

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 May 20, 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: Supervisor Whitmore led the Pledge of Allegiance at a preceding budget 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, Ancel, Glink, Diamond, Bush, DiCianni & Krafthefer, PC attorney, Tiffany Nelson-Jaworski.

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

Approval of Minutes: Supervisor Whitmore requests a motion and second to approve the meeting minutes from April 15, 2015. No discussion.

Motion by Hartford, second by Miller, to approve the minutes from April 15, 2015 as presented.

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

Reports:

Supervisor's Report:

Supervisor Whitmore indicates there is nothing on the train station to report.

Supervisor Whitmore says there is nothing to report on the Wadsworth Ditch, saying it is in his [the unidentified "Wadsworth Ditch Guy"] court to come up with the money, or not.

Highway Commissioner's Report:

Commissioner Edmonds says he is still working on the portion of road in the Village of Old Mill Creek, noting he has Campanella & Son standing by to replace a cross-culvert on Edwards Road, but Edmonds is waiting for Old Mill Creek to make a decision.

Tiffany Nelson-Jaworski interjects she would like to take agenda item "VI. a. – Update on Edwards Road/Old Mill Creek-options regarding ownership" out of order. She continues, indicating her office and Randy Whitmore have been trying to determine who owns the roadway, adding the county cannot locate proof of ownership, nor can Old Mill Creek. Nelson-Jaworski says she directed Chicago Title to research the ownership, received some information, but still cannot determine who owns it. Nelson-Jaworski identifies two options, indicating she needs board direction on which to pursue: Option A- Continue to pursue who owns the road and purchase it or do a maintenance agreement. Option B- Enter into an intergovernmental agreement with Old Mill Creek indicating that Newport Township Road District will maintain the road and receive the MFT Funds which would normally go to Old Mill Creek. Trustee Hartford comments the MFT Funds are negligible, amounting to ~\$50.00 per year. She wants to know what level of maintenance (patching or resurfacing) is being proposed. Nelson-Jaworski defers to Highway Commissioner Rodger Edmonds, who says Old Mill Creek is offering \$10,000 per year, plus mowing and snow-removal. Attorney Tiffany Nelson-Jaworski says it will all be spelled out in the intergovernmental agreement. Trustee Hartford says it is her understanding that the board does not get to vote on intergovernmental agreements, they are entirely under Rodger's control. Edmonds says he will be seeking the board's blessing. Nelson-Jaworski says Edmond's does not have to seek the board's approval and she is not in favor of continuing to spend Newport money to investigate ownership on behalf of Old Mill Creek. She adds, this should be on their dime to figure this out, not ours. Nelson-Jaworski asks if it is the consensus of the board to proceed with an intergovernmental agreement. Kirschhoffer says yes. Hartford says she is in favor of walking away. Edmonds says we need to take it on the chin and fix the road. Whitmore concludes, the township will proceed with an intergovernmental agreement.

Assessor's Report:

Assessor Berens notes the tax bills are out, and for the last half-dozen years his office has been factoring down values a full 25-30%, but says unfortunately the tax rate has risen ~30-40%. He comments it is a teeter-totter effect, meaning when the assessed value goes down the taxing bodies increase what they ask for and the rate has to go up for taxing bodies to get the same

amount of money. He says it has now bottomed out and this year there will be a modest increase in assessed values for the first time in a few years. Berens says this a good sign that the economy is picking up and all things being equal, the tax rate should stay level or go down.

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 requests a motion and a second to adopt the General Town Fund Budget.

Motion by Kirschhoffer; second by Crittenden.

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

Supervisor Whitmore requests a motion and a second to adopt the Road District Budget.

Motion by Kirschhoffer; second by Crittenden.

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

passes 3-2.

The budget ordinances were passed around the table for board signatures.

Whitmore presents a candidate for appointment to fill a vacancy on the Fire Department Board, Craig Johnson. Whitmore says Johnson was not able to be at the meeting tonight. He notes Mr. Johnson is a pilot for Wrigley Company, is smart and good with budgets. Whitmore adds John Brewer is retiring. Corey Kirshoffer says Craig Johnson is the only person who applied for the appointment, Supervisor Whitmore requests a motion and second to approve the of Craig Johnson to the Newport Fire Board for the term of office.

Motion by Kirschhoffer; second by Crittenden.

Voice Vote: Ayes, Hartford, Miller, Crittenden, Kirschhoffer, Whitmore; Nays, none. Motion passes 5-0.

Finances:

Supervisor Whitmore requests a motion to approve the General Town Fund bills.

Motion by Crittenden; second by Kirschhoffer.

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

Supervisor Whitmore requests a motion to approve the General Town/Assessor Fund bills.

Motion by Kirschhoffer; second by Crittenden.

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

Supervisor Whitmore requests a motion to approve the Road & Bridge district bills.

Motion by Crittenden; second by Kirschhoffer.

Voice Vote: Ayes, Crittenden, Kirschhoffer, Whitmore; Nays, Hartford, Miller. Motion passes 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 Miller; second by Hartford.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

Dated the 20th day of May, 2015.

_____s/Debbie Spurgeon_____

Debbie Spurgeon, Township Clerk