

Minutes Board of Town Trustees

STATE OF ILLINOIS

TOWN OF NEWPORT

June 21, 2017

Members Present:

J. Daryle Spiller, Trustee

Stan Williams, Trustee

Corey Kirschhoffer, Trustee

Michael Wells

Jerome Berens, Assessor

Randy Whitmore, Supervisor

Debbie Spurgeon, Clerk

Rodger Edmonds, Highway Commissioner

Prior to the start of tonight's meeting, trustee-elect Mike Wells was sworn in and signed the Oath of Office.

Call to Order: Supervisor Whitmore called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Town Trustees to order at 7:01 p.m.

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

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

Approval of Minutes: Supervisor Whitmore requests a motion and a second to approve the May 17, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes. No discussion.

Motion to approve the May 17, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes by Kirschhoffer, seconded by Williams.

Voice vote: Ayes, Spiller, Williams, Wells, Kirschhoffer, Whitmore. Motion passes, 5-0.

Supervisor Whitmore requests a motion and a second to approve the May 30, 2017 Road District Budget Hearing Minutes. No discussion.

Motion to approve the May 30, 2017 Road District Budget Hearing Minutes by Kirschhoffer, seconded by Williams.

Voice vote: Ayes, Spiller, Williams, Wells, Kirschhoffer, Whitmore. Motion passes, 5-0.

Supervisor Whitmore requests a motion and a second to approve the May 30, 2017 General Township Hearing Minutes. No discussion.

Motion to approve the May 30, 2017 General Township Budget Hearing Minutes by Kirschhoffer, seconded by Williams.

Voice vote: Ayes, Spiller, Williams, Wells, Kirschhoffer, Whitmore. Motion passes, 5-0.

Reports:

Supervisor's Report:

Supervisor Whitmore reports the Senior Luncheon held by the Newport Fire District was a success, with 85 seniors attending. Highway Commissioner Edmonds and Trustee Spiller also attended.

Commissioner Edmonds and Supervisor Whitmore toured the proposed mushroom farm site with representation from Lake County. The mushroom farm seeks tax-exempt status, while operating as a for-profit business. The operation will be entirely indoor, with no manure to be stored outside. The farm intends on growing specialty mushrooms aimed at high-end restaurants in the Chicago-land area. Supervisor Whitmore says the township will be looking for tax revenue from this business, indicating he doesn't want another military museum debacle.

Whitmore recently met with other local officials regarding disaster relief support cooperation.

Highway Commissioner's Report:

Edmonds has concerns about the location of the farm regarding road usage and vehicle lights shining into area residents' homes and yards. One design suggestion under consideration is to utilize a cul-de-sac entryway onto the property. Edmonds notes, the west side of the road is residential and agricultural and the east side of the road allows for light industrial. He also has concerns about the agricultural tax-exempt status the farm is seeking and requests comment from Assessor Berens.

Berens says the agricultural exemption statute specifically refers to crops or livestock. He is not sure the mushroom farm will qualify for tax-exempt status until he is able to see and assess the operation.

Edmonds reports he has concluded updates on an inter-governmental agreement with Wadsworth, and asks Attorney Asprooth about an undedicated, private road in Russell (Park Lane), which is not a township road. Edmonds says he would like to take it over and maintain it with township tax monies, to bolster the road district's mileage count. Attorney Asprooth has concerns that it is a private road and the responsibility of the property owners.

Edmonds has an estimate of \$170,000 to pave Hickory Road thru Lake County. The bid letting with Lake County will go out in July. Culvert work will be done at the same time by the road district.

Assessor's Report:

Assessor Berens reports the T1 line agreement will be expiring. AT&T will be replacing metal with fiber optics and the monthly cost will be ~\$100 additional per month. Berens provided the supervisor with a copy, requesting the renewal be completed within a month. Old Mill Creek will increase their subsidy participation accordingly.

Clerk Comments:

Clerk requests status of lease copy, needed for the auditors. Supervisor Whitmore indicates he now has a copy from Berens, and will provide it to the clerk.

Trustee Comments:

Daryle Spiller – No report.

Stan Williams— No report.

Mike Wells—No report.

Corey Kirschhoffer— Trustee Kirschhoffer wants to bring sewer and water to the township and will start contacting local officials identified by the supervisor, in support of their plan.

She suggests the township offices housing the assessor and clerk's offices, should move into the road district garage. Board members raise concerns about public safety and accessibility.

Attorney's Report:

Attorney Asprooth

Township Business:

Supervisor Whitmore introduces the annual June adoption of Prevailing Wage Ordinances and requests a motion to adopt the 2017 General Town and Road District Prevailing Wage Ordinances.

Motion by Kirschhoffer; seconded by Williams.

Voice Vote: Ayes, Spiller, Williams, Wells, Kirschhoffer, Whitmore. Nays, none.

Motion passes, 5-0.

Supervisor Whitmore introduces the TOIRMA loss control policy. Attorney Asprooth says this is TOIRMA exercising risk management, encouraging best practices.

Motion by Williams; seconded by Wells.

Voice Vote: Ayes, Spiller, Williams, Wells, Kirschhoffer, Whitmore. Nays, none.

Motion passes, 5-0.

Trustee Williams left the meeting at 7:25 p.m., returning at 7:28 p.m.

Finances:

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

Motion by Kirschhoffer; seconded by Spiller.

Voice Vote: Ayes, Spiller, Williams, Wells, Kirschhoffer, Whitmore. Nays, none.

Motion passes, 5-0.

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

Motion by Williams; seconded by Spiller.

Voice Vote: Ayes, Spiller, Williams, Wells, Kirschhoffer, Whitmore. Nays, none.

Motion passes, 5-0.

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

Motion by Wells; seconded by Kirschhoffer.

Voice Vote: Ayes, Spiller, Williams, Wells, Kirschhoffer, Whitmore; Nays, none.

Motion passes, 5-0.

Public Comment:

No public wishing to comment.

Motion to Adjourn:

Supervisor Whitmore requests a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting.

Motion by Williams; seconded by Spiller.

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

Meeting adjourns at 7:45 p.m.

Dated the 21st day of June, 2017.

_____s/Debbie Spurgeon_____

Debbie Spurgeon, Township Clerk