

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 27, 2016.

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 7:00 p.m. The Regular Meeting scheduled for April 20th was postponed at the supervisor's request, and rescheduled for April 27th 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.

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 March 16, 2016. No discussion.

Motion by Kirschhoffer, seconded by Crittenden to approve the minutes, as presented, from March 16, 2015.

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

Reports:

Supervisor's Report:

Supervisor Whitmore reported he received the latest Letter of Credit from Federal Home Loan Bank in Chicago, the bank that protects the township's accounts with the struggling Norstates' Bank.

Whitmore noted he joined the highway commissioner's wife at a meeting in Libertyville with state senators regarding the merging of townships. Whitmore commented Newport will begin doing work for Beach Park. He also stated he would like Newport to take over aging equipment from Waukegan Township's Mike Hewitt, husband of Lake County Board member Diane Hewitt. The supervisor noted one aspect of the senator's plan includes township supervisors taking over the job responsibilities of township road commissioners. Apparently, township voters would be able to make the decision. Springfield has a number of township dissolution or consolidation measures currently under consideration.

Trustee Kirschhoffer noted Illinois has many layers of government and some services are repetitive in certain areas.

Highway Commissioner's Report:

Commissioner Edmonds reported the Village of Wadsworth has major issues and he is considering another truck and employees to plow snow on village streets. The existing contractor is not interested in bidding village plowing for next season due to discrepancies over compensation. Edmonds says he plows for the village now, and could conceivably do more if additional township resources were added. Trustee Hartford inquired as to who will pay for the resources. Trustee Kirschhoffer expressed concern regarding the township's liability exposure. She additionally commented the village's own plow truck often sits idle during snow events. The highway commissioner is considering plowing for other surrounding townships as well. Trustee Hartford wonders about the realities of billing and collecting from numerous other entities. Commissioner Edmonds agrees, noting even though he has an IGA with Old Mill Creek he is having difficulties collecting over the roadwork Newport performed on Old Mill Creek Road.

Edmonds noted he ordered 200 tons of salt for the coming year and that township salt is stored at Campanella's.

Finally, the highway commissioner commented he intends to do some paving on North Dilly's Road from Old Orchard around the bend north in coordination with the Village of Wadsworth.

Assessor's Report:

Assessor Berens reported he received his bonus from the State of Illinois again this year. He noted township assessments will be rising in excess of 3% this year, and tax bills will be going out within a week.

Clerk Comments:

No report.

Trustee Comments:

Beth Hartford – Trustee Hartford noted she received a letter with information regarding an upcoming meeting on the Wisconsin power line situation.

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 Road & Bridge 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 Assessor/General Town 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 asked whether the agenda for tonight's meeting was prepared by the attorney or the clerk (the clerk).

Stan Williams-- Mr. Williams commented on the State of Illinois's plan to consolidate townships and says schools have a larger impact on tax bills. He also questioned whether township roads will remain a priority if Newport decides to take on additional responsibilities in other areas.

Executive Session:

No closed session.

Motion to Adjourn:

Supervisor Whitmore requested a motion to adjourn the Special Meeting.

Motion by Hartford; seconded by Crittenden.

Voice Vote: Ayes, all; Nays none. Motion passed 5-0.
Meeting adjourns at 7:32 p.m.

Dated the 27th day of April, 2016.

s/Debbie Spurgeon

Debbie Spurgeon, Township Clerk