

# 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 April 21, 2021

**Members Present:**

J. Daryle Spiller, Trustee

Stan Williams, Trustee

James Zegar, Trustee

Mike Wells, Trustee

Debbie Spurgeon, Clerk

Rodger Edmonds, Highway Commissioner

Jerome Berens, Assessor

**Call to Order:** Trustee Jim Zegar, acting meeting chair, calls the Regular Township Meeting of the Board of Town Trustees to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Jim Zegar announces forgoing the Pledge of Allegiance since it was said at the preceding public budget hearing.

**Roll Call:** In attendance, Daryle Spiller, Stan Williams, Rodger Edmonds, Mike Wells, James Zegar and Debbie Spurgeon. Also, present, Attorney Adam Simon, Ancel, Glink, Diamond, Bush, DiCianni & Krafthefer, PC. Absent, Supervisor Randy Whitmore.

**Approval of Minutes:** Trustee Jim Zegar requests a motion and a second to approve the March Regular Meeting Minutes.

Motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from March 17, 2021 by Wells, second by Williams.

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

Motion passes, 4-0.

**Reports:****Supervisor's Report:**

No report.

**Highway Commissioner Report:**

Commissioner Edmonds recaps the road district salt usage from the most recent snow season. He notes the Village of Wadsworth has repaid 200 tons of salt. He says he has contracted 200 tons for next year at \$74.06 per ton and comments the township is currently sitting on 180 tons in the bin to start next season.

Edmonds says he is working with Benton Township to get their IGA invoice settled. The IGA will expire at the conclusion of Edmonds' term as Newport Highway Commissioner. He will meet with them to explore whether they are interested in a renewal. Edmonds comments that he keeps a third employee working because of the IGA business with Benton and Wadsworth. Wadsworth's IGA (mowing, ditching, tree-trimming, snow-plowing) will also expire at the end of Edmonds' term. The Village of Wadsworth has not determined if they intend to renew.

The commissioner reports that one of his employees ran off the road, which necessitated repairs to brake lines and tires. Edmonds suspects the driver fell asleep.

The new Kenworth truck purchased by Edmonds for the Newport Road District will be paid off and is included in this month's bills.

Edmonds says the Newport Fire District is backing off their agreement to hold a CPR/AED/First Aid class for the township, citing the ongoing Covid emergency.

Lastly, Edmonds says the attorneys at Ancel Glink are suggesting the new township department be called "Newport Highway Department" rather than the previously determined "Public Works Department." It is noted that the new name will allow the trucks to remain 'as is' with regards to the township logo, lettering and IDOT numbers. Tax exempt identification is also

**Assessor's Report:**

Assessor Berens reports the Assessor's Office is operating smoothly, and the final township factor is expected from the county in a month or two. He hopes the factor will be similar to the cost of living. The annual "blue sheets" are expected by early to mid-summer.

**Clerk's Report:**

The clerk indicates the new monthly board audit report is circulating for signatures. The township recently implemented a new accounting system and Bookkeeper Nancy Lech advises she is still getting used to the new software and asks for the boards' patience during the transition.

**Trustee Comments:**

Daryle Spiller—No report.

Stan Williams—No report.

Mike Wells—No report.

James Zegar—No report.

**Township Business:**

Approval of the newly combined Township Budget 2021/2022 (#212021A) is presented.

Since the public posting of the Tentative Budgets, the actual levy figures were received and have been incorporated into the final budget, as reported by Toni Edmonds. Other minor adjustments were made as shown on Addendum #1.

Zegar requests a motion to adopt the combined budget, as amended (combined).

Motion by Williams, second by Spiller.

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

Motion passes, 4-0.

The re-appointment of Trustee Bruce Cramer to a new term on the Newport Fire District, as requested by Supervisor Whitmore, is introduced. Acting meeting chair, Jim Zegar requests a motion to approve the re-appointment.

Motion by Wells, second by Spiller.

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

Motion passes, -0.

Zegar asks attorney Adam Simon to advise on the hiring of the “Public Works Department” employees, which will now be known as the “Newport Highway Department” employees going forward.

Edmonds says the (4) employees are Matthew Mitten, Rebecca Mitten, Casey Ervin and Steven Beer. All are currently employees of the Newport Road District, which is being abolished by Illinois State Law at the end of the current term of office, midnight, May 16, 2021. New employment applications were completed and presented.

Zegar requests a motion to hire the (4) employees to the Newport Highway Department.

Motion by Williams, second by Spiller.

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

Motion passes, 4-0.

Attorney Simon requests a motion to reconsider the motion.

Motion to reconsider the motion by Williams, second by Spiller.

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

Motion passes, 4-0.

Zegar requests a motion to hire the (4) employees to the Newport Highway Department, effective May 17, 2021.

Motion by Williams, second by Spiller.

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

Motion passes, 4-0.

**Finances:**

Trustee Zegar indicates the monthly bill warrants are available for board review.

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

Motion by Spiller, second by Wells.

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

Motion passes, 4-0.

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

Motion by Spiller, second by Wells.

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

Motion passes, 4-0.

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

Motion by Williams, second by Spiller.

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

Motion passes, 4-0.

**Public Comment:**

Rodger Edmonds—Edmonds thanks Mrs. Toni Edmonds for her work on the initial budgets, then further on the last-minute rewrites to combine the road district and the township expenses. He expresses frustration with the supervisor for leaving his responsibilities to others. Other trustees concur.

**Motion to Adjourn:**

Trustee Zegar requests a motion to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting.

Motion by Wells; second by Williams.

Voice Vote: Ayes, all. Nays, none.

Motion passes, 4-0.

Meeting adjourns at 7:25 p.m.

**Dated the 17<sup>th</sup> day of April 2021.**

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

**Debbie Spurgeon, Township Clerk**