

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 March 16, 2022.

Members Present:

J. Daryle Spiller, Trustee

Stanley Williams, Trustee

Mike Wells, Trustee

James Zegar, Trustee

Randy Whitmore, Supervisor

Debbie Spurgeon, Clerk

Jerome Berens, Assessor

Call to Order: Supervisor 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, 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 February Regular Minutes.

Motion to approve the February 16, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes by Zegar, second by Williams.

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

Motion passes, 5-0.

Reports:

Supervisor's Report:

Supervisor Whitmore reports on local township efforts to gather supplies for Ukrainian relief aid due to the attack on Ukraine by Russia in recent weeks. The effort is being spear-headed by Grant Township. Newport may provide up to \$250 for transportation and shipping supplies to the effort, in addition to collecting donations from residents.

Highway Department Report:

Highway Department Director, Rodger Edmonds, reports the township's total road salt usage this season stands at 250 tons. He recently signed the township up for 300 tons on the county's salt bid for next season.

The improvement project under consideration tonight is an approximately 50-foot section of guard rail for Edwards Road. The cost is expected to be \$14,000. If approved by the township board, and upon completion of the project, Edmonds will submit to Lake County for reimbursement thru Newport's portion of Rebuild Illinois funds.

Edmonds says he is continuing work with Scott Stelesky, Lake County, on securing costs for the second potential project on the agenda, a shoulder widening on a section of N. Dilly's Road. This proposal is not yet ready for the board's consideration tonight, however, he expects to have the costs available for next month's meeting.

Assessor's Report:

Assessor Berens reports he has now recovered from the Covid infection, which had sidelined him.

He reports that the township's tax rate will undoubtedly go up again this year, although he does not have any details at this point in time as to the amount of the increase. Berens says various factors will play into the actual increase amount, and that the state and county have yet to work out the numbers.

Clerk's Report:

Spurgeon indicates the board must set the time for the upcoming Public Budget Hearing on April 20th. She notes there will only be one hearing this year, due to the state mandated disbanding of the road district. After a brief discussion, board consensus is that 6:45 on April 20, 2022 is preferred. Following the hearing, final action will be taken at the 7:00 Regular Township Meeting.

The Annual Town Meeting for all Illinois Townships will take place on Tuesday, April 12, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at the Newport Township Offices, 19020 W. Old Town Court, Old Mill Creek, IL 60046.

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

Trustee Comments:

Daryle Spiller—No report.

Stan Williams—Trustee Williams reports the ‘Tunnels to Towers’ 9/11 Mobile Exhibit will again be in the Gurnee Mills parking lot, May 14-15th, as part of the Lake County Fire Chiefs Expo. The organization is calling on local veterans, active military, fire and police departments to line Gurnee Mills Ring Road with volunteers and flags to welcome the Never Forget Memorial Unit. Flags will be provided to participants. Interested parties can contact Trudy at the Newport Fire Department. RSVP is due by May 1st.

Mike Wells—Trustee Wells comments on the county’s consolidation of waste haulers. Groot is now the county approved hauler for unincorporated Lake County/Newport Township.

A brief discussion occurs on the county’s new burn restrictions for unincorporated Lake County, including unincorporated Newport Township. Township residents who are within village limits are not subject to the new county ordinance and continue to follow village ordinances.

James Zegar—No report.

Township Business:

Whitmore introduces adoption of the Annual Town Meeting Agenda.

Spurgeon speaks to the details, noting there are no new business items on the agenda, as none were submitted by the state’s deadline. The board is required by statute to adopt the agenda not less than 15 days prior to the meeting.

The supervisor signs his Annual Financial Statement.

Whitmore requests a motion to adopt the agenda as presented.

Motion by Zegar, second by Williams to adopt the Annual Town Meeting Agenda.

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

Motion passes, 5-0.

Whitmore introduces approval of the Tentative Township Budget.

Motion by Williams, second by Wells to approve the Tentative Township Budget for 2022/23.

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

Motion passes, 5-0.

Highway Department Director, Rodger Edmonds, advises on the necessary steps to establish a township ordinance regarding enforceable weight restrictions on township roads. Township roads have been well-posted for 6 tons, for many decades. However, truckers evading the law know that police will not ticket them in these areas, or if they are ticketed, it will likely be dismissed in court. Legal counsel advises Edmond that a public hearing will be necessary prior to the establishment of the weight limit ordinance.

General board consensus is something needs to be done in order to have a mechanism to ticket over-weight trucks avoiding the scales, as they are tearing up township roads intended to support residential traffic. Many taxpayer dollars have been spent on upgrading and resurfacing these roads in recent years. It's not fair to village and township taxpayers to have this illegal traffic traversing thru neighborhoods on their way to Pleasant Prairie, WI. The open question is whether the Lake County Sheriff or the Illinois State Police will cooperate with efforts to curtail the abuse of Wadsworth & Newport neighborhoods and roadways, if an ordinance is established. The concern is valid as the Lake County Sheriff's Department is currently doing a terrible job enforcing speeding and overweight laws on area county roads such as, Kilbourne, Russell and Delany.

Now that Edmonds knows the direction the board would like to go, he will begin the next step. He requests the item be included on the agenda again for next month.

Edmonds speaks to the improvement project under consideration tonight, the 50-foot section of guard rail for Edwards Road, with an expected cost of \$14,000, which will be funded thru Rebuild Illinois funds.

Motion by Wells, second by Spiller to spend \$14,000 of Newport Township's Rebuild Illinois Funds for said guard rail on Edwards Road.

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

Motion passes, 5-0.

Finances:

Supervisor Whitmore requests a motion to approve the township's bills.

Motion by Spiller, second by Williams to approve the monthly bills.

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 Williams.

Voice Vote: Ayes, all. Nays, none.

Motion passes, 5-0.

Meeting adjourns at 7:48 p.m.

Dated the 16th day of March, 2022.

_____s/Debbie Spurgeon

Debbie Spurgeon, Township Clerk