

# Minutes Board of Town Trustees

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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 July 18, 2018

**Members Present:**

J. Daryle Spiller, Trustee

Stan Williams, Trustee

Corey Kirschhoffer, Trustee

Mike Wells, Trustee

Rodger Edmonds, Highway Commissioner

Debbie Spurgeon, Clerk

Randy Whitmore, Supervisor

**Call to Order:** Supervisor Whitmore called the Regular Township Meeting of the Board of Town Trustees to order at 7:00 p.m.

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

**Roll Call:** In attendance, Daryle Spiller, Stan Williams, Rodger Edmonds, Corey Kirschhoffer, Mike Wells, Debbie Spurgeon and Randy Whitmore. Absent, Jerome Berens.

**Approval of Minutes:** Supervisor Whitmore requests a motion and a second to approve the June 20, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Motion to approve the June 20, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes by Williams, seconded by Spiller.

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

## **Reports:**

### **Supervisor's Report:**

Supervisor Whitmore reports on the concrete dumping incident that occurred within the township more than a month ago, commenting that the Lake Co. Sheriff has dropped the ball. However, Lake County Dept. of Transportation (LCDOT) wants to go after the offenders. Whitmore notes Trustee Wells has supplied enough information, including photographs, to assist in an arrest. Trustee Wells confirms the dumped materials have not yet been cleaned up and remain on the site.

Supervisor Whitmore describes another, more disturbing, instance of the Lake County Sheriff not doing their job in Newport. During a recent storm resulting in downed trees, the Newport Highway Commissioner was assaulted by Hispanic rodeo equine providers. Whitmore invites the commissioner to describe the events to the board.

### **Highway Commissioner's Report:**

Highway Commissioner Edmonds says he experienced an assault while responding to reports of fallen trees from Lake County. He called his son-in-law, a road district employee, to bring the front-end loader and headed to the scene himself. He reports that 6-7 pick-up trucks came towards him on the roadway and 20-25 Hispanic individuals got out of the pick-up trucks and went after him. The perpetrators, all visibly packing guns, pushed the commissioner into the roadside bush line, took his keys and vehicle, driving his vehicle down the street into the ditch and throwing his keys into the weeds. The commissioner was later told by police that these people are known Latin King gang members who knew the police were called and wanted out of the area at any cost. Edmonds son-in-law arrives at the scene, and he and Edmonds can see what driveway the perpetrators are entering, where they quickly unload the horses they have brought there and leave.

Edmonds reports it took more than 40 minutes for police to arrive back on the scene. Once the deputy arrives, he asks Edmonds if he wants to press charges (emphatically, yes.) The delay in the arrival of police makes it difficult to locate the perpetrators. The deputy indicates the police are well-aware of this 'clubhouse' location and the gang affiliation, but they are content to have them in a single location rather than 'out and about' causing trouble.

Days later, Edmonds receives an apology from a Lake County Sheriff representative who advises him in the future to request a shift commander rather than relying on assistance from deputies.

Board discussion surrounds frustration with the Lake County Sheriff, their reluctance to report or act on area problems and turning a blind-eye to a known gang location while allowing it to operate in the township.

Supervisor Whitmore adds that he contacted the Sheriff who promised him a call back from Deputy Chief Michael Keller. Whitmore never received an explanation or a return call. Whitmore suggests the township consider calling the State Police to address the lack of action on the part of Lake County.

The board suggests in the future Edmonds wait for police presence before cleaning any storm damage across roadways.

Edmonds goes on to describe another recent incident where the township closed a flooded 9<sup>th</sup> Street for the Village of Wadsworth only to return a short time later to find a motorist had removed the barricades, threw them into the tree-line and proceeded to attempt to drive through the flooded water, whereupon his vehicle became stuck. Lake County Sheriffs were called by the township but refused to issue the motorist a ticket saying the road is not considered closed with barricades only, a sign in the roadway is needed.

Additional discussion occurs on a location known to police of a Latin Kings Clubhouse on Edwards Road -- west of Rt. 41, east of Hunt Club on the southside of the road – and the unwillingness of the Lake County Sheriff to take any action to eliminate the threat from the area.

Trustee Kirschhoffer describes dog-fighting rings and an ongoing concern of loose animals near Old Route 41 where her trucking firm office is located. She says the Sheriff has been called on multiple occasions, but nothing is done.

The board is most disturbed by the lack of action by the Lake County Sheriff in the assault of the highway commissioner.

Edmonds is also concerned about known plans for an August ‘3-day wedding event’ on Ingram Drive where 600 people are expected to pack the property and surrounding roadways. He notes there are rules about providing security and potentially even fire protection for these types of large crowd gatherings, especially on a limited access roadway. He isn’t confident that Lake County will enforce the laws and will continue to monitor developments.

Supervisor Whitmore indicates he will be calling the Sheriff again and will inform him that Newport will not be removing roadway storm damage without police presence onsite. The board suggests having counsel compose a letter to the Lake County Sheriff stating these intentions and citing safety of personnel.

The consensus is that in this part of the county, there is no longer any police protection.

Edmonds also updates the board on ditching efforts, Crawford Road drain pipe concerns, and mowing progress within the township.

Lastly, Edmonds is waiting for the mushroom farm to provide the required road bond and briefly reports on a proposed state-of-the-art apple orchard being proposed on a 10-acre parcel near Russell & Delany Roads.

**Assessor's Report:** No report.

**Clerk Comments:**

Clerk reports elected official's information updates are due to the county and asks board members to confirm or make changes to the county documentation being passed around.

**Trustee Comments:**

Daryle Spiller – No report.

Stan Williams— No report.

Mike Wells-- No report.

Corey Kirschhoffer— Trustee Kirschhoffer mentions an article she read on streamlining county and township assessors and requiring certification and education of assessors.

Spurgeon comments the township assessor is already required to meet educational certification requirements such as CIAO along with continuing education to hold office. Whitmore concurs. Kirschhoffer briefly scanned the article and isn't certain of the details.

**Attorney's Report:** No report.

**Township Business:**

Lastly, Whitmore introduces consideration of appointments to replace retiring Newport Fire District trustee, Craig Johnson. Two candidates' names are brought up, Hugh White and Steve Garris. No action is taken.

**Finances:**

Supervisor Whitmore notes the warrants for the monthly bills are available for review.

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

Motion by Spiller; 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 Kirschhoffer; seconded by Wells.

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

Motion passes, 5-0.

Supervisor Whitmore requests a motion to approve the Road District bills.

Motion by Williams; seconded by Kirschhoffer.

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

Motion passes, 5-0.

**Public Comment:**

No public comment.

**Closed Session:** No closed session.

**Motion to Adjourn:**

Supervisor Whitmore requests a motion to adjourn the Regular Board 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 18<sup>th</sup> day of July 2018.**

          s/Debbie Spurgeon          

**Debbie Spurgeon, Township Clerk**