

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 May 19, 2021

Members Present:

J. Daryle Spiller, Trustee

Stanley Williams, Trustee

James Zegar, Trustee

Michael Wells, Trustee

Debbie Spurgeon, Clerk

Randall Whitmore, Supervisor

Jerome Berens, Assessor

Call to Order: Supervisor Randy Whitmore calls the Regular Township Meeting of the Board of Town Trustees to order at 7:05 p.m.

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

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

Administration of Oath of Office: Spurgeon, previously sworn ahead of tonight's meeting, administered the Oath of Office to Supervisor Randy Whitmore and Trustees Daryle Spiller, Stan Williams, Jim Zegar and Mike Wells. *[Note: Assessor Jerome Berens new term of office begins January, 2022.]*

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

Motion to approve the April 21, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes, with correction of typo, by Williams, second by Spiller.

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

Motion passes, 5-0.

Supervisor Whitmore requests a motion and a second to approve the April Budget Hearing Minutes.

Motion to approve the Budget Hearing Meeting Minutes from April 21, 2021 by Zegar, second by Wells.

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

Motion passes, 5-0.

Assessor Jerome Berens arrives at the meeting at 7:07 p.m.

Reports:

Supervisor's Report:

Lake County will not allow any sort of tribute (*i.e.*, flagpole, tree, marker, etc.) to the late Village of Wadsworth Trustee, Ken Harvey, to be erected in the center of the new roundabout located at Wadsworth and Dilly's roads. There is an issue of safety. Any sort of marker could inadvertently encourage motorists to attempt to park their vehicle and enter the center of the roundabout on foot to view the tribute. The township will look for another way to honor Mr. Harvey.

The supervisor received a thank you from the Newport Fire Chief, for assistance Rodger Edmonds provided to the fire department during a recent multi-alarm barn fire in the community.

Highway Department Report:

Rodger Edmonds reviews the former road districts' IGA's, with Benton Township and the Village of Wadsworth, which both expired at the conclusion of Edmonds' previous term of office as the Newport Township Highway Commissioner.

[Note: The Newport Township Road District has officially been abolished by the State of Illinois, as the district does not meet current state minimum mileage requirements for the existence of a township road district.]

Benton Township is interested in a new inter-governmental agreement (IGA), essentially extending the terms of the recently expired agreement. The Village of Wadsworth's terms previously included mowing, ditching, tree-trimming, and snow-plowing. The village is still

undergoing internal board discussions as to whether or not they plan to renew their agreement with Newport. Legal counsel advises the township that new IGA's can not exceed a 4-year term and could be revisited annually. A brief discussion occurs on approving IGA's. Supervisor Whitmore to discuss the matter further with township legal counsel and will advise the clerk if he intends to include these two IGA's on the June Regular Meeting agenda.

Edmonds says the Newport Fire District is reconsidering holding the senior luncheon during Summer 2021, as Covid emergency protocols appear to be lifting. In the past, the township has committed \$1,000 towards the event.

Assessor's Report:

Assessor Berens reports his office is operating smoothly, and the final township factor has been received (cost of living). He notes the rate is 9.2% and says a rate below 10% is generally considered to be acceptable. The area housing market is firm.

Clerk's Report:

The clerk indicates the new monthly board audit report is circulating for signatures.

The canvass has been received from Lake County following the April Consolidated Election. All election related activities are complete, with the exception of the Oath of Office for the Assessor, which cannot be administered until the term of office begins in January, 2022.

She thanks Stan Williams for agreeing to moderate the Annual Town Meeting held in April. Trustee Daryle Spiller also attended.

Additionally, thanks are extended to former Highway Commissioner, Rodger Edmonds for his years of service to the township road district.

Trustee Comments:

Daryle Spiller—No report.

Stan Williams—Trustee Williams expresses his thanks to Rodger Edmonds for his service as Highway Commissioner and for assisting with the barn fire in his neighborhood. Edmonds brought the township's backhoe to the scene to assist with dismantling a remaining unstable wall.

Mike Wells—No report.

James Zegar—No report.

Township Business:

Whitmore received an application from Mr. Rodger Edmonds for township employment in the newly established Highway Department. The clerk requests a copy for the township's records. (Whitmore will provide.) A brief discussion occurs on the title for the new position.

Supervisor Whitmore requests a motion to hire Rodger Edmonds as Director, Newport Highway Department.

Motion by Williams, second by Zegar.

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

Motion passes, 5-0.

Finances:

Supervisor Whitmore indicates the monthly bill warrants are available for board review. Legal counsel has advised the supervisor to combine all the bills going forward. Therefore, we will no longer call out separate votes for Assessor and Road bills.

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

Motion by Spiller, second by Wells.

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

Motion passes, 5-0.

Public Comment:

No public comment.

Motion to Adjourn:

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

Motion by Wells; second by Zegar.

Voice Vote: Ayes, all. Nays, none.

Motion passes, 5-0.

Meeting adjourns at 7:42 p.m.

Dated the 19th day of May 2021.

_____s/Debbie Spurgeon_____

Debbie Spurgeon, Township Clerk