

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 October 20, 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 7:00 p.m.

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

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

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

Motion to approve the September 15, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes by Zegar, second by Wells.

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

Motion passes, 5-0.

Reports:

Supervisor's Report:

Supervisor Whitmore says he met with Rodger Edmonds regarding purchasing a 1,000 gallon above-ground fuel tank for township equipment. Mrs. Toni Edmonds, speaking on behalf of Road Department Director, Rodger Edmonds, says the tank will hold on-road diesel and be located behind the T&R business building, next door to the Newport Township Road Department building. The location was selected for privacy and space and will be locked to protect it from theft. F&S is assisting Edmonds with installation and protection measures. Whitmore asks about a second tank for off-road diesel storage; however, Mrs. Edmonds says the township has very little use for off-road fuel and it would not make sense to have separate on-site storage. The district looks to save approximately .50 cents per gallon once the new tank is operational. Edmonds says the township road department's on-road fuel usage is generally between 300-400 gallons per month.

Whitmore suggests a ticket system be used to identify the employee procuring the fuel at a given time, how many gallons, and which township vehicle it is being used in. Edmonds says this is a requirement and will be done. She adds, an employee training will be conducted once the tank is installed.

Highway Department Report:

[Director Rodger Edmonds is out of town. Mrs. Toni Edmonds is in attendance to present the director's report.]

In addition to the fuel tank discussion above, Mrs. Edmonds also notes the township road department intends to keep the 6-wheeler (a 1997 International 4000 Series pick-up) for the time being, which was previously planned to be sold at auction. The change in plans is due to the potential lack of availability of parts for the department's other vehicles, due to supply chain disruptions. The 6-wheeler truck is now slated to be a back-up for the upcoming winter season. The vehicle's plow had already been moved to the new Kenworth truck; however, it will now be re-installed onto the International. A new plow has been ordered for the Kenworth truck. The expected delivery date is currently unknown.

Employees are currently working on preparing vehicles for the upcoming plow season. Mowing is now winding down.

The district recently performed some patching work for Benton Township as part of the intergovernmental agreement (IGA) between Benton and Newport. Edmonds says Benton has expressed satisfaction with the work Newport performs for them.

Mrs. Edmonds says the district is searching for 1-2 additional "snowbirds" for the plowing season.

Trustee Wells says he will consider working for the township as a plow driver, however, Edmonds says she needs to discuss the legalities of such an arrangement with township legal counsel, since Wells is a current elected official in the township. [Wells has previous experience with the county and carries a valid CDL license.]

Assessor’s Report:

No report.

Clerk’s Report:

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

Trustee Comments:

Daryle Spiller—No report.

Stan Williams—Trustee Williams spoke with Chris Collins, Regional Project Developer from Sunvest Solar, LLC, of Madison, WI regarding the potential for a community solar garden (aka, “solar farm”) on the township property. Williams says Sunvest’s GIS team has concluded that for the size of the parcel and the distance from a substation or 3-phase power lines, the property is currently not a good candidate for a solar farm. No further action is anticipated.

Mike Wells—No report.

James Zegar—No report.

Township Business:

Old Mill Creek is seeking a rent increase of \$100 per month for the Township Offices, located at 19020 W. Old Town Court, Old Mill Creek, IL 60046. Supervisor Whitmore says the new monthly rental rate will be \$800 per month, which includes heat and electric.

Trustee Williams says he would prefer that the township’s offices were located within township boundaries, but understands there isn’t currently a great option available. The new lease period will begin in November, and the new monthly rate will carry through the remainder of the current board’s term.

Whitmore requests a motion to pass the new lease amount of \$800 per month for the township office space.

Motion by Zegar, second by Spiller.

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

Mrs. Edmonds will notify the bookkeeper of the upcoming change.

Supervisor Whitmore indicates the board needs to adopt the Estimate of Levy for the General Township, which now includes all township departments, with the prior State mandated elimination of the township road district. The 2022 levy is estimated at 104.99% of the prior year, which is under the 105% threshold and therefore does not trigger a truth-in-taxation hearing. No discussion.

Whitmore requests a motion to adopt the Newport Township Estimate of Levy as presented.

Motion by Williams, second by Spiller.

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

The supervisor introduces the newly updated intergovernmental agreements with the Village of Wadsworth and Benton Township. Both of the agreements pertain to road and roadway maintenance and snowplowing between the Newport Road Department and each of the other entities. No board discussion.

Whitmore requests a motion to pass the updated IGA with the Village of Wadsworth.

Motion by Williams, second by Wells.

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

Subsequently, Whitmore requests a motion to pass the updated IGA with Benton Township.

Motion by Wells, second by Spiller.

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

Finances:

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

Whitmore requests a motion to approve the General Township 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:

Mildred Corder—Thanks Rodger Edmonds for the work at Northwoods & Wadsworth Roads, which the village contracted the township to perform following continual delays with the Village of Wadsworth’s own maintenance employees. Corder indicates the village is very pleased with the work the township performed and appreciative the district was able to complete the work promptly.

Motion to Adjourn:

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

Motion by Williams second by Spiller.

Voice Vote: Ayes, all. Nays, none.

Motion passes, 5-0.

Meeting adjourns at 7:20 p.m.

Dated the 20th day of October 2021.

_____ s/Debbie Spurgeon

Debbie Spurgeon, Township Clerk