

# 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 July 15, 2020. <sup>1</sup>

**Members Present:**

J. Daryle Spiller, 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, Rodger Edmonds, James Zegar, Debbie Spurgeon and Randy Whitmore. Absent, Assessor Jerome Berens, Trustees Stan Williams and Mike Wells.

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

Pursuant to the new law (formerly SB 2135), Supervisor Whitmore has determined it is not feasible for township officials to be physically present at the township's meeting location and instead the meeting will take place virtually.

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

Motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from June 17, 2020 by Zegar, second by Spiller.

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

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

Motion passes, 3-0.

## **Reports:**

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

Supervisor Whitmore says the board should begin discussing future township compensation at next month's board meeting in preparation for the next term of offices.

The supervisor inquires on the status of the postponed Annual Town Meeting.

The clerk summarizes the latest guidance from the State and TOI regarding the postponed meeting, which would have occurred on April 14, 2020 had the Covid-19 pandemic not caused the State to shut-down. Attorney Keri-Lyn Krafthefer concurs and says area townships she is familiar with are thus far mainly waiting until the conclusion of the declaration. She sees no reason why Newport needs to be a test case for the alternative process involving local health department site review and approval. Newport will continue to monitor the situation, but at this point will wait until the disaster declaration has ended.

### **Highway Commissioner**

The commissioner provides updates on the district's salt bin relocation. A new bin has been built and currently holds 184 tons of road salt, with room for more, if necessary.

Edmonds says Campanella expects to begin work on LCDOT's round-about slated for Dilly's and Wadsworth Road beginning next week. The start date was supposed to be in the Spring, but has been repeatedly delayed due to utility work required in advance of the construction. Residents can find a link to the county's construction project update website on the Newport website.

Edmonds reports the situation with the removal of grindings by Peter Baker, which the township had planned to use for enhancing shoulders for pedestrians, has not yet been resolved. Discussions on a remedy are still underway between Lake County and Peter Baker.

The commissioner indicates the district will receive \$53,467 over 3 years (payments of ~\$8,911 twice a year, for 3 years) as a result of REBUILD ILLINOIS funding initiated by Governor Pritzker. The funds must be used for allowable road expenses.

Attorney Krafthefer inquires whether Edmonds has received the districts' portion of CARES funds. Edmonds says he has received a letter indicating an amount the district will receive, but no money has come in yet.

Edmonds says mowing is underway and district employees are working with the Village of Wadsworth to clear lines of vision at area intersections.

The commissioner says he and Trustee Stan Williams met with Larry Booth, Benton Township Supervisor and Scott Stelesky of LCDOT on July 14, 2020 regarding the possibility of combining road districts. Edmonds indicates Lake County is not currently supportive of the idea, and acknowledges his desire to see the districts' combined requires taxpayer approval via referendum.

The district continues to search for a suitable replacement vehicle for its International 6-wheel truck.

**Trustee Mike Wells joins the meeting at 7:19 p.m.**

**Assessor's Report:**

No report.

**Clerk's Report:**

The clerk was contacted today by a resident who is concerned about the township's Dial-a-Ride program details as publicized to residents. The Newport resident has a family member who is in need of the service and when they contacted Dial-a-Ride, they were told Newport is only paying for Dial-a-Ride service on Tuesdays and Thursdays, not Monday thru Friday as the township flyer sent to residents indicates. The township resident would like the supervisor to sort out the disconnect with Dial-a-Ride and contact him with the correct information.

**Trustee Comments:**

Daryle Spiller—No report.

Stan Williams—No report.

Mike Wells—No report.

James Zegar—No report.

**Township Business:**

Supervisor Whitmore says discussion of the Board of Trustees compensation will begin next month. He will provide compensation information from other area townships for reference.

**Finances:**

Supervisor Whitmore indicates warrant packages with the monthly bills are not available for in-person review due to the nature of the virtual meeting, however the township's invoices need to be paid.

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

Motion by Spiller, second by Zegar.

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

Motion passes, 4-0.

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

Motion by Williams, second by Zegar.

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

Motion passes, 4-0.

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

Motion by Spiller; second by Wells.

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

Motion passes, 4-0.

**Public Comment:**

Resident Susan Zingle indicates she is on the meeting line, but has no comments.

**Closed Session:**

No closed session.

**Motion to Adjourn:**

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

Motion by Spiller; second by Wells.

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

Motion passes, 4-0.

Meeting adjourns at 7:23 p.m.

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

\_\_\_\_\_s/Debbie Spurgeon

**Debbie Spurgeon, Township Clerk**