

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 April 20, 2022.

Members Present:

J. Daryle Spiller, Trustee

Stan Williams, Trustee

Mike Wells, Trustee

James Zegar, Trustee

Debbie Spurgeon, Clerk

Call to Order: Trustee Jim Zegar, acting meeting chair, calls the Regular Township Meeting of the Board of Town Trustees to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance: Acting Chair, Jim Zegar announces forgoing the Pledge of Allegiance, since it was said at the preceding public budget hearing.

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

Approval of Minutes: Trustee Zegar requests a motion and a second to approve the March Regular Minutes.

Motion to approve the March 16, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes by Spiller, second by Wells.

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

Motion passes, 4-0.

Reports:

Supervisor's Report:

No report.

Highway Department Report:

Highway Department Director, Rodger Edmonds, reports the guard rail project is complete. An approximately 50-foot section of roadway railing was installed on Edward's Road utilizing \$14,000 of Newport's Rebuild Illinois funds. Edmonds indicates the invoice has been submitted to Scott Stelesky at the Lake County Dept. of Transportation.

Additionally, Edmonds is continuing to work with Stelesky on securing costs for a second potential project, shoulder widening of a section of N. Dilly's Road. Edmonds expects to have the costs available for next month's meeting.

The cooperative purchasing salt bid for 2023 is \$82.58 per ton. If transportation prices continue to rise, it is possible an additional surcharge could be levied. Newport has ordered 300 tons, of which we must take possession of a minimum of 80% and can take as much as 120%.

Salt contamination of the environment is a known issue and the topic is getting more attention at the legislative level as entities continue to look for feasible alternatives and lessen dependence on road salt.

Edmonds is putting the 6-wheeler on the auction block. The board previously approved selling this vehicle, but its sale was delayed due to generalized supply chain concerns for truck repair parts. As we are through the winter season, Edmonds will move forward with the sale of this truck.

Assessor's Report:

No report.

Clerk's Report:

The clerk notes Newport's Annual Town Meeting was held on April 12, 2022, as is required by statute for all Illinois townships.

The annual financial audit for FY 2021-2022 is getting underway. The auditor has decided to do our audit at Fremont Township's facility on the same day he is completing Fremont's audit, since Bookkeeper Nancy Lech works for both townships. The audit materials have been made available.

Spurgeon participated in TOI's Economic Interest Statement seminar. Materials helpful in answering common questions about the new EIS Form have been emailed to board members.

The monthly board audit report is circulating for signatures and final budgets require all of our signatures. As the supervisor is absent, the clerk will obtain his signature upon his return.

Trustee Comments:

Daryle Spiller—Trustee Spiller would like the Village of Wadsworth to investigate expanding fiber optic availability within the village.

Stan Williams—No comments.

Mike Wells—No comments.

James Zegar—No comments.

Township Business:

Trustee Zegar requests a motion to pass the Final General Township Budget Ordinance for 2022-2023.

Motion by Williams, second by Spiller to pass the Final Newport Township Budget Ordinance (#20042022A) for the 2022-2023 fiscal year.

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

Motion passes, 4-0.

Highway Department Director, Rodger Edmonds requests the floor in order to make comments on the budget now that it has passed: He advises the road department budget took a \$165,000 hit due to the Property Tax Extension Limits (PTELL actual numbers). The fact is, if the county doesn't get the tax monies in; they cannot pass it on to us. Edmonds says he is in the process of laying-off one of his employees. He additionally suggests the Village of Wadsworth will need to step up and pay more of the fuel expenses if the township is to continue mowing and snow-plowing for the village. Edmonds advises township paving projects under consideration could be delayed, although no final decisions have been made.

Acting chairman, Jim Zegar introduces the discussion of an ordinance establishing weight restrictions.

Rodger Edmonds, Highway Department Director, says a public hearing is required to establish a township ordinance regarding enforceable weight restrictions on township roads. Yet to be determined are the enforcement and penalty pieces of the ordinance. Trustee Zegar inquires about enforcement. Edmonds suggests penalties will likely mirror Lake County's. Whether or

not the Lake County Sheriff will provide enforcement, remains to be seen. Edmonds feels that speeding is a bigger concern on area roads than the over-weight trucks. He intends to provide an update on the weight limit ordinance matter at the May Regular Meeting, however does not expect to be ready for a hearing until June.

Trustee Wells suggests inviting the Lake County Sheriff candidates to speak at the next meeting.

Finances:

Trustee Zegar requests a motion to approve the township's bills.

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

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

Motion passes, 4-0.

Public Comment:

Nicole Large – Lives in the area near the Wadsworth & Dilly's roundabout and feels the new signage placed in the area is assisting with diminishing the truck traffic onto N. Dilly's. She states the board should be concerned about 'wear and tear' on township roads with extra truck traffic that shouldn't be there. She appreciates the efforts thus far, and hopes Lake County will continue to assist with the various roundabout areas in the community.

Motion to Adjourn:

Trustee Zegar requests a motion to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting.

Motion by Spiller, second by Williams.

Voice Vote: Ayes, all. Nays, none.

Motion passes, 4-0.

Meeting adjourns at 7:38 p.m.

Dated the 20th day of April, 2022.

s/Debbie Spurgeon

Debbie Spurgeon, Township Clerk