

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 April 15, 2020. ¹

Members Present:

J. Daryle Spiller, Trustee

Stan Williams, Trustee

James Zegar, Trustee

Debbie Spurgeon, Clerk

Randy Whitmore, Supervisor

Rodger Edmonds, Highway Commissioner

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

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

Roll Call: In attendance, Daryle Spiller, Stan Williams, Rodger Edmonds, James Zegar, Debbie Spurgeon and Randy Whitmore. Absent, Assessor Jerome Berens and Trustee Mike Wells.

Also present, Attorney Keri-Lyn Krafthefer, Ancel, Glink, Diamond, Bush, DiCianni & Krafthefer, PC.

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

Motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from March 18, 2020 by Spiller, second by Williams.

Roll call vote: Ayes, Spiller, Williams, Whitmore. Nays, none. Abstain, Zegar.

Motion passes, 3-0.

1 ¹ Due to the Covid-19 Emergency Shutdown Order in effect, this meeting was held virtually.

Supervisor Whitmore requests a motion and a second to approve the March Special Meeting Minutes.

Motion to approve the Special Meeting Minutes from March 23, 2020 by Spiller, second by Williams.

Roll call vote: Ayes, Spiller, Williams, Whitmore. Nays, none. Abstain, Zegar.

Motion passes, 3-0.

Reports:

Supervisor's Report:

The supervisor is in favor of deferring taxes due to the township for two months, reporting that Lake County will discuss the issue at an upcoming county board meeting. He says Newport is in good shape and can afford to wait for tax monies while the Covid-19 crisis persists. Attorney Krafthefer doubts the Lake County board can affect the collection schedule of tax monies, indicating the power to defer collection resides with the State. She notes the State of IL has already indicated it is not going to delay the disbursement of tax funds to municipalities and other taxing bodies. She cautions the board not to get too far ahead of itself, indicating Lake County, on its own, does not have the authority to delay the collection of taxes.

Supervisor Whitmore indicates the township has only received a couple of requests for General Assistance during the ongoing Covid-19 emergency. However, more requests are likely the longer the crisis persists.

The supervisor has asked Trustee Spiller to attend a class on food pantries being held next week.

Highway Commissioner

The commissioner reports that district's work is on hold for the time being. Road district employee Matt Mitten is still working.

Edmonds says the roundabout for Dilly's and Wadsworth Road has not yet been bid. He says the county is pulling back a bit on projects for the time being.

Speaking to the district's tentative budget being presented for adoption tonight, Edmonds says he is increasing spending on salaries and insurance for the new fiscal year. He adds that the road district expects to hire a third person. Alluding to discussions he is having with Benton Township; he says that Benton Township is dissolving and Benton wants Newport to take over all their roads and the associated maintenance. Edmonds says nothing has been finalized.

Edmonds asks counsel about how to handle the required ‘Families First Covid Policy’. Attorney Krafthefer advises the township adopt a policy regarding concurrent coordination of the various types of leaves (*i.e.*, Family Medical Leave Act, Enhanced Medical Leave Act) and sick time available to personnel, eliminating the possibility of employees taking consecutive leaves. Edmonds must post a mandated sign at the road district office regarding the Families First Covid Policy, advising employees of their rights. Krafthefer notes that Assessor Berens will need to do the same at the Township Office for his employee.

Assessor’s Report:

No report.

Clerk Report:

The clerk notes the trustees will eventually need to sign the monthly Board Audit Report received for board review from Bookkeeper Nancy Lech, and suggests holding the reports for signatures until in person meetings resume. Attorney Krafthefer advises this is an acceptable solution.

Trustee Comments:

Daryle Spiller—No report.

Stan Williams—No report.

Mike Wells—No report.

James Zegar—No report.

Township Business:

Supervisor Whitmore introduces the Tentative Township Budget.

No discussion.

Whitmore requests a motion to approve Tentative Township Budget for FY 2020-2021, beginning March 1, 2020 and ending February 28, 2021.

Motion by Spiller; second by Williams.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes, Spiller, Williams, Zegar, Whitmore. Nays, none. Motion passes, 4-0

Supervisor Whitmore introduces the Tentative Road District Budget.

No discussion.

Whitmore requests a motion to approve Tentative Road District Budget for FY 2020-2021, beginning March 1, 2020 and ending February 28, 2021.

Motion by Spiller; second by Williams.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes, Spiller, Williams, Zegar, Whitmore. Nays, none. Motion passes, 4-0

Finances:

Supervisor Whitmore indicates the warrants for the monthly bills are not able to be reviewed tonight, due to the nature of the virtual meeting. However, the township's bills must be paid.

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

Motion by Spiller; second by Williams.

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

Motion passes, 4-0.

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

Motion by Williams; second by Spiller.

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

Motion passes, 4-0.

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

Motion by Spiller, second by Williams.

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

Motion passes, 4-0.

Public Comment:

Susan Zingle – Resident Susan Zingle inquires on who does the bookkeeping for the township (Nancy Lech). Zingle additionally inquires on the bookkeepers professional standing (ex: accountant? CPA?). Supervisor Whitmore responds that Lech is an accountant. He says Lech also works for Fremont Township as well as other entities.

Toni Edmonds – Mrs. Edmonds comments that the township has received the promised TOIRMA dividend. She says the amount received is just under \$2,100.

Closed Session:

No closed session.

Motion to Adjourn:

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

Motion by Spiller; second by Williams.

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

Meeting adjourns at 7:21 p.m.

Dated the 15th day of April 2020.

_____s/Debbie Spurgeon_____

Debbie Spurgeon, Township Clerk