

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 September 15, 2021

Members Present:

J. Daryle Spiller, Trustee

Stanley Williams, Trustee

Mike Wells, Trustee

James Zegar, Trustee

Randall Whitmore, Supervisor

Debbie Spurgeon, Clerk

Jerome Berens, Assessor

Call to Order: Supervisor Randy Whitmore calls the Regular Township Meeting of the Board of Town Trustees to order at 7:02 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 August Regular Minutes.

Motion to approve the August 18, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes Spiller, second by Williams.

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

Motion passes, 5-0.

Reports:

Supervisor's Report:

Whitmore says a Dial-A-Ride usage report will be available at the October meeting.

The supervisor discusses the honorary street sign for the late Village of Wadsworth Trustee, Ken Harvey, which the township commissioned and Lake County installed at the new round-about at Wadsworth and Dilly's Roads.

Whitmore yields the floor to Trustee Zegar for a summary report on the recently completed Annual Financial Audit: Zegar notes that the township has a fiduciary responsibility to have an audit completed annually and that the document presented at the September meeting fulfills that responsibility. He highlights township management's responsibility in the financial system process. Zegar comments that these audits are not designed to detect fraud. He further adds that in the opinion of the auditor, Newport's finances are solid, which is the opinion we want to have. The only liability the auditor notes is the truck payment, which was paid May 1, 2021. He concludes this is important to note in case the township wants to borrow money, indicating Newport would be in a good position to borrow money. He concludes that the result of the audit is good. Trustee Zegar suggests a vote to accept the audit as is, be taken. Whitmore requests a motion to accept the Annual Financial Audit (for the year ended February 28, 2021) as is. Motion by Wells, second by Williams. Roll Call Vote: Ayes, Spiller, Williams, Wells, Zegar, Whitmore. Nays, none. Motion passes, 5-0.

Highway Department Report:

Director Rodger Edmonds says the department recently took almost 300 tires to SWALCO for recycling. There was no charge to the township.

Edmonds indicates that truck maintenance parts can be difficult to find due to Covid-related supply chain disruptions, therefore he is stock-piling fuel filters, oil filters, etc. to ensure the road department has the necessary parts to get the trucks thru the upcoming winter season. Trustee Wells suggests Edmonds's contact Lake County Dept of Transportation for possible group purchasing opportunities on filters and parts.

Edmonds is reconsidering the intent to sell the 1997 International (4000 Series pick-up) due to the potential lack of availability of parts for the department's other vehicles. He is suggesting the township hang on to this truck for the winter, in case it is needed as a back-up.

Rodger Edmonds provides two new/updated Intergovernmental Agreements (IGA) for the Supervisor and Clerk to sign. The first IGA is between the Village of Wadsworth and Newport Township. The second is between Newport and Benton townships. (Benton still needs to sign the agreement.) Both IGA's relate to maintenance agreements between the entities, engaging Newport to perform various road-related maintenance activities. Edmonds will get the final signatures from Benton, and the township board will entertain the finalized IGA's at the October meeting.

Lastly, Edmonds is seeking a seasonal snow-plow driver with a CDL license.

Assessor’s Report:

No report.

Clerk’s Report:

Thanks Trustee Daryle Spiller for his assistance with the August meeting.

Newport resident, Judy Cashmore is suggesting that the board create a more comprehensive brochure for Senior’s, essentially a quick access guide for area emergency and important phone numbers. Ms. Cashmore indicates she received Newport’s existing Dial-a-Ride pamphlet at the fire station senior day, but feels it is lacking information that it could include to make it a more helpful resource to seniors. Cashmore asks the board to consider improvements in the future and provided an example from another township.

Trustees interject, and may consider doing an updated new pamphlet in the future, although no monies are expressly identified in the current budget for this purpose. Supervisor Whitmore suggests Trustee Zegar review the materials provided by resident Cashmore and begin to lay out an update to the existing pamphlet, attempting to keep it to a page or two at most, to keep expenses to a minimum. The board suggests targeting Fall timeframe for the mailer.

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

Trustee Comments:

Daryle Spiller—No report.

Stan Williams—Trustee Williams met with Chris Collins and Joe Gordon from Sunvest Solar, LLC of Pewaukee (the greater Milwaukee area) regarding a potential community solar garden (aka, “solar farm”) on the township property. Williams says he provided them information on the township property and Sunvest will do a feasibility and viability analysis. They will advise Williams within a month on the results. At that time, if the report is favorable, Williams will ask Sunvest to attend a township board meeting to give a short presentation and answer any questions. Williams indicates that if the project moves forward, Sunvest will lease the property from the township, providing Newport with a lease payment.

Supervisor Whitmore says the township receives an annual lease payment from Dave Richards, who currently farms the property.

Mike Wells—No report.

James Zegar—Refer to ‘Supervisor Report’ for Zegar’s comments.

Township Business:

No new business.

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:

None.

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 7:42 p.m.

Dated the 15th day of September 2021.

_____ s/Debbie Spurgeon

Debbie Spurgeon, Township Clerk