

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 September 23, 2015.

Members Present:

Beth Hartford, Trustee

Ronald Miller, Trustee

Diane Crittenden, Trustee

Corey Kirschhoffer, Trustee

Randy Whitmore, Supervisor

Rodger Edmonds, Highway Commissioner

Debbie Spurgeon, Clerk

Jerome Berens, Assessor

Call to Order: Supervisor Whitmore called the Special Meeting of the Board of Town Trustees to order at 7:03 p.m. The Regular Meeting scheduled for September 16th was postponed at the supervisor's request, and rescheduled for September 23rd as a Special Meeting.

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

Roll Call: In attendance, Beth Hartford, Ron Miller, Rodger Edmonds, Diane Crittenden, Corey Kirschhoffer, Randy Whitmore and Debbie Spurgeon. Absent at roll call, Jerome Berens. [Berens later joined the meeting at 7:10 p.m.]

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

Approval of Minutes: Supervisor Whitmore requested a motion and second to approve the minutes from August 19, 2015. No discussion.

Motion by Hartford, seconded by Miller to approve the minutes, as presented, from August 19, 2015.

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

Reports:

Supervisor's Report:

Supervisor Whitmore reported he has had two individuals come forward seeking General Assistance in the past several weeks, one for an electric bill and one for a surgery. Supervisor Whitmore indicated he sent both parties to Warren Township to fill out paperwork.

Whitmore noted Trustee Corey Kirschhoffer had a question at a previous meeting, on how the township can stop the Lake County Forest Preserve from purchasing property in Newport. Whitmore says he met with Wetlands Research, Inc., finalizing a project for turning a property on State Line Road into a wetlands mitigation bank. The supervisor says Wetland Research, Inc. is taking this project to legislators in Springfield this week. The supervisor further stated the property owner will be able to build his house on the property. Whitmore further stated this is something we can look at and it will work out pretty good for us. [Supervisor Whitmore has previously disclosed he is an executive board member of the Wetlands Research, Inc.] Kirschhoffer says it does not answer her question, which is, can the township purchase property to thwart the forest preserve. Whitmore says no.

Commissioner Edmonds wonders how the Wetlands Research, Inc. arrangement benefits the township. Whitmore responds that the property will remain on the tax rolls. Edmonds counters that the owner still has to pay taxes on the property. Whitmore agrees, but says the property owner is getting paid half of the money from the mitigating bank.

Whitmore says he met with IMRF, noting eligible township pension participants can invest an extra 10 percent per pay period, if they so choose.

The supervisor indicated he additionally met with Jan Sutherland today regarding a Springfield initiative on the consolidation of townships. Supervisor Whitmore says Newport could end up consolidating with Beach Park. Assessor Berens questions whether it is actually Benton Township being considered for consolidation with Newport. Whitmore affirms it is indeed Benton Township. Whitmore says Governor Bruce Rauner signed this initiative into law two weeks ago, indicating the measure begins with the lowest level of government--Township. Trustee Beth Hartford inquires as to the state's timeline for the consolidation. Whitmore doesn't have this answer yet. Trustee Corey Kirschhoffer questions whether the measure was actually signed into law or whether it is only a proposal. Whitmore responds that it was signed two weeks ago. Highway Commissioner Rodger Edmonds notes that fire districts are being asked to consider similar measures. He adds, consolidations can be a major tax burden on residents, citing Beach Park as an example, which he says has a significantly different tax structure than Newport. Whitmore indicates he will follow the legislation to see what happens going forward.

Highway Commissioner's Report:

Commissioner Edmonds reported that Old Mill Creek's portion of Edwards Road will be paved by Newport Township, beginning September 28th. The project also includes ditch work and

grinding. He also noted the township road district will be paving ~1000 feet of Newport's portion of Delany Road, north of Mona Bennett's residence.

The Highway Commissioner commented, the road district will be moved into their new space on Russell Road-- next door to Edmond's own home--within the next couple of weeks. Rent for the new space will cost \$2,000 per month.

Assessor's Report:

No report.

Clerk Comments:

The clerk commented that meeting agendas are due no later than 5:00 p.m. on the Friday before the Wednesday meeting, not several hours before the 48-hour posting deadline. The supervisor agrees, adding he feels the attorneys should provide the meeting agendas no later than the Thursday prior to the meeting. He will bring the matter up with Ancel, Glink, Diamond, Bush, DiCianni & Krafthefer, PC.

The clerk additionally mentioned that someone with a key to the locked display case attempted to post agendas for tonight's meeting, but that the posting was handled improperly. The clerk did not authorize anyone to post agendas on her behalf. The meeting was properly posted by the clerk, allowing the meeting to legally proceed as intended.

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:

No new business.

Finances:

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

Motion by Crittenden; seconded by Kirschhoffer

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

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

Motion by Kirschhoffer; seconded by Crittenden.

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

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

Motion by Crittenden; seconded by Kirschhoffer.

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

Public Comment:

Millie Corder-- Mrs. Corder inquires as to why the township road district equipment is being moved. Highway Commissioner Edmonds responds that the move is a cost savings.

Executive Session:

No closed session.

Motion to Adjourn:

Supervisor Whitmore requested a motion to adjourn the Special Meeting.

Motion by Hartford; seconded by Miller.

Voice Vote: Ayes, all; Nays none. Motion passed 5-0.
Meeting adjourns at 7:16 p.m.

Dated the 23rd day of September, 2015.

 s/Debbie Spurgeon

Debbie Spurgeon, Township Clerk