

# Minutes Board of Town Trustees

---

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 February 20, 2019

**Members Present:**

J. Daryle Spiller, Trustee

Corey Kirschhoffer, Trustee

Mike Wells, Trustee

Stan Williams, Trustee

Debbie Spurgeon, Clerk

Jerome Berens, Assessor

Rodger Edmonds, Highway Commissioner

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, Jerome Berens, Corey Kirschhoffer, Mike Wells, Randy Whitmore and Debbie Spurgeon.

**Approval of Minutes:** Supervisor Whitmore requests a motion and a second to approve the January 16, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Motion to approve the January 16, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes by Williams, seconded by Kirschhoffer.

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

Motion passes, 5-0.

Supervisor Whitmore requests a motion and a second to approve the August 22, 2018 Special Meeting Minutes authored by Trustee Spiller.

Motion to approve the August 22, 2018 Special Meeting Minutes authored by Trustee Spiller by Kirschhoffer, seconded by Wells.

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

Motion passes, 5-0.

## **Reports:**

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

Supervisor Whitmore reports he and Trustee Kirschhoffer met with the Newport Fire District regarding their current financial situation, which is described as dire. Whitmore says he discussed with the fire department ways to get their budget under control which may include the dismissal of employees. He adds the district has about \$100,000 of debt and is proposing \$3.5 million in bonds be issued. Whitmore says the fire district is considering moving to a 5-member board rather than the current 3-member board due to a concern with one of the appointed trustees.

The supervisor reports the Lynch Trucking project is on hold. Lynch has determined they have other more pressing business priorities and have sent the supervisor a letter stating the project is on hold indefinitely.

Whitmore additionally indicates the Medline project is on hold as well. Medline was able to get \$4 million dollars deferred by the affected school districts, however the cost of bringing sewer to the property from Antioch is \$8 million dollars.

Supervisor Whitmore is discussing with PACE the possibility of getting para-transit service in Wadsworth. The board suggests the supervisor request a PACE representative come to a township board meeting to talk to the board about their services, how they are funded and what can be done to extend services to the township. Several board members and residents alike have noted that the PACE para-transport buses are routinely seen driving through the area. Trustee Spiller has received calls from a local resident requesting service for a family member.

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

Highway Commissioner Edmonds indicates there have been 27 snow or ice events this season requiring the district to either salt or plow. In comparison, last season there were 14 events requiring the district to perform services.

The road district continues to have truck issues with the older, yellow 550 truck. Recently, the vehicle required towing from Whitmore's garage to Hucksdorf Diesel for service where it required re-calibrating.

The township assisted township residents with generators during a recent cold snap and power outages. Edmonds notes there is now a warming center in Pleasant Prairie, WI.

Edmonds reports the district has received 360 tons of road salt. The Village of Wadsworth has used 204 tons, replacing 70 tons thus far. The village owes the township 140 tons, which they are expected to replace before the end of 2019. The township salt level is currently described as ‘at a bare minimum’ and the district has brought in some sand to help stretch resources. The township is already 20% above the contracted amount, and if the district must purchase salt over and above the contract price, costs will increase. Edmonds cannot use sand on the village roads as there is concern with the sand clogging storm sewers. He can, however, use it on the more rural roadways in the western part of the township. Edmonds says he needs to decide on next years’ tonnage by the end of February.

**Assessor’s Report:**

Assessor Berens notes he presented his FY 2019-2020 budget proposal to the board at the December meeting and has yet to receive any feedback from the trustees or supervisor. Berens requests feedback be provided to him by March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Berens indicates he will miss the March Regular Meeting due to a medical procedure he will be undergoing in the days preceding the scheduled meeting date.

**Clerk Comments:**

No report.

**Trustee Comments:**

Daryle Spiller – No report.

Stan Williams— No report.

Mike Wells—No report.

Corey Kirschhoffer— Trustee Kirschhoffer comments that the Newport Fire District is planning a bond sale, which is on the ballot for the upcoming April 2<sup>nd</sup> election, to fund maintaining the second station location on the west side of Route 41, between Old Rt. 41 and Russell Rd.

Kirschhoffer urges residents to go to the Newport Fire District website to get information on the issue. She says this is not tax dollars, just bonds, adding she is not well-versed on bonds.

Kirschhoffer says there is some discussion over the need, but she personally supports the existing second station and urges people to decide for themselves. She says the increase will be about \$58 per year.

**Attorney’s Report:** No report.

**Township Business:**

Supervisor Whitmore introduces the new business item, budget transfer line items. The list of line item transfers is a lengthy one, and are included in the minutes in their entirety as Appendix

A. A motion is requested to approve the line items transfers as presented.

Motion by Williams; seconded by Spiller.

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

Motion passes, 5-0.

**Finances:**

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

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

Motion by Kirschhoffer; seconded by Williams.

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

Motion passes, 5-0.

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.

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

Motion by Williams; seconded by Kirschhoffer.

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

Motion passes, 5-0.

**Public Comment:**

Mildred Corder-- Resident Millie Corder inquires if the board is aware of the controversy with the Sterogenics facility in Willowbrook regarding Ethylene Oxide emissions and the additional plants in nearby Gurnee (Vantage) and Waukegan (Medline). The board has heard of the situation and agrees the proximity to our area is concerning. Corder has attended meetings in Waukegan and Gurnee on the issue and is keeping abreast of what surrounding communities are doing to mitigate, and protect area residents. She is hopeful that Gurnee will move forward with independent testing as Waukegan did. Whitmore says he experiences consistent coughing when he is in the area that he does not experience when he travels and indicates there may be something to the concerns. Trustee Kirschhoffer comments that local air quality can also be attributed to the increased truck traffic. Resident Corder urges the board to monitor the situation closely and to interface with officials of the surrounding communities.

**Closed Session:**

No closed session.

**Motion to Adjourn:**

Trustee Kirschhoffer requests a motion to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting.

Motion by Williams; seconded by Kirschhoffer.

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

Meeting adjourns at 7:44p.m.

**Dated the 20<sup>th</sup> day of February 2019.**

          s/Debbie Spurgeon          

**Debbie Spurgeon, Township Clerk**