

Minutes Annual Town Meeting

STATE OF ILLINOIS

LAKE COUNTY

TOWN OF NEWPORT

THE ELECTORS OF NEWPORT TOWNSHIP met at the office of the Town Clerk at the Village Hall on April 12, 2016.

Public Present: The voters present at the Annual Town Meeting were verified by the clerk with the registered voter list as provided by the Lake County Clerk's Office on April 11, 2016.

Call to Order: Clerk Spurgeon called the Annual Town Meeting of Newport Township to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance: The clerk led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Appointment of a Moderator and Oath of Office: Spurgeon requested nominations for Moderator of the April 12, 2016 Annual Town Meeting.

Motion made by Susan Zingle, seconded by Randy Whitmore to nominate Tom Hartford as moderator for the April 12, 2016 Annual Town Meeting.

Voice vote: Ayes all; nays none. Motion passed.

Tom Hartford was sworn in as the Moderator and signed Oath of Office.

Approval of Annual Town Meeting Minutes from April 14, 2015: Minutes from the Annual Town Meeting held on April 14, 2015 are available for elector review.

Motion made by Randy Whitmore, seconded by Rodger Edmonds to approve the minutes from April 14, 2015.

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

The Supervisor's Annual Financial Statement/Settlement for March 1, 2015-February 28, 2016 was posted as required to state statute and copies are available at tonight's meeting.

Resident Beth Hartford asks about health insurance for road district employees, which the Township is subsidizing at 100 percent of the cost. The highway commissioner previously indicated he would look into changing this but to Hartford's knowledge, nothing has changed. Rodger Edmonds says he has not looked into making any changes. Hartford and Edmonds agree the cost to continue subsidizing at 100 percent is approximately \$2500-3000 per month.

Mildred Corder inquires as to the status of road district employee Michael Albers. Rodger Edmonds indicates Albers has come back from medical leave then went out on leave again for a second knee operation.

Hartford further presses Edmonds on whether he will make changes to the level of subsidy the township pays for road district employees. Edmonds says he would like to and will consider looking into making changes.

Randy Whitmore comments the township has monies in the Building Fund and he does not anticipate putting a building up as it is more economical to rent than maintain a building. He thinks the money should go back to the taxpayers. Beth Hartford asks how this can be done. Whitmore says it can be done.

Pat Palmeri asks why the township has so many legal fees. Whitmore says it is retainer fees. Mildred Corder asks whether the retainers are paid whether services are required. (Yes.) Palmeri comments that she asks the township attorney a question, the response is that township law is not her area of expertise and again wonders what are we spending this money for.

Randy Whitmore says the attorneys of Ancel Glink are well versed in township law. Beth Hartford indicates every time Attorney Tiffany Nelson-Jaworski is asked a question she always defers and says it is not her area of expertise. Hartford doesn't understand why they keep sending her to township meetings.

Mildred Corder says it is her opinion that the township should get rid of the Ancel Glink firm.

Pat Palmeri asks where health insurance shows up on the Annual Financial Statement Report. Toni Edmonds says it is under the Road & Bridge Fund. Palmeri says the amount is ~\$30,000 and she wishes she had a job that would pay one hundred percent of her health insurance. Beth Hartford notes the amount being spent on road district employee health insurance even exceeds the legal fees. Rodger Edmonds comments by law the township is required to provide access to health insurance. Beth Hartford notes the township is not required to pay 100% of the cost. Randy Whitmore says everyone should pay for a portion of their health insurance.

Mildred Corder questions an inter-fund transfer (payable to General Fund) that is documented in the Annual Financial Statement Report. Toni Edmonds explains this occurred at the beginning of the fiscal year, and was done by bookkeeper Nancy Lech to balance everything out. She elaborates, that there was money that went back and forth, but had not actually been put on paper. Therefore, Nancy Lech executed the transfers and got everything back on track.

Toni Edmonds comments Rodger Edmonds has worked really hard to bring rent expenses down.

Mildred Corder confirms with Rodger Edmonds that he is committed to looking into a reduction of the level of insurance subsidy that the road district employees currently enjoy. Edmonds says he will look into it in June. He adds that the township employees don't make enough money to buy their own insurance and that the township must help them to some degree. Hartford counters that road district employee's make \$25.00/hour---a significant amount of money---certainly enough to subsidize their own health insurance, and not anywhere near a minimum wage job.

Corder continues to press Edmonds on reducing health insurance expenses payable by the township, asking why he is waiting until June. (This is when the current policy is up.) Corder says if nothing is done about it again this June, she suggests residents should consider adding an item to the Annual Town Meeting Agenda in 2017 to reduce the subsidy level the township kicks in for. Rodger Edmonds says he will look for cheaper insurance but feels that good quality insurance attracts better job candidates.

A brief discussion occurs on the prospect of electric transmission lines coming down through the township via Delany Road or Kilborne Road.

Hearing no further comment, Moderator Tom Hartford proceeds to Township Business.

Township Business:

Old Business: No old business.

New Business: No new business.

Motions, Questions, Discussion for the Electors Assembled (Public Comment): No public wishing to comment further.

Announcement of the Close of Business: Moderator Hartford announces the close of business at 7:29 p.m.

Date and Time of next Annual Town Meeting: The electors assembled determined the next Annual Town Meeting will take place on April 11, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at the Township Offices located at 40870 Hunt Club Road, Old Mill Creek, IL

Motion to Adjourn: Moderator Hartford requested a motion and a second to adjourn the meeting.

Motion made by Beth Hartford; seconded by Mildred Corder.

Voice Vote: Ayes, all; Nays none. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Dated the 12th day of April, 2016.

s/ Debbie Spurgeon

Debbie Spurgeon, Township Clerk

s/ Tom Hartford

2016 Annual Town Meeting Moderator