

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 December 18, 2019

Members Present:

J. Daryle Spiller

Corey Kirschhoffer, Trustee

Mike Wells, Trustee

Stan Williams, Trustee

Debbie Spurgeon, Clerk

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

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

Motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from November 20, 2019 by Kirschhoffer, second by Wells.

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

Motion passes, 5-0.

Reports:

Supervisor's Report:

Supervisor Whitmore invites residents in the audience, Marion and Ken Van Bergen to comment on the Karmapa Center project being proposed by the Village of Wadsworth. The Vanderbergen's live near the former Carol Murphy property where the project is being proposed. [See Public Comment.]

Whitmore reports another change in the township's proposed senior ride service plan. Newport will not use the private livery service as discussed at the last meeting, but will instead move forward with a formal arrangement with Pace. Whitmore cited modification of the program expense from \$5,000 to \$1,800 as the reason for the most recent change. Fliers are being produced and will go out to Newport and Wadsworth residents in the near future.

The supervisor reports that First Midwest is now paying the township 1.75% interest on our monies, which is up from the 0.3% they have been paying. The township considered changing banks, but will now remain with First Midwest.

Highway Commissioner's Report

Highway Commissioner Edmonds is absent.

Toni Edmonds, wife of commissioner Edmonds, indicates the road district is completing maintenance and gravel work.

Mrs. Edmonds says the district has also ordered its first load of salt for the season.

Assessor's Report:

No report.

Clerk Comments:

The clerk notes the board has reviewed and signed the monthly Board Audit Report provided by Bookkeeper Nancy Lech.

The township levies have been filed with the county following the November meeting.

Trustee Comments:

Daryle Spiller – No report.

Stan Williams— No report.

Mike Wells—No report.

Corey Kirschhoffer— No report.

Township Business:

None.

Finances:

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

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

Motion by Spiller; second by Williams.

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

Motion passes, 5-0.

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

Motion by Wells; second by Spiller.

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

Motion passes, 5-0.

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

Motion by Williams; second by Kirschhoffer.

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

Motion passes, 5-0.

Public Comment:

Marion & Ken Van Bergen – The Van Bergen’s live in the area near where the Village of Wadsworth is proposing to allow a planned unit development (PUD) known as the Karmapa Center 16 at the property located at 41230 North Kilbourne Road, Wadsworth, IL, which is located within Newport Township. The project proposal on what is currently a single-family residential property with AG – Agriculture zoning, is slated to allow development of the property as a monastic retreat center and stupa shrine chapel, which will additionally include a caretaker’s house, two retreat houses, garage and workshop, pump house and a 66-vehicle parking lot. A small existing pond also will be enlarged as part of the proposal. The Van Bergen’s express concerns over the scope of the project, the hotel-like use, long-term security, potential effects to area well and septic and the village’s poor handling of area resident notification where Wadsworth allowed the petitioner to notify only village residents and exclude any area township residents from notification requirements. The Van Bergen’s seek information from Newport on why the township did not notify its residents, as well as, help from the township with potential impact mitigation to area township residents. [Newport Township was not notified, or made aware of the project in advance by the Village of Wadsworth.]

Trustee Stan Williams explains Newport is not the governing body over the Village of Wadsworth’s proposal. Supervisor Whitmore notes the petitioners are seeking departures from the village’s own standards and codes and does not understand why the village would allow the deviations. Mr. Van Bergen agrees. Trustee Kirschhoffer comments that the petitioner is a non-profit, which also means the property will fall off the tax rolls.

The Village of Wadsworth will hold another meeting on the topic sometime in January. The Van Bergen’s are urged to watch for Wadsworth’s scheduling of a meeting with the Karmapa Center on the agenda and to continue to share any concerns with the Village of Wadsworth over proper notification, scope and details of the PUD plans.

Closed Session:

No closed session.

Motion to Adjourn:

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

Motion by Kirschhoffer; second by Spiller.

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

Meeting adjourns at 7:30 p.m.

Dated the 18th day of December 2019.

_____s/Debbie Spurgeon_____

Debbie Spurgeon, Township Clerk