

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 May 22, 2019

Members Present:

Corey Kirschhoffer, Trustee

Stan Williams, Trustee

J. Daryle Spiller, Trustee

Mike Wells, Trustee

Randy Whitmore, Supervisor

Debbie Spurgeon, Clerk

Rodger Edmonds, Highway Commissioner

Jerome Berens, Assessor

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

Pledge of Allegiance: Supervisor Whitmore announces forgoing the Pledge of Allegiance since it was said at a preceding public hearing.

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

Approval of Minutes: Supervisor Whitmore requests a motion and a second to approve the April 17, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Motion to approve the April 17, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes by Wells, second by Spiller.

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

Reports:

Supervisor's Report:

Supervisor Whitmore reports on a new pilot program for dial-a-ride service. He and Trustee Spiller met with PACE and LCDOT representatives to determine if the program may be beneficial to Newport. Whitmore reports the cost to the township is a fee per trip/use, with the resident patron paying only \$1.00 for the service. The township can set a cap on the annual expenditure to be used for this program. Grant monies may be available to subsidize part of the initial program costs. This service is intended for disabled and elderly residents to utilize for doctor appointments or shopping needs. There will be age, and possibly additional restrictions to deter misuse. Residents will need to schedule a ride 24-hours in advance. The supervisor indicates he will work with the Village of Wadsworth to determine if there is interest in joining the township in participating. Whitmore plans to have Larry Booth, Benton Township Supervisor and Sue Simpson, Warren Township Supervisor administrate the program directly with PACE for Newport. In turn, Booth & Simpson's organizations will bill Newport back for services used by Newport residents. An itemized list of users and pick-up locations will be provided to the township for billing and program evaluation purposes. Once the details are finalized, a newsletter will publicize the program to residents.

Additionally, Whitmore mentions Oak Street Health, Grand Avenue, Waukegan can also pick-up Medicare patients and drive them to physician appointments.

Highway Commissioner's Report:

Commissioner Edmonds reports the districts' snowplows are going into storage and the mowers are being brought out. Culverts holding water are under review. The district will soon begin tree trimming activities, utilizing one of the third-party tree service providers in the local area.

Following confusion at last month's township meeting regarding Lake County's roundabout proposal for Dilly's and Wadsworth Roads, Edmonds reports he has since had another conversation with Lake County on the financial expectations for Newport. He states the "township's section" is 800 feet and the county is looking for Newport to fund \$87,000 for its portion. Apparently, the 800 feet is adjacent roadway and not the actual roundabout itself. Edmonds states he is jumping on the county's paving bandwagon, but adding he is also working with Newport legal counsel, Ancel Glink, on the matter and will see where it goes once the county bids the project.

Supervisor Whitmore reiterates the concern raised at last month's meeting, that the county is the one seeking the roundabout not the township, and asks why the township should be expected to pay any of the associated costs. The township is not in favor of a roundabout at this location.

Commissioner Edmonds says he has an agreement with the county to grade and gravel Park Lane in Russell through an inter-governmental agreement in which Newport will continue to maintain the road. Edmonds says there are several houses on the road that regularly require ambulance services and the road is in need of attention.

The highway commissioner comments the Village of Wadsworth wants to pave 9th Street from Delany to the railroad tracks (east of Delany) and indicates he is adding it to the docket.

Edmonds responds to questions stemming from the April 2018 Annual Town Meeting, indicating he does not plan to institute any cost sharing for road district employees to pay a portion of their health benefits. Edmonds maintains his employee's salaries are not large enough and thus as highway commissioner he has made the decision to have the township pay 100% of employee health costs. He also addresses a question from 2018 on the number of employees the road district currently has (1 full-time, 1 part-time, 3 seasonal employees in 2019).

Assessor's Report:

Assessor Berens reports tax bills were sent out. He also reviews the relationship between assessments and levies. Finally, Berens addresses comments by the supervisor at the April Regular Meeting on home sales in Wadsworth/Newport over the last 12 months, providing a summary of area home sales to the supervisor.

Clerk Comments:

The clerk reports on recent changes to the Prevailing Wage Act which will take effect on June 1, 2019, and the effect on township and road district responsibilities.

Trustee Comments:

Daryle Spiller – No report.

Stan Williams— Trustee Williams announces the local historical society will hold an open house on June 1st from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Mike Wells-- No report.

Corey Kirschhoffer— No report.

Attorney's Report:

No report.

Township Business:

Supervisor Whitmore introduces the township and road district budgets for final action tonight. Public hearings preceded the Special Township Meeting. Whitmore requests a motion

and second to approve the Township Budget for fiscal year 2019-2020.

Motion by Kirschhoffer, second by Williams.

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

Motion passes, 5-0.

Whitmore requests a motion and second to approve the Road District Budget for fiscal year 2019-2020.

Motion by Spiller, second by Wells.

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

Motion passes, 5-0.

Finances:

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

Motion by Spiller; second by Williams.

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

Motion passes, 5-0.

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

Motion by Kirschhoffer; second by Wells.

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

Motion passes, 5-0.

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

Motion by Williams; second by Kirschhoffer.

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

Motion passes, 5-0.

Public Comment:

None.

Motion to Adjourn:

Supervisor Whitmore requests a motion to adjourn the Special Township Board Meeting.

Motion by Spiller; seconded by Wells.

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

Meeting adjourns at 7:38 p.m.

Dated the 22nd day of May 2019.

_____s/Debbie Spurgeon_____

Debbie Spurgeon, Township Clerk