

# Minutes Board of Town Trustees

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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 August 19, 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 requests a motion and second to approve the Regular Meeting minutes from July 15, 2015. No discussion.

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

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

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

Motion by Crittenden; second by Kirschhoffer.

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

**Township Business:**

No new business.

**Reports:**

**Supervisor's Report:**

Supervisor Whitmore indicates he recently met with NorStates Bank (formerly Bank of Waukegan), then obtained an irrevocable Letter of Credit for Newport Township in the amount of \$1,500,000. Whitmore says he is afraid Norstates Bank is on the verge of failure, indicating that he can feel it in the air that something is not right. He continues, adding the Letter of Credit is from Federal Home Loan Bank in Chicago, says this guarantees the township's funds, has been filed with the State of Illinois, and that he will maintain a copy of the documentation in his possession.

Supervisor Whitmore additionally indicates he has contacted politician Sherri Jesiel and Tracy Johnson from Zion regarding Whitmore's desire to solicit the Amtrak Hiawatha Train line to Wadsworth. Whitmore says he has hired a lobbyist from Chicago, Jeff Dixon, indicating Mr. Dixon is looking at this for him. Whitmore further comments he is involved with the Village of Wadsworth in this endeavor.

Whitmore notes he has had a few calls requesting mosquito spraying. He wonders if the township has ever done this in the past. [No.]

### **Highway Commissioner's Report:**

Highway Commissioner Edmonds says his Edwards Road IGA is in process and he is proceeding with scheduling the paving work with Peter Baker for Old Mill Creek's portion of Edwards Road. He expects the cost to be ~\$180,000, adding he is also doing some patchwork on Newport Township's portion of (north) Delany.

Edmonds comments he is in the final stages of renting another building for the township's road district, which is next door to his home on Russell Road. The building previously housed a tulip bulb business. Edmonds indicates the building is larger than the road district's current space and he has given the landlord of the existing building, Scott Ward, notice that Newport will be relocating in September. Edmonds says the move will reduce monthly rental costs by \$1000.

### **Trustee Comments:**

Beth Hartford— No report.

Ron Miller-- No report.

Diane Crittenden—No report.

Corey Kirschhoffer— Trustee Kirschhoffer expresses distaste for the Lake County Forest Preserve and land acquisition by the district, indicating she wants to be one step ahead of the district. Attorney Tiffany Nelson-Jaworski offers that Ancel, Glink, Diamond, Bush, DiCianni & Krafthefer PC can help Kirschhoffer with her concerns by doing research. Nelson-Jaworski will speak with Attorney Keri-Lyn Krafthefer about who in the firm is best suited to assist Kirschhoffer. The trustee agrees. Kirschhoffer says the forest preserve has three years to purchase land on their existing bonds, and she wants the township to solicit Amtrak and other development to thwart any land acquisition by the district in Newport Township.

Kirschhoffer additionally expresses continued concerns over wetland mitigation, indicating she went through the forest preserve's budget with a fine-tooth comb, calling the district 'for profit'.

Whitmore expresses concern over the Lake County Forest Preserve District competing with Wetlands Research Inc., which he is involved with.

**Assessor's Report:**

Assessor Berens indicates the 'blue cards' went out in July. The assessor says his office is open for conversations with taxpayers on the blue card information. Trustee Miller asks how quickly the Assessor responds to residents. Mr. Berens indicates he responds within one week. Miller says he is aware of a resident who has been waiting two and half weeks to speak with the assessor. Berens says his office manager is new and so things are currently running more slowly.

**Attorney's Report:**

Attorney Tiffany Nelson-Jaworski reports that the road district's IGA has been sent to Old Mill Creek Attorney, Douglas Stiles. Stiles will present it to the Old Mill Creek Village Board. Nelson-Jaworski says Paul Randal from Ancel, Glink, Diamond, Bush, DiCianni & Krafthefer PC has been working the IGA for Commissioner Rodger Edmonds.

Trustee Kirschhoffer inquires with the attorney on her progress researching whether the township is allowed to purchase property for the purpose of blocking the forest preserve. Nelson-Jaworski asks for clarification on whether the trustee is asking if a private resident can purchase property. No, Kirschhoffer would like to know if the township can purchase property to prevent others from purchasing property within the township. Tiffany Nelson-Jaworski indicates her firm will research this as well; indicating Ancel, Glink, Diamond, Bush, DiCianni & Krafthefer PC has a number of land use attorneys.

Kirschhoffer & Whitmore additionally request Ancel, Glink, Diamond, Bush, DiCianni & Krafthefer PC research revenues of the Lake County Forest Preserve, suggesting they should be taxed as capital gains.

**Clerk Comments:**

The clerk inquires about the current status of the township's annual financial audit. Supervisor Whitmore and Toni Edmonds [highway commissioner's wife] have no available information, but Mrs. Edmonds says she will contact Bookkeeper Nancy Lech for an update.

The clerk indicates she was contacted by the State of Illinois Comptroller's Office earlier in the day. The Comptroller's Office contacted the township as a courtesy, as the Supervisor/Treasurer's AFR has yet to be filed with the State. The Comptroller's Office advises if the AFR is not received by August 27<sup>th</sup>, the township will face fines. Supervisor Whitmore indicates that he was also contacted by the state. Mrs. Edmonds will inquire about the AFR with Nancy Lech.

**Public Comment:**

Tom Hartford--- Inquires with the Assessor on how mitigated land is assessed.

**Executive Session:**

No closed session.

**Motion to Adjourn:**

Supervisor Whitmore requests a motion and a second to adjourn.

Motion by Miller; second by Hartford.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

**Dated the 19<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2015.**

          s/Debbie Spurgeon          

**Debbie Spurgeon, Township Clerk**