

# 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 January 15, 2020

**Members Present:**

J. Daryle Spiller

Corey Kirschhoffer, Trustee

Mike Wells, Trustee

Stan Williams, Trustee

Debbie Spurgeon, Clerk

Randy Whitmore, Supervisor

Jerome Berens, Assessor

Rodger Edmonds, Highway Commissioner

**Call to Order:** Supervisor Whitmore calls the Regular Township Meeting of the Board of Town Trustees to order at 7:03 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Supervisor Whitmore leads the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

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

Motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from December 18, 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 says the brochure regarding senior ride services is being written by Jim Zegar, who Whitmore says will also include a lot of other information, and will be mailed out as a township newsletter. He indicates certain board members were asked to contribute information.

Whitmore requests and receives a letter from Bookkeeper Nancy Lech regarding the state of the township financials during his tenure, noting the township district closed the year with over a million dollars in the bank.

Whitmore states he and Tim Smith (Old Mill Creek) are seeking a railroad station for downtown Wadsworth. The supervisor comments that the process can take 6-7 years and Pleasant Prairie is also vying for a station. Whitmore indicates he has not yet spoken to the Village of Wadsworth on the matter.

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

Highway Commissioner Edmonds reports his daughter, Beckie Mitten, is working on the previously mentioned newsletter along with resident Jim Zegar and will additionally include the information on the township website.

Edmonds says the district has done some plowing recently, but the main activity of the season thus far has been salting. One hundred tons of salt have been delivered to the district, with another 160 tons still to arrive.

The commissioner indicates Lake County's roundabout project planned for Dilly's and Wadsworth Roads is scheduled for Spring bid. Edmonds says the county is ready with funding for the project. Newport is paying for 2 culverts, engineering, delineation, permitting and construction of associated work requested by the road district. The cost to Newport Township is expected to be \$109,000, which includes a \$1,000 fee for wetland credit. The work is proposed to begin after local schools let out for the summer.

Edmonds has not heard anything further regarding his desire for jurisdictional transfer of Village of Wadsworth roads to the township to avoid state abolishment of the road district. Edmonds comments he and Supervisor Whitmore recently met with Ben Dolan of the Village of Wadsworth and says Dolan is in favor of the transfer plan. Edmonds indicates Wadsworth Trustee Ken Harvey is also on board. Edmonds is seeking an update from the village on the current status and says he will talk to Supervisor Whitmore following the meeting on other ideas from Scott Stelesky, Lake County, regarding consolidation.

The commissioner notes the district needs a new/used truck to replace the existing Newport 6-wheel truck. The steel bed is degrading. He says the new truck is needed for 3 months of the year for plowing and he is seeking a low mileage, 5-yard box truck with a single axle and an 11' plow wing and salter. Edmonds will keep an eye on area vehicle auctions for available options.

**Assessor's Report:**

Assessor Berens comments that the assessor's office has concluded the quadrennial assessment year, and for the next 3 years his office will take the normal township factor forward. He says the year went well.

**Clerk Report:**

The clerk suggests the board review and sign the monthly Board Audit Report from Bookkeeper Nancy Lech.

Spurgeon introduces the new fiscal year meeting schedule, which the board needs to approve. Newport follows a fiscal year calendar schedule. Dates surrounding the major holidays look favorable for the upcoming year. Board members all received copies.

**Trustee Comments:**

Daryle Spiller – No report.

Stan Williams— No report.

Mike Wells—No report.

Corey Kirschhoffer— Trustee Kirschhoffer says that Lake County Storm Water Management has taken a third of Newport Township for wetland credits and calls the \$1,000 wetland credit fee charged to the road district for the Dilly's & Wadsworth Road project, ridiculous.

**Township Business:**

Whitmore requests a motion to approve the FY 2020-2021 meeting calendar.

Motion by Spiller; second by Williams.

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

Motion passes, 5-0.

The district's long standing third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. schedule persists for FY 2020-2021.

**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 Kirschhoffer; second by Wells.

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 Spiller; second by Kirschhoffer.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes, Spiller, Williams, Wells, Kirschhoffer, 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 Spiller; second by Kirschhoffer.

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

Meeting adjourns at 7:22 p.m.

**Dated the 15<sup>th</sup> day of January 2020.**

s/Debbie Spurgeon

**Debbie Spurgeon, Township Clerk**