

# 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 October 16, 2019

**Members Present:**

J. Daryle Spiller

Corey Kirschhoffer, Trustee

Mike Wells, Trustee

Stan Williams, Trustee

Debbie Spurgeon, Clerk

Randy Whitmore, Supervisor

Rodger Edmonds, Highway Commissioner

**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, Mike Wells, Corey Kirschhoffer, Randy Whitmore and Debbie Spurgeon. Assessor Jerome Berens is absent.

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

Motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes with amendment (removal of reason stated for trustee's September meeting absence) from September 18, 2019 by Williams, second by Kirschhoffer.

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

Motion passes, 4-0.

**Reports:**

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

Supervisor Whitmore reports he met with Mr. Booth from Benton Township along with PACE regarding the senior ride service discussed at recent meetings. The service will go live in approximately 70 days. Seniors will call PACE directly to arrange for the ride. Senior riders will pay a nominal fee of \$2.00. The township has budgeted \$5,000 for the service, some of which will be spent on advertising the service to residents via the mailing of a brochure.

Whitmore reports he has been in contact with Lee & Associates, a realtor he says is buying up property in the area. They discussed Newport's willingness to support commercial development, which Whitmore indicates his support for. Possible properties under consideration include 75 acres on Kilbourne & 9<sup>th</sup> Street (aka. Reiser property) and a property indicated as being near Yorkhouse Road. Whitmore says the realtor was reluctant to share many details on their plans.

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

Highway Commissioner Edmonds reports there is no update available on the county's Dilly Road & Wadsworth Road roundabout project--- no pricing or bid date has been provided to him thus far.

The commissioner says he and Newport Fire Dept Chief, Mark Kirschhoffer met with Trans Systems regarding intersection improvements slated for Kilbourne and Russell Roads. Surveying and engineering are currently underway. A roundabout or traffic signals are under consideration Newport Township has no direct involvement in a road project at this location, however area residential neighborhoods will be affected. Construction is anticipated to begin in 2024. The project is expected to include Federal money, which Edmonds says can be a lengthy process.

Edmonds indicates an inter-governmental agreement (IGA) with the Village of Wadsworth is moving forward. Edmonds has agreed the township will take on additional plowing, mowing, and tree work responsibilities for the village. The IGA is a two-year agreement. The village will be charged \$80/hour, which includes labor and vehicle. The village will supply materials, such as salt. Edmonds addresses Wadsworth Trustee Millie Corder in the audience. She reports that the Wadsworth Board of Trustees approved the IGA at its meeting last evening. Edmonds says he expects to sign the agreement soon. Trustees concur they are in agreement with the IGA.

The commissioner reports the contract pricing for salt for the upcoming season is \$71.30 per ton and 80% of the contract must be fulfilled.

New tires are being purchased for the John Deere tractor and (2) new cutting edges have recently been purchased for township plow trucks.

Lastly, Edmonds indicates he has recently signed a waiver of 'conflict of interest' for Ancel, Glink, Diamond, Bush, DiCianni & Krafthefer, PC. The firm represents Newport Township as well as the Village of Wadsworth in legal matters. Edmonds reports Village President Glenn Ryback has additionally signed the waiver on the village's behalf. Edmonds says he is pushing

for township road district control of additional roadways from the village, to thwart the State of IL legislation requiring the disbanding of the township road district in two years.

**Assessor's Report:**

No report.

**Clerk Comments:**

The clerk requests members review and sign the monthly Board Audit Report from Bookkeeper Nancy Lech.

**Trustee Comments:**

Daryle Spiller – No report.

Stan Williams— No report.

Mike Wells—No report.

Corey Kirschhoffer— No report.

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

**Township Business:**

Whitmore introduces the township and road district Estimates of Levy and reports the levy percentage will remain the same from last year (104.99%). \$5,000 has been moved into the General Assistance Fund to facilitate some of the work Whitmore plans for the new year.

Whitmore requests a motion to approve the Estimate of General Town Levy in the amount of \$198,286.00.

Motion by Spiller; second by Williams.

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

Motion passes, 5-0.

Whitmore requests a motion to approve the Estimate of Township Road District Levy in the amount of \$457, 652.00.

Motion by Kirschhoffer; second by Wells.

Voice Vote: Ayes, Spiller Williams, Wells, Kirschhoffer, 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 General Town/Assessor Fund bills.

Motion by Kirschhoffer; second by Spiller.

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

Motion passes, 5-0.

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

Motion by Wells; second by Williams.

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

Motion passes, 5-0.

Whitmore requests a motion to approve the Road District bills.

Motion by Williams; second by Spiller.

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

Motion passes, 5-0.

**Public Comment:**

Mike Hanna – Cambridge Subdivision resident Mike Hanna says his tax assessment increased 11%. He would like to speak with Assessor Berens regarding the excessive increase. [Assessor Berens is absent.] Hanna says he has already been in contact with Beren’s office assistant Maureen, but says she was not helpful and he would now like to speak with Berens directly, which is why he is in attendance at tonight’s meeting. Hanna comments he is a believer of the adage ‘you get what you pay for’ and that if his property was located in the nearby, well-regarded Gurnee School District, he could understand, but as his property is located in a poorly rated Beach Park School District, the huge assessment increase is very difficult to comprehend.

Supervisor Whitmore notes this is a quadrennial assessment year, which means a computer algorithm calculates the assessments. He suggests Resident Hanna contest his assessment with Assessor Berens. Resident Hanna provided his property PIN. Spurgeon will send Berens a note advising him to contact Mr. Hanna.

**Closed Session:**

No closed session.

**Motion to Adjourn:**

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

Motion by Wells; second by Spiller.

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

Meeting adjourns at 7:36 p.m.

**Dated the 16<sup>th</sup> day of October 2019.**

          s/Debbie Spurgeon          

**Debbie Spurgeon, Township Clerk**