

Minutes Board of Town Trustees

STATE OF ILLINOIS

TOWN OF NEWPORT

August 16, 2017

Members Present:

J. Daryle Spiller, Trustee

Stan Williams, Trustee

Corey Kirschhoffer, Trustee

Jerome Berens, Assessor

Randy Whitmore, Supervisor

Debbie Spurgeon, Clerk

Rodger Edmonds, Highway Commissioner

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 July 19, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Motion to approve the June 21, 2017 Regular Meeting 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 township has received a check from Wisconsin Power for \$3,500, which exercises an option to keep the ATC agreement alive.

The supervisor notes he and others have been out in Milburn at Route 45 and Grass Lake Road looking at property Old Mill Creek is looking to purchase in Lake Villa Township for a possible move of the Newport Township Offices. Newport would be renting space from Old Mill Creek for \$500 per month, which will include internet access and eliminate the need for a T1 line. Whitmore reports the arrangement would reduce Newport monthly expenses by ~\$600.

Williams and Berens discuss relocating old records currently housed in the garage to the Highway Dept. Building. More recent records in the file cabinets will move to the new Township Office location, if an agreement is ultimately approved.

Edmonds inquires about the amount of storage space the new property has. Berens says there are a couple of storage options in the barn for the old (garage) records.

Williams says he will volunteer to go through the records in the garage boxes to sort and re-box them. Attorney Asprooth cautioned Williams he cannot dispose of records without the appropriate authorization. It was noted by several members that new boxes will be required before the records can be moved anywhere.

Whitmore comments there are a couple of Russell Road homes which may require teardown due to the recent flood damage. He met with Lake County Storm Water Management, the agency has money set aside for such purchases. Edmonds says there are five houses which are now vacant as owners have walked away. He is skeptical that LCSWM will offer much assistance, based on previous experience. He suggests Whitmore talk to the Lake County Forest Preserve.

Kirschhoffer inquires about FEMA participation. Edmonds has spoken to FEMA and believes it is a long shot that any assistance will be forthcoming. Berens asks if the homeowners had flood insurance (no).

Highway Commissioner's Report:

Commissioner Edmonds notes mowing is once again underway. Hickory Road grinding and paving will be underway very shortly. The road district is behind in roadside maintenance due to the flood recovery, so Edmonds hired a tree removal company out of Zion for \$7,500 to assist with tree removal. Sixty-two large trees were removed in three days. He comments he intends to hire the firm again later in the fall to assist with additional tree work.

Edmonds says the township is doing ditch maintenance work for the Village of Wadsworth. Additionally, they are working on 21st Street.

Sandbags from the flood were taken by the township to a shooting range in Wisconsin.

The county intends to approve the mushroom farm on Country Lane. Edmonds inquires with counsel on how to protect the township. He asks whether a \$10,000 road bond is acceptable. Kurt Asprooth suggests a higher road bond to ensure that if damage to the roadway is done, there is ample protection for the township. Kirschhoffer and Berens suggest a \$100,000 bond. Asprooth suggests Edmonds ask for a \$100,000 bond.

Assessor's Report:

Assessor Berens reports the assessor 'blue cards' are out. The Newport assessor's office has 4,000 properties under its' jurisdiction. Berens urges residents to contact his office if they have any questions or concerns on exemptions (general homestead and senior homestead, for example). Residents can only have one general homestead exemption (\$6,000) and it is required to be on the residents' main residence. If residents disagree with their assessment, Berens recommends an appraisal is the best defense.

Berens also reports on the Milburn Manor property under consideration for a township office relocation. Areas under consideration are the main house, garage and barn. Berens says they are leaning towards the available barn space, assuming it can be readied in a reasonable timeframe. He has had his IT consultant on site to review the situation and has a \$2,500 quote to prepare the new service area.

Mr. Jim Stevens notes that the \$2,500 is an estimate not a quote. He has reviewed the possible areas within the site. The barn will require retrofitting. The wiring, for example, is quite likely too old and the area will need a separate line from Old Mill Creek. Berens notes phone and fax will also be required. The \$2,500 represents 10-25 hours of Steven's companies' time. Trustee Kirschhoffer complains about the cost, citing her personal home expenses are significantly less. Berens explains this is a one-time expense, the township is a commercial entity with requirements that cannot be compared to an individual residents' service. Mr. Stevens says the building is not currently wired. Kirschhoffer suggests a router as a solution. Stevens counters that the building will still requiring wiring. Kirschhoffer suggests wireless access points as a solution. Mr. Stevens explains residential and commercial access requirements are different, the township needs independent access from Old Mill Creek. Kirschhoffer suggests satellite as an alternative, noting her expertise with internet service solutions. She indicates that \$2,500 is a ridiculous amount as she uses plenty of internet for significantly less. Mr. Stevens reiterates differences between commercial and home use, additionally noting residential does not require service wiring to the home, whereas the commercial application under discussion does. Berens addresses Kirschhoffer, commenting that the situation is more complex than residential access. He cites confidence in Steven's expertise and notes he has worked with him for the past eight years.

Clerk Comments:

No report.

Trustee Comments:

Daryle Spiller – No report.

Stan Williams— No report.

Mike Wells-- No report.

Corey Kirschhoffer— Kirschhoffer comments she has emailed Sheri Jesiel regarding Amtrack in downtown Wadsworth.

Attorney's Report:

No report.

Township Business:

The supervisor notes AFLAC is not present tonight at the meeting and this agenda item will be rescheduled for another time.

Whitmore asks how Berens will support residents if the township offices move further away from Newport residents, to Lake Villa Township. Berens says he will work with residents, and ensure signage alerts residents of any changes.

Finances:

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

Motion by Wells; seconded by Williams.

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

Motion passes, 5-0.

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

Motion by Kirschhoffer; seconded by Spiller.

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

Motion passes, 5-0.

Public Comment:

A trustee from Old Mill Creek, present in the audience, wishes to speak with Highway Commissioner Edmonds following the meeting regarding the use of grindings on Newport roadways.

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 7:37 p.m.

Dated the 16th day of August, 2017.

 s/Debbie Spurgeon

Debbie Spurgeon, Township Clerk