

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 September 18, 2019

Members Present:

Mike Wells, Trustee

Corey Kirschhoffer, 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 7:01 p.m.

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

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

Approval of Minutes: Supervisor Whitmore requests a motion and a second to approve the August Regular Meeting Minutes.

Motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from August 21, 2019 by Kirschhoffer, second by Williams.

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

Motion passes, 4-0.

Reports:

Supervisor's Report:

Supervisor Whitmore states he has spoken with Wadsworth Trustee Ken Harvey regarding the Village of Wadsworth providing the township with an additional 2 miles of roadway, to circumvent elimination of the township road commissioner and township road district from recent State legislation aimed at some Illinois townships. He adds that Newport Township and Village of Wadsworth attorneys (Ancel, Glink, Diamond, Bush, DiCianni & Krafthefer, PC) are agreeable to assisting once a conflict of interest waiver is in place. Edmonds adds that in his conversations with the village on this subject, some concerns were expressed by the village regarding adjoining village properties if roadways revert to township control. Edmonds does not see any issue.

Supervisor Whitmore states he wants to switch banks from First Midwest to Wintrust. Wintrust is offering 2.3% interest for 2 years. First Midwest is offering 1.75%, up from the current 0.3%. Whitmore says Bookkeeper Nancy Lech is adamant that she does not want him to make a change. There is much work and expense associated with banking changes. Highway Commissioner Rodger Edmonds says wife Toni talks to the bookkeeper every day and moves money around each month. The Edmonds agree that the change does not make financial sense. Trustee Williams comments that the amount the township would receive in interest is probably not worth the headache. Consensus is to remain with First Midwest.

Highway Commissioner's Report

Highway Commissioner Edmonds held a meeting on August 27, 2019 at the road district building in Russell regarding the Lake County Dept. of Transportation (LCDOT) proposed round-about at Dilly and Wadsworth Roads. Supervisor Whitmore and Trustee Williams also attended. Edmonds reports that Newport Township will be responsible for ~\$90,000 due to project add-ons the commissioner is authorizing, such as pavement from the round-about to Plaza Lane, shoulder work, brush clearing, and solving resident Jon Rykman's water issues on his Plaza Lane property. He says LCDOT engineer Darrell Coons is helping with engineering work as a favor, since the township is going along with what the county wants. LCDOT will be designing the round-about center landscaping. The county's latest timeline has the project slated to begin in mid-2020 once school is out, as detours will need to be in effect.

Edmonds comments the township is working in conjunction with the Village of Wadsworth regarding paving near Goldenrod and heading south

The commissioner is working with Moses Amidei to update the IGA regarding snowplowing for 2019-20 winter season, and the likelihood that the township will take on additional plowing responsibilities for the village.

Lastly, Edmonds reports the district is replacing culverts, blacktopping driveway culvert covers and says the road district now owns 4 electric and 2 gas pumps, which were used to dry water ingress in Russell homes and the Russell Church.

Assessor's Report:

Assessor Berens reports that Tim Smith, landlord of the current township offices located on Grass Lake Road, Millburn, IL has agreed to keep the township's current monthly rent at \$700 until further notice. Berens states he attended the Old Mill Creek Village Meeting, with the message that the township is willing to pay a competitive rate, but is not interested in any further increase. He noted the township invested \$8,000 in moving expenditures to relocate to the Grass Lake Road location and the initial monthly rent was \$600. Supervisor Whitmore says he moved the township offices to the new location to help Smith out and is in agreement the current \$700 monthly rate is satisfactory. He does not support an increase.

Lastly, the assessor notes this is the quadrennial year in the assessment cycle. The blue sheets are tardy being sent out to taxpayers due to the county's computer system upgrades. Berens says property owners can expect an average of a 3% increase.

Clerk Comments:

The clerk requests members review and sign the monthly Board Audit Report from Bookkeeper Lech. She indicates the annual financial report from auditor Evoy Kamschulte. Jacobs & Co. is complete and copies have been provided tonight by the supervisor. Board members each indicate they have received a copy.

Trustee Comments:

Daryle Spiller – No report. Spiller, absent.

Stan Williams— No report.

Mike Wells—No report.

Corey Kirschhoffer— Trustee Kirschhoffer asks about the determination of who is responsible for taking care of the Heritage Trails Park property. Edmonds volunteers that the road district was in there illegally performing work. He says no one got hurt, therefore nothing happened. However, the township has no responsibility for this park and the attorney has advised the township to stay off of the property. Heritage Trails homeowners are ultimately responsible for the upkeep, the most common mechanism is by establishment of a homeowner's association.

Attorney's Report: No report.

Township Business:

The annual financial audit performed by the auditing firm of Evoy, Kamschulte, Jacobs and Co. is presented to the board of trustees.

No board vote is necessary on the township offices rental increase, as Berens stated in his report that he has reached an agreement with landlord Tim Smith to maintain the current rental rate of \$700 until further notice.

Finances:

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

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

Motion by Wells; second by Kirschhoffer.

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

Motion passes, 4-0.

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

Motion by Williams; second by Wells.

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

Motion passes, 4-0.

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

Motion by Kirschhoffer; second by Williams.

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

Motion passes, 4-0.

Public Comment:

Everett Erlandson – Resident Erlandson commented on traffic concerns at Dilly’s Road and Kelly Road/State Route 41 and offered his opinion on potential solutions. Mr. Erlandson spoke directly with Highway Commissioner Edmonds during the meeting and provided the commissioner with a variety of photographs documenting his concerns. Resident Erlandson complimented the work of the township in keeping township roads adequately plowed.

Closed Session:

No closed session.

Motion to Adjourn:

Supervisor Whitmore requests a motion to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting.

Motion by Williams; second by Wells.

Voice Vote: Ayes, all; Nays none. Motion passes, 4-0. Spiller, absent.

Meeting adjourns at 7:40 p.m.

Dated the 18th day of September 2019.

_____s/Debbie Spurgeon_____

Debbie Spurgeon, Township Clerk