

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 November 17, 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. Also present, Newport Highway Department Director, Rodger Edmonds.

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

Motion to approve the October 20, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes by Spiller, second by Williams.

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

Motion passes, 5-0.

Reports:

Supervisor's Report:

The supervisor provides board members with a document titled, "Waukegan Airport Safety Improvement Project" from the Waukegan airport, soliciting support for the estimated \$143 million dollar runway extension project the airport is seeking. Supervisor Whitmore indicates he is seeking help from a Chicago lobbyist friend as well as the local relations consultant who sought the township's cooperation regarding a 2019 electric transmission line project.

Trustee Zegar questions how the airport runway approval process is expected to move forward-- what are the next steps? Whitmore responds that the Governor needs to fund the project. Zegar indicates the document provided by the airport could have been written in a clearer manner. Supervisor Whitmore says the Lake County Forest Preserve is planning to swap out land with the Waukegan Port Authority District to allow the project to proceed. He says Greenbay Road will be re-routed underneath the proposed runway. Whitmore comments that the Newport Democratic Party is pressuring Lake County not to approve the project and wants to know who these people are. Trustee Zegar asks if Whitmore is now a member of the port authority board. Whitmore says he is an adhoc member.

The supervisor comments that he is looking for general consensus in support of the project. The trustees each individually affirm general support.

Highway Department Report:

Director Rodger Edmonds reports on Com-Ed's 'Smart LED Street Lighting' Program, aimed at replacing existing Commonwealth Edison-owned mercury vapor and high-pressure sodium street lights located in participating municipalities with Smart LED Street lights. Com-Ed will verify the findings of their own inventory with the township. They will notify the township approximately 2 weeks prior to the installation of Smart LED Street lights. The change from the existing fixtures to a Smart LED fixture will change the cost of the Fixture-Included Lighting Delivery Service Charge as well as energy cost to operate the fixtures. The fixture replacement cost will be offset by an Energy Efficiency credit equivalent to the fixture replacement cost. Effectively, the township will not incur any out-of-pocket costs to replace the fixtures. Supervisor Whitmore interjects that he has signed the agreement with Com-Ed.

Edmonds indicates the new Kenworth truck now has a new snow plow, purchased from Bunnell in Dixon, IL for \$9,200. The old plow will be reinstalled into the 1997 International 6-wheeler, which the district has decided to keep for the near-term due to supply chain concerns.

Edmonds reports the (other) International truck was recently in for salting mechanism system repairs at Monroe Trucking. A new wiring harness was installed. Additionally, the 2.5-yard (yellow) truck recently had new springs installed on it.

The director says the salt bin is now full to the brim and ready for the upcoming season.

After speaking with township legal counsel, it has been determined Trustee Wells cannot plow snow for the road department as a part-time employee, as he is currently an elected trustee. Edmonds says the only possible exception is for a large emergency snowstorm, where an Illinois law allows that under this specific circumstance, a snowplow driver does not need to have a valid CDL license.

[Trustee Williams left the meeting at 7:23 p.m., returning at 7:26 p.m.]

The wreath-laying ceremony at Mount Rest Cemetery will be held on December 18, 2021 at 11:00 A.M. The ceremony is said to be similar to the Wreaths Across America ceremony held at Arlington National Cemetery. Mrs. Toni Edmonds will be singing ‘Amazing Grace’ at the event. Board members are encouraged to come and participate. The cemetery is located north of Rosecrans, at 42448-42478 U.S. 41.

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 discusses IMRF required service hours, prevailing wage, COLA (5.9%) and Labor Dept information on wages (6.2%). Edmonds confirms the township personnel on IMRF meet the minimum service hour requirements. It is noted that prevailing wage is determined by the State and Lake County and the township is required to follow the rates.

Mike Wells—No report.

James Zegar—No report.

Township Business:

No new township business.

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 Wells.

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

Motion passes, 5-0.

Public Comment:

Rebecca Mitton —Encourages support of local businesses.

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 7:30 p.m.

Dated the 17th day of November 2021.

_____s/Debbie Spurgeon_____

Debbie Spurgeon, Township Clerk