

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 November 18, 2020

Members Present:

J. Daryle Spiller, Trustee

Stan Williams, Trustee

James Zegar, Trustee

Mike Wells, Trustee

Randy Whitmore, Supervisor

Debbie Spurgeon, Clerk

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, Mike Wells, James Zegar, Debbie Spurgeon and Randy Whitmore. Absent, Jerome Berens.

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

Motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from October 21, 2020 by Wells, second by Spiller.

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

Motion passes, 5-0.

Reports:

Supervisor's Report:

Supervisor Whitmore comments that he paid the Newport Road District a visit and has seen the district's new vehicle, a 2021 Kenworth single-axle heavy-duty truck. He notes some of the new vehicles amenities, such as a computer salt tracking system.

Trustee Zegar inquires as to what plans the district has for the vehicle. Highway Commissioner Edmonds responds that the new truck will be used in the maintenance of Newport's roadways, such as snow-plowing --- mainly west of Route #41 from the Stateline to Hansen Road, including along Mill Creek and Edwards Roads.

Highway Commissioner Report:

Commissioner Edmonds further reports on the district's new vehicle, indicating it is a state-of-the art truck, including air-ride suspension and a salt control system. He comments that the vehicle will last the district for many years to come.

The balance of \$51,722 is due to the vendor, Bonnell Industries, by May 1, 2021. The district made an initial \$100,000 down payment to take possession of the vehicle in October.

Trustee Wells inquires as to whether the Kenworth truck has chloride tanks already installed. [No.] However, Edmonds is confident if the tanks are necessary in the future, his employees can assist in the installation.

Edmonds replied to a board question on where the districts' salt is currently stored, indicating it is now stored next to the Newport Highway Building. Previously, the district kept salt at the Campanella facility in Wadsworth. Newport currently has approximately 180 tons of available salt.

Commissioner Edmonds indicates that the Lake County Department of Transportation (LCDOT) is no longer holding in person meetings, due to the deteriorating Covid-19 situation in the county. This is proving to be an added challenge in progressing with possible alternative solutions to disbanding the road district. Newport remains short of the 15-mile minimum, in order to avoid the state abolishment order, which is scheduled to take place in late Spring 2021

Although it is uncertain where it will ultimately go, Edmonds says he intends to turn in nomination papers for the April Consolidated Election as has been advised by the township's legal counsel.

Assessor's Report:

No report. [Assessor Berens is absent.]

Clerk's Report:

The clerk indicates the monthly board audit report is being passed around for trustee's signatures.

She reminds all interested parties that election materials, including petition packages and information on important dates pertinent to the April 2021 Consolidated Election, remain available at the township offices, or by contacting the clerk. Information is additionally posted on the township's website and on the Wadsworth Village Hall/Newport Message Board. Anyone with questions can contact the clerk anytime, via phone or email.

Trustee Comments:

Daryle Spiller—No report.

Stan Williams—No report.

Mike Wells—LCDOT is a good resource for the Newport Road District, should assistance be needed with the salt tracking computer system.

James Zegar—No report.

Township Business:

Supervisor Whitmore introduces the annual tax levies, which the board needs to adopt. Estimated levies have been publicly posted for 30+ days, for public viewing. Whitmore requests a motion to adopt the Township Levy (#182020A), as presented.

Motion by Zegar, second by Wells.

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

Motion passes, 5-0.

Whitmore requests a motion to adopt the Road District Levy (#182020B), as presented.

Motion by Williams, second by Spiller.

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

Motion passes, 5-0.

[Tax levies are circulated for board signatures.]

Finances:

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

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

Motion by Zegar, second by Williams.

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

Motion passes, 5-0.

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

Motion by Zegar, second by Wells.

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

Motion passes, 5-0.

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

Motion by Zegar, second by Williams.

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

Motion passes, 5-0.

Public Comment:

Toni Edmonds—Mrs. Edmonds seeks reassurance regarding the future of the road district employees and husband Rodger Edmonds, prior to the end of what could be the final road district term of office for Newport Highway Commissioner, as an elected official.

Trustee Stan Williams indicates a desire to keep everyone in place, stating it is common sense to do so. He says if the township cannot have a road district, then it can have a public works department that does the same things, so essentially there is no net savings and likely a larger cost overall. He suggests the township will move to the public works department plan later on, offering to stop by the road district and reassure employees.

Closed Session:

No closed session.

Motion to Adjourn:

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

Motion by Spiller; second by Zegar.

Voice Vote: Ayes, all. Nays, none.

Motion passes, 5-0.

Meeting adjourns at 7:24 p.m.

Dated the 18th day of November 2020.

_____s/Debbie Spurgeon_____

Debbie Spurgeon, Township Clerk