

Minutes Budget and Appropriation Ordinance Public Hearing

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 30, 2017.

Members Present:

J. Daryle Spiller, Trustee

Stan Williams, Trustee

Corey Kirschhoffer, Trustee

Rodger Edmonds, Highway Commissioner

Debbie Spurgeon, Clerk

Randy Whitmore, Supervisor

Call to Order: Supervisor Whitmore called the meeting of the General Township Budget & Appropriation Ordinance Public Hearing to order at 6:30 p.m.

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

Roll Call: In attendance were Daryle Spiller, Stan Williams, Rodger Edmonds, Jerome Berens, Corey Kirschhoffer, Debbie Spurgeon and Randy Whitmore. Also present, Ancel, Glink, Diamond, Bush, DiCianni & Krafthefer, PC attorney Kurt Asprooth. Absent, Mike Wells and Jerome Berens.

Public Hearing for the Budget & Appropriation Ordinance – General Township Budget, for Fiscal Year March 1, 2017 - February 28, 2018

Review / Adoption of Tentative General Township Budget:

Supervisor Whitmore inquires if there is discussion or comment on the General Town Budget. He notes a change from the posted budgets includes \$2,000 for the senior luncheon to be held in conjunction with the fire district.

Resident Millie Corder comments that the line item for attorney fees has again grown—from \$12,000 to \$14,000 in the General Town Fund, and an additional \$12,000 in the Road District Budget. Corder notes that \$26,000 is a lot of money for attorneys that residents didn't want hired in the first place, and secondly, she questions what they do for the money.

Supervisor Whitmore says Commissioner Edmonds can best answer as he has the most interaction with the attorneys. Edmonds says he consistently seeks advice from them for a myriad of legal affairs.

Corder asks if they prepare meeting agendas. Whitmore says sometimes they do, and at other times, Debbie does it. He notes preparing agendas for the supervisor is one of the duties the attorneys have been retained for. Corder says engaging attorneys for preparation of meeting agendas is an expensive way to operate.

Corder also questions a salary increase of \$2,200 for the supervisor's bookkeeper, Nancy Lech. Whitmore says she has the township in good financial shape and hasn't had a raise in 4 years.

Corder asks about the General Assistance & Relief Fund. It currently has ~\$58,000 in the fund. She inquires about whether the township intends to make a donation to NICASA. No decision has yet been made on the matter.

Resident Susan Zingle asks what projects have been accomplished during Whitmore's tenure. She notes the township budget identify only administrative expenses, while the road district budget includes paving, plowing and mowing services.

Whitmore cites the ATC power line as an accomplishment, while admitting the power project has not yet been approved and may or may not happen. He says he is bringing a train station to downtown Wadsworth and is planning on extending the Frontage Road in Wisconsin south into Newport. Whitmore says he is additionally working with Donald Hays on a senior home for 9th Street and Kilbourne on 70 acres.

Trustee Corey Kirschhoffer interjects that the previous board could not accomplish anything, because there were always roadblocks in trying to get things passed for the last 4 years. Kirschhoffer comments, when you know you can't get something passed, you don't want to fight the battle.

Zingle questions Kirschhoffer's assertions that accomplishments were elusive due to roadblocks, noting that Whitmore & Kirschhoffer's contingency held the board majority for the past 4 years and, in fact, could always have gotten things passed.

Motion to Adjourn: Whitmore requests a motion to adjourn the General Township Budget & Appropriation Hearing.

Motion by Williams; seconded by Spiller to adjourn.

Voice Vote: Ayes, all; Nays none. Motion passed 4-0. Absent, Wells.

Hearing was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Dated the 30th day of May, 2017

s/ Debbie Spurgeon

Debbie Spurgeon, Township Clerk