

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 June 15, 2022.

Members Present:

J. Daryle Spiller, Trustee

Mike Wells, Trustee

James Zegar, Trustee

Joe Kust, Trustee

Debbie Spurgeon, Clerk

Randy Whitmore, Supervisor

Call to Order: Supervisor Randy 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, Joe Kust, Mike Wells, Jim Zegar, Debbie Spurgeon and Randy Whitmore. Absent, Assessor Jerome Berens.

Trustee Vacancy Appointment and Administration of Oath of Office: Supervisor Whitmore requests a motion and a second to approve the appointment of Joe Kust to fulfill the vacancy created with the recent resignation of Stan Williams.

Motion to approve the appointment of Joe Kust to the position of Township Trustee by Wells, second by Zegar.

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

Motion passes, 4-0.

Spurgeon administers the Oath of Office to Joe Kust for the office of Township Trustee.

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

Motion to approve the May 18, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes by Zegar, second by Spiller.

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

Motion passes, 5-0.

Reports:

Supervisor's Report:

Supervisor Whitmore announces the Senior Luncheon is tomorrow. Senior residents and board members of Newport Township are invited to attend. The luncheon is being held at the Newport Fire Department, Station #1 – downtown.

The supervisor advises that the township has recently received two General Assistance case requests.

Whitmore comments that tonight's meeting will be Trustee Jim Zegar's last, as he is relocating out of the township. Mr. Zegar has served on the township board for two years. Additionally, he previously served as a village trustee.

[Assessor Berens arrives and joins the meeting at 7:09 p.m.]

Highway Department Report:

Highway Department Director Rodger Edmonds discusses a potential public hearing for July regarding a weight limit ordinance on township roads. He also notes he has received questions from resident farmers and businesses on how the ordinance will affect farming implements and deliveries to area businesses. The board is concerned whether enforcement is even possible with the lack of interest and available personnel from Lake County Sheriff's Department. A tentative hearing time is agreed for 7:00 p.m. on July 20th, on the township's Regular Meeting night, however at this time, work is still continuing with counsel and the county on the details of such an ordinance.

Edmonds reports the Renaissance Fair is getting underway again beginning on July 4, 2022. Edmonds anticipates there could be traffic and illegal parking concerns from residents as in years past, although some pre-emptive measures have been pro-actively implemented to minimize known problem areas.

The highway department director advises a culvert is collapsing. A nearby neighbor is running a large crane down the road, which is crushing the culvert. Further investigation is underway.

Mr. Edmonds briefly discusses a potential legal issue with the county and a Dilly's Road resident over property Lake County utilized for a road improvement project, for which the resident was apparently compensated for. The resident is maintaining they own to the middle of the road and therefore desire additional compensation. No official paperwork has been received and there is nothing for the township to do at this time. Assessor Berens says he also had a discussion with this individual at his office, regarding gross versus net acreage.

If approved tonight, NP Paving Zion, IL is set to perform the shoulder widening project for 4 feet of pavement from Foxglove to Orchard Bluff on the southbound lane side. The cost is \$24,900. The township will move the mailboxes; excavation work is being done by others.

Edmonds comments there is \$29,819.05 remaining in Rebuild IL Funds and \$205,549.68 in MFT Funds currently available.

Assessor's Report:

Berens notes his offices is preparing the closing of the books, which are due to the Lake County Assessor's Office at the end of June. The blue sheets will then come out late Summer/early Fall, following final finessing of the books. The factor will definitely be higher due to brisk MLS activity of real estate, however not as high as the assessor initially anticipated.

A brief exchange with Trustee Kust occurs regarding AG properties (row crops and livestock) in the township and the trustee's concern regarding fire district funding. Berens points out that although the land zoned AG is taxed at a reduced rate, the house is not—it is taxed at the same rate as any other residential home.

Clerk's Report:

The monthly board audit report is circulating for signatures.

The clerk notes Trustee Zegar's service these past two years and wishes him well in his new community.

Trustee Comments:

Daryle Spiller—No comments.

Joe Kust—No comments.

Mike Wells—No comments.

James Zegar—Trustee Zegar bids goodbye to the township board. He says after 40 plus years living in the township, he is now relocating south to the Village of Gurnee.

Township Business:

Supervisor Whitmore introduces the approval of the N. Dilly’s Road shoulder improvement utilizing Rebuild Illinois Funds. The project has been discussed at several meetings over the past few months as well as in the highway department report this evening. No further discussion.

Supervisor Whitmore requests a motion to approve the shoulder widening project for N. Dilly’s Road.

Motion by Zegar, second by Kust to approve the improvement project for N. Dilly’s Road at a cost of \$24,900 to NP Paving, Zion, IL.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes, Spiller, Kust, 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 Zegar to approve the monthly bills.

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

Motion passes, 5-0.

Public Comment:

Nicole Large – Ms. Large advises the board about American Recovery Act funds and suggests the township should apply. Highway Department Director, Rodger Edmonds asks if this is the same information, she has previously provided to him directly. (Yes.) Edmonds informs Large he has been advised by the county these funds do not pertain to, nor are they available, for townships.

Motion to Adjourn:

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

Motion by Spiller, second by Zegar.

Voice Vote: Ayes, all. Nays, none.

Motion passes, 5-0.

Meeting adjourns at 7:42 p.m.

Dated the 15th day of June, 2022.

 s/Debbie Spurgeon

Debbie Spurgeon, Township Clerk