

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 April 17, 2019

Members Present:

J. Daryle Spiller, Trustee

Corey Kirschhoffer, Trustee

Mike Wells, Trustee

Stan Williams, Trustee

Debbie Spurgeon, Clerk

Rodger Edmonds, Highway Commissioner

Randy Whitmore, Supervisor

Jerome Berens, Assessor

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, Debbie Spurgeon and Randy Whitmore.

Approval of Minutes: Supervisor Whitmore requests a motion and a second to approve the March 20, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Motion to approve the March 20, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes by Spiller, second by Williams.

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

Motion passes, 5-0.

Reports:

Supervisor's Report:

Supervisor Whitmore introduces Becky Mitten, who provides the board with a demonstration on the new township website. Documents from the previous website are ported over and the township's URL (newporttownshipil.com) remains the same.

Supervisor Whitmore says he spoke with an area realtor yesterday who claims only one home in Wadsworth sold during the past year. Assessor Berens believes this information is not accurate. Whitmore is concerned about home values and area taxes. Trustee Williams adds the format used to determine real estate taxes is archaic and represents taxation on an unrealized value. Assessor Berens comments that any resident who believes their taxes are not accurate needs to obtain an appraisal and then he will adjust the taxes accordingly.

The supervisor notes Emily Karry, Lake County, is working on a county-wide revamp of paratransit thru a new initiative with PACE. He predicts the information will be available for publication next month.

Highway Commissioner's Report:

Highway Commissioner Edmonds discusses the latest snowfall event experienced throughout the area, which produced significant snow totals for a late April weather event. He comments that the township is in good shape going into next year with approximately 180-190 tons of salt being stored at the Campanella's facility.

The road district is working on brush clearing, including intergovernmental work for the Village of Wadsworth.

Additionally, the road district shop floor is now replaced. Edmonds says this maintenance is part of the township's responsibility, not the building's landlord.

Two tires were replaced on one of the township trucks due to an incident with a driver going off the roadway.

Rodger Edmonds notes the township will need to pay \$90-\$100,000 for the county's intended round-about at Wadsworth and Dilly's Road. This is the first the board has heard that the township will need to pay for the county's roundabout and board members share concerns as to why the township would need to pay anything. This project is the county's proposal. Edmonds says the township is expected to pay for ditching, repaving and cross-culverts on the north-side of the project and he is working on an inter-governmental agreement regarding the project. The board agrees the township doesn't need nor want the roundabout, nor has the township budgeted for such an expense. Edmonds will re-visit the matter with the county. The project expects to be bid in July. This round-about project will require road closures which will impact area residents, and potentially area fire protection.

Trustee Wells shares concerns regarding the connecting speed limit on Wadsworth Road, suggesting potential safety issues when cresting the hill over the tollway (eastbound) to suddenly

be faced with entering a 15-mph round-about. General consensus is that a round-about is not the correct solution for this particular intersection.

Assessor's Report:

Berens reports 2019 is a re-valuation year for the assessments of all properties in Newport Township. This occurs every four years and is also coinciding with the county's computer software revamp. Berens reminds everyone that in general when assessments go up, the tax rate generally goes down, which he describes as a 'teeter-totter' effect. Area assessments are expected to rise approximately 2-3%.

Clerk Comments:

No report.

Trustee Comments:

Daryle Spiller – Spiller mentions a resident (Jackie) who has inquired about elder-care transport. Whitmore invites Spiller to join discussions with Emily Karry of Lake County.

Stan Williams— No report.

Mike Wells—No report.

Corey Kirschhoffer— No report.

Attorney's Report: No report.

Township Business:

Supervisor Whitmore introduces approval of the Tentative Township Budget for FY 2019-2020.

No discussion.

A motion is made by Kirschhoffer, second by Wells to approve the Tentative Township Budget for FY 2019-2020 as presented.

Voice Vote: Ayes, Spiller, Williams, Kirschhoffer, Wells, Whitmore. Nays, none. Motion passes, 5-0.

Whitmore requests a motion to approve the Tentative Highway Budget for FY 2019-2020.

No discussion.

Williams, second by Spiller to approve the Tentative Highway Budget for FY 2019-2020 as presented.

Voice Vote: Ayes, Spiller, Williams, Kirschhoffer, Wells, Whitmore. Nays, none. Motion passes, 5-0.

Whitmore re-appoints Joe Kust to the Newport Fire Protection District as trustee.

Motion by Kirschhoffer, second by Wells to approve the appointment of Joe Kust.

Voice Vote: Ayes, Spiller, Williams, Kirschhoffer, Wells, Whitmore. Nays, none. Motion passes, 5-0.

Whitmore reports he has received a request for general assistance for a family that has twice received Newport assistance monies. Whitmore notes the requester has properties they can sell to improve their financial situation and the requester gets her nails manicured weekly. Whitmore has declined the additional assistance request.

Finances:

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

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

Motion by Wells; second by Spiller.

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

Motion passes, 5-0.

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

Motion by Kirschhoffer; second by Williams.

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

Motion passes, 5-0.

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

Motion by Williams; second by Spiller.

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; second by Spiller.

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

Meeting adjourns at 7:33 p.m.

Dated the 17th day of April 2019.

s/Debbie Spurgeon

Debbie Spurgeon, Township Clerk