

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 June 17, 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.

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 requested a motion and second to approve the General Town and Road District Budget Hearing minutes, and the Regular Meeting minutes from May 20, 2015. No discussion.

Motion by Crittenden, second by Hartford, to approve the minutes from May 20, 2015 as presented.

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

Reports:

Supervisor's Report:

Supervisor Whitmore reported he has received information from TOI insurance [TOIRMA] regarding group insurance for employees, which may mean a more favorable rate than we currently pay. Whitmore will look into the proposal further. Additionally, he notes receiving two calls recently regarding rides for seniors. Board members comment that calls are received sporadically, noting Pace provides such services for seniors; Newport does not. The supervisor volunteers to contact Catholic Charities to see if they may also offer similar services in the area.

Highway Commissioner's Report:

Commissioner Edmonds says ash trees are dying along Edwards Road, indicating they have cut 4-5 trees in each of the last two weeks. He also notes his intention to hire out this work. Edmonds says he met with the county, and the engineering work initiated by the Newport Road District for Old Mill Creek's portion of Edward's Road is now complete, as well as, the engineering work for Newport's section of Delany Road, south of Old Russell. Edmonds comments he will have prices within a week. The commissioner inquires with Attorney Tiffany Nelson-Jaworski on the status of the IGA work he requested. Nelson-Jaworski says she is not the attorney doing the IGA work, and did not get a status update on the effort prior to the meeting. From the audience, Toni Edmonds says she was contacted by Ancel Glink attorney Paula Randall earlier in the day, who indicated she is working on the IGA and will send it to another Ancel Glink attorney for review once she completes her work. Rodger Edmonds shares his continuing concern about the condition of Old Mill Creek's Edward's Road and comments he is catching flack from Old Mill Creek Mayor, Tim Smith. Trustee Kirschhoffer suggests invoicing the Lake County Forest Preserve for Edwards Road maintenance, apparently since forest preserve property borders the roadway.

Highway Commissioner Edmonds indicates he is looking for another building for the township road district in an attempt to reduce the \$3,000 per month rent which the district currently pays. He notes he has an offer for use of a specific building in the township, but did not elaborate.

Assessor's Report:

Assessor Berens reports that the Assessor's Office Manager, Shayna Vingan, has resigned. Berens notes Mrs. Vingan's service to the district and as her maternity leave is concluding, she has made a decision to remain at home with her child. The assessor comments that he has a couple of candidates, and hopes to have someone new in place soon.

Berens additionally comments that the Newport Assessor's Office has received an award from the state based on assessments being within 1% of one-third of assessments and within 2% of one-hundred in fairness and equality.

Clerk Comments:

No report.

Trustee Comments:

Beth Hartford— No report.

Ron Miller-- No report.

Diane Crittenden—No report.

Corey Kirschhoffer— Trustee Kirschhoffer asks is the township is allowed to purchase property for resale. She adds the recent Lake County Forest Preserve purchase near Old Route 41 has really messed things up for her business and wonders if the township could have purchased property [such as this] in order to develop it. Attorney Tiffany Nelson-Jaworski believes this would need to go before the electors. Kirschhoffer asks who the electors are. [Voters of Newport Township.] Nelson-Jaworski believes a Special Meeting would be needed before the electors, but adds she doesn't believe it is allowable for the township to purchase property for resale. She thinks the township could purchase property, if it is for its own use. Kirschhoffer interjects that in her mind, the sole reason for to purchase such property would be to commercialize it for Newport Township. Kirschhoffer also inquires whether the township could use tax money to bring in sewer and water. She says Antioch has the sewer, Zion has the water and suggests by-passing the county in order to commercializes more property. Kirschhoffer notes specifically she is interested in commercializing property on Route 41 and Route 173. Attorney Tiffany Nelson-Jaworski says she can look into it. Kirschhoffer and Whitmore indicate their desire to “piggy-back” with the Village of Wadsworth to commercialize property. Attorney Tiffany Nelson-Jaworski says she will look into it. Kirschhoffer agrees, noting what she mainly wants to know is how much leverage does the township have to control what the commerce in the township is going to have.

Attorney's Report:

No report.

Township Business:

Supervisor Whitmore indicated the need to vote on prevailing wage ordinances. The clerk provided a brief summary, including the statutory requirement indicating public

bodies must adopt Prevailing Wage Ordinances annually every June. Whitmore requested a motion and second to adopt the General Town Prevailing Wage Ordinance (#061715A).

Motion by Hartford; second by Miller.

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

Supervisor Whitmore requested a motion and second to adopt the Road District Prevailing Wage Ordinance (#061715B).

Motion by Crittenden; second by Kirschhoffer.

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

The ordinances were subsequently signed by the board and road district commissioner.

Supervisor Whitmore inquires if the board has an interest in donating \$500.00 to the Waukegan Airport as sponsorship for an upcoming air show. Whitmore discloses he is on the air show board. General consensus of the board is such a donation would not be a good use of township dollars and the board declines.

Finances:

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

Motion by Kirschhoffer; second 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 Fund bills.

Motion by Crittenden; second 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 /Assessor bills.

Motion by Kirschhoffer; second by Crittenden.

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

Public Comment:

Stan Williams—Mr. Williams inquires with Assessor Jerome Berens whether acreage owned by the Lake County Forest Preserve, which is being farmed---is the LCFP still able to pay zero property [as a government entity] tax on the land. Assessor Berens indicates the county district would still pay zero tax as it is considered transitional use for the district to offset holding costs.

Executive Session:

No closed session.

Motion to Adjourn:

Supervisor Whitmore requested a motion and a second to adjourn.

Motion by Crittenden; second by Miller.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Dated the 17th day of June, 2015.

_____s/Debbie Spurgeon_____

Debbie Spurgeon, Township Clerk