

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 April 15, 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

Call to Order: Supervisor Whitmore called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Town Trustees to order at 7:03 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance: Supervisor Whitmore led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

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 March 18, 2015. No discussion.

Motion made by Miller, seconded by Hartford, to approve the minutes from March 18, 2015 as presented.

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

Reports:

Supervisor's Report:

Supervisor Whitmore indicates he is meeting with Lake County, the Village of Wadsworth and the Village of Old Mill Creek in regards to the solicitation of a train station in downtown Wadsworth. Whitmore says Tim Smith, Mayor of Old Mill Creek is suggesting his "old white building" serve as the platform/station. Trustee Hartford inquires as to what the train station will service. Whitmore responds, Metra. Hartford questions whether Metra utilizes the downtown track. Trustee Kirschhoffer says the track is the Canadian Pacific freight line. Whitmore is uncertain, but believes it is also used by Metra. From the audience, resident Mildred Corder suggests such a train station could come with other implications for the community, such as a requirement for affordable housing. Whitmore says there is plenty of affordable housing already in the downtown area. Whitmore says he met with a real estate agent and in his opinion, property values will increase by 20-40%. Kirschhoffer notes that property taxes will also undoubtedly increase.

Supervisor Whitmore says the "Wadsworth Ditch guy" was supposed to be here tonight, but did not show; he was to have presented a plan. Whitmore defers to Edmonds for additional details. Edmonds says this person/entity intends to escrow one million dollars to build a drainage ditch and the interest off of the escrowed amount is what is said to fund ongoing maintenance of the drainage ditch. Edmonds says the entity will build the drainage ditch and Newport Township will maintain it. He says sales of wetland credits will go to the township. Trustee Hartford asks how the Wadsworth Ditch differs from the Newport Ditch which has been mentioned by Whitmore and Edmonds at previous meetings. Whitmore says they are the same. Edmonds indicates he is interested in the ditch plan, but suggests further investigation is needed. Kirschhoffer feels if Route 53 is built Newport will end up being a hundred percent wetlands as the mitigation for the highway will be coming up here. Edmonds says the private entity has indeed mentioned Route 53 as a reason for building the ditch. Kirschhoffer says we cannot keep letting the Lake County Forest Preserve take land. Whitmore agrees. Kirschhoffer inquires as to when Governor Rauner is coming. Whitmore says he spoke to the governor's aid, indicating they are currently busy.

Randy Whitmore says he spoke with Tim Smith last week and reports that Tim's sisters have agreed to let them run sewer across the Temple farm property up to Route 173. Kirschhoffer asks who 'we' is; Whitmore indicates he is talking about Lake County.

Highway Commissioner's Report:

Commissioner Edmonds indicates the Village of Old Mill Creek's portion of Edward's Road has been put out for paving bids by Newport Township. He notes Attorney Keri-Lyn Krafthefer has turned over legal work being done at the behest of the Newport Township Road District to a real estate attorney who is currently working with the Village of Old Mill Creek to bring the roadway into Newport's jurisdiction. Edmonds additionally comments a section of Delany Road in the Newport Road District's jurisdiction is also out for bid.

Edmonds comments he needs to buy a new mower, because the existing one was loaned to a private party a couple of years ago, and was then pretty much destroyed when the borrower backed into a tree. Hartford wants to know who was allowed to borrow township property. Edmonds declines to identify the borrower, stating the incident took place under Dan Dziekan's tenure as Newport Highway Commissioner. Edmonds says the new mower will cost taxpayers ~\$6,000.

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 says township budgets will be adopted next month [May].

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 requests a motion to approve the General Town/Assessor 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 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.

Motion by Hartford; seconded by Miller.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

Dated the 15th day of April, 2015.

_____s/Debbie Spurgeon_____

Debbie Spurgeon, Township Clerk