

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 July 21, 2021

Members Present:

J. Daryle Spiller, Trustee

Stanley Williams, Trustee

Mike Wells, Trustee

James Zegar, 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 7:01 p.m.

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

Roll Call: In attendance, Daryle Spiller, Stan Williams, Mike Wells, Jerome Berens, Jim Zegar, Debbie Spurgeon and Randy Whitmore. Also present, Rodger Edmonds, Highway Department Director.

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

Motion to approve the June 16, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes Williams, second by Spiller.

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

Motion passes, 5-0.

Reports:

Supervisor's Report:

Whitmore discusses a cemetery located within the township's geographic limits and asks Mrs. Toni Edmonds to speak. Mrs. Edmonds, who is on the cemetery board, is seeking funds in the amount of \$750 to purchase wreaths to honor the war dead who are interned there. The cemetery is the final resting location for area veterans dating as far back as the American Indian War, Revolutionary War, and Civil War. The Daughters of the Revolution (DAR) will be holding a short wreath-placement ceremony on December 18, 2021, complete with honor guard. Mrs. Edmonds plans to sing a hymn at the ceremony.

The clerk notes for the record, the cemetery under discussion (Mount Rest) is privately owned and care and maintenance is not the responsibility of Newport Township, as a governmental entity. The board concurs, with Trustee Williams stating the cemetery is not a township cemetery. Board members offer to contribute individually.

Edmonds says Mount Rest is approximately 12-15 acres and operates with private funding. Rodger Edmonds says, under his supervision, the township road district performed clean-up and maintenance work for the cemetery.

Additionally, Whitmore asks for opinions on the service of the PACE Dial-a-Ride service, to date. Whitmore will request a usage report from Newport's partner, Benton Township to see if the township is utilizing the service, thus justifying the expense.

Highway Department Report:

Regarding proposed signage to honor Village of Wadsworth Trustee Ken Harvey, who passed away in 2020, Rodger Edmonds indicates LCDOT is proposing a marker be added under the south-board Dilly's Road sign at Wadsworth & Dilly's stating 'Ken Harvey Way'. It must be placed on the existing pole, they will not allow the honorary marking to be installed on a county road, and it must be removed after 5 years. The county will install the sign, but it is only permitted on the township's portion of the road and Newport must pay for the additional sign. Edmonds suggests using the township's budget line item for signs to pay for the marker. The board agrees and Supervisor Whitmore directs Edmonds to move forward with the expenditure.

Highway Department Director, Rodger Edmonds, indicates he is working with Bunnell on pricing for a new plow, one that is lighter and poly-coated. He further states the Highway Department currently has 5 trucks, including the 6-wheeler which he wants to sell. He also wants to sell the steel plow, once the new plow is purchased.

Director Rodger Edmonds says one of his employees twisted the frame on the 2.5-yard yellow truck, while dumping on the side of a road. The vehicle is in the welding shop with the frame twisted where it attaches to the bucket, and may possibly be in need of a new ram if it cannot be repaired. The employee had the box of the vehicle up in the air, with a full load of dirt on it while situated at a severe angle. Edmonds says the employee is lucky not to have tipped the entire truck

over. Edmonds has placed the employee on vacation until further notice. This is the second incident involving the employee.

Lastly, Edmonds intends to put new tires on the white truck. He is planning on using Waukegan Tire as the tire vendor, due to previous concerns with tires purchased at Antioch Tire.

Assessor's Report:

Assessor Berens reports his office is in the process of closing the books over the summer and expects to publish sometime in August. He additionally notes, the State's annual factor is expected to be 2-3%, similar to the cost of living. Homeowners will have 30 days to file any objections.

Clerk's Report:

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

Trustee Comments:

Daryle Spiller—No report.

Stan Williams—Trustee Williams informs the board that he and Rodger Edmonds are talking to Aaron Rafferty at Train Heating & Air Conditioning regarding a potential solar project for the township owned land, encompassing approximately 19 acres on Russell Road. Currently the land is farmed by Dave Richards. Williams stresses this is an early-stage inquiry on viability and feasibility. Edmonds adds detail regarding several ways the community power project could be managed (*i.e.*, manage yourself, or have a third party manage it for the township). Trustee Zegar asks if the company is a for-profit entity (yes). Williams says this would be a stand-alone project, where the power would be sold to the marketplace. Trustees indicate they have no objections and agree Trustee Williams can move forward with the exploration of feasibility and available options.

Trustee Williams to provide the full Train contact information to the clerk for the public record.

Mike Wells—No report.

James Zegar—No report.

Township Business:

Regarding the Inter-governmental Agreement (IGA) with the Village of Wadsworth Edmonds has not contacted Ben Dolan (Village of Wadsworth) to move this item forward, thus no action is required tonight.

Village of Wadsworth Trustee, Mildred Corder, who is present in the audience, believes Trustee Dolan is waiting on the township to provide monetary rate figures for the new contract. Edmonds says he will contact Dolan.

Finances:

Supervisor Whitmore indicates the monthly bill warrants are available for board review.

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

Motion by Zegar, second by Williams.

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 Spiller; second by Wells.

Voice Vote: Ayes, all. Nays, none.

Motion passes, 5-0.

Meeting adjourns at 7:36 p.m.

Dated the 21st day of July 2021.

_____s/Debbie Spurgeon

Debbie Spurgeon, Township Clerk