ayes all; nays none. Motion passed.

Tom Hartford was sworn in as Moderator by the clerk, and signed the Oath of Office.

Approval of Annual Town Meeting Minutes and Special Township Meeting Minutes: Minutes from the Annual Town Meeting for April 8, 2014 were made available for elector review, as well as Special Township Meeting Minutes from September 17, 2014 and December 18, 2013.

Motion made by Millie Corder, seconded by Rodger Edmonds to approve the April 8, 2014 Annual Town Meeting Minutes

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

Motion made by Beth Hartford, seconded by Diane Crittenden to approve the September 17, 2014 Special Township Meeting Minutes

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

Motion made by Randy Whitmore, seconded by Beth Hartford to approve the December 18, 2013 Special Township Meeting Minutes

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

Supervisor's Annual Financial Statement/Settlement for March 2014-February 2015:

Copies of the Supervisor's Annual Financial Statement were posted as required by IL State Statute prior to the Annual Town Meeting, and copies were also made available at tonight's meeting.

Moderator Tom Hartford asked if there were comments from the assembled electors. Resident Mildred Corder inquired about excessive legal fees. Randy Whitmore, the Newport Township Supervisor, who was present in the audience, responded that the legal fees incurred were mainly for starting up his administration and further comments he doesn't anticipate there will be many legal fees going forward. It was noted that the township pays \$500 per month for the Township, and \$500 per month for the Road District for regular legal services. Items not covered in the two retainer fees are billed at hourly rates for each attorney utilized from Ancel, Glink, Diamond, Bush, DiCianni & Krafthefer, P.C.

Resident Millie Corder additionally inquired who receives health insurance in the township. Rodger Edmonds, Highway Commissioner, present in the audience, indicated his road district employees receive health insurance paid at 100% by the township. Corder indicates her surprise the township is paying the entire bill for health insurance premiums, noting this is highly unusual in this day and age. Rodger Edmonds stated the situation will likely change going forward. Mrs. Corder feels it is important that employees share the burden of the cost of health insurance. Randy Whitmore comments, everyone needs to have "skin in the game". Moderator Tom Hartford added, some insurance companies mandate that employees share a portion of the cost burden.

Mildred Corder further asked about the origin of a road district Equipment & Building Fund expense for \$14,835. Rodger Edmonds can't say for sure, indicating he will need to look into it and get back to Mrs. Corder. He added, he believes it could have been for the repair of springs on a truck, and the replacement of a street sweeper. Millie asked Mr. Edmonds review the expense and let her know for certain the details.

Mrs. Corder asked about a \$50.00 General Assistance expense. Whitmore explained it was a gasoline expense for a woman who said she needed to pick her children in Iowa up. Whitmore added that she actually approached the township a second time for additional money, however her husband contacted the supervisor, asking him not to give the wife more money as the woman is a

drug addict who is using. Whitmore noted he put the \$50.00 of gasoline into her vehicle and did not give her cash.

Millie inquired about who the cell phone users are in the Road District. Mr. Edmonds indicated the phone users include him and he believes, two employees. He isn't certain if the two employees have cell phones, will look this up for Mrs. Corder and let her know. It was noted the supervisor, clerk and assessor also have township cell phones and that the Assessor's Office has land and computer lines.

Millie Corder then asked about Road & Bridge overtime expenses for the road district employees and salt usage. Rodger Edmonds indicated this year wasn't too bad as the winter weather was less severe than last year and overtime and salt expenses were in-line.

Lastly, Millie Corder questioned which governmental entities the Road District has intergovernmental agreements with. Highway Commissioner Edmonds, present in the audience, indicated there are agreements with the Village of Wadsworth, Village of Old Mill Creek and the Newport Fire Department. Corder inquired about the services each agreement is for. Edmonds stated the township does snowplowing for the Village of Wadsworth, maintenance on fire trucks for the Newport Fire Department, and road maintenance for the Village of Old Mill Creek.

Hearing no additional questions or comments from the electors, Moderator Tom Hartford questioned whether a motion is necessary to approve the Supervisor's Settlement Statement. The clerk indicated according to TOI, a motion to *approve* is not required, noting motions in years past were to *accept the reading*. Attorney Tiffany Nelson-Jaworski, present in the 'press/non-voter' area says she does not know the answer. After some time and deliberation, Nelson-Jaworski suggests a motion could be done to accept the Supervisor's Settlement Statement, if the township so chooses. Consensus of the assembled electorate is that any motion considered should be to accept the printing of the Supervisor's Annual Financial Settlement.

Motion made by Diane Crittenden, seconded by Beth Hartford to accept the printed copies of the Supervisor's Annual Financial Settlement.

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

Township Business:

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Motions, Questions, Discussion for the Electors Assembled (Public Comment): Electors present indicate they have no further questions or comments.

Announcement of the Close of Business: 7:30 p.m.

Date and Time of next Annual Town Meeting: Moderator Hartford stated the next Annual Town Meeting will take place on April 12, 2016 at the Township Offices on Hunt Club Road. The meeting will commence at 7:00 p.m.

Motion to Adjourn: Moderator Hartford requested a motion and a second to adjourn the meeting.

Motion made by Ron Miller; seconded by Jerome Berens.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Dated the 14th day of April, 2015.

 s/Debbie Spurgeon

Debbie Spurgeon, Township Clerk

 s/Tom Hartford

2015 Annual Town Meeting Moderator