

# Minutes Board of Town Trustees

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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 July 20, 2022

**Members Present:**

J. Daryle Spiller, Trustee

Mike Wells, 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 7:00 p.m.

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

**Roll Call:** In attendance, Daryle Spiller, Joe Kust, Mike Wells, Debbie Spurgeon and Randy Whitmore. Absent, Assessor Jerome Berens. Also present, Rodger Edmonds, Highway Dept. Director.

Effective June 30, 2022, Jim Zegar has resigned the office of township trustee.

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

Motion to approve the June 15, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes by Kust, second by Spiller.

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

Motion passes, 4-0.

**Reports:**

**Supervisor's Report:**

Supervisor Whitmore reports on an uptick in general assistance requests for assistance with electricity bills.

Whitmore comments he is meeting with several people regarding the trustee vacancy created with Jim Zegar's recent resignation. He expects to appoint a candidate at the August Regular Meeting.

**Highway Department Report:**

Highway Department Director Rodger Edmonds reports his department has begun cutting and placing grindings on N. Dilly's Rd for the enhanced shoulder project. NP Paving is doing the project's compacting work. Edmonds expects the widened width of the shoulder to be 4 feet in most areas. The enhanced shoulder will run from Foxglove to Old Orchard. Scott Stelsky, Lake County DOT indicates the county will reimburse the township for the highway department's labor on the project.

The highway department director advises the damaged and collapsing culvert on Country Lane caused by a neighbor who consistently runs a large crane down the road, will cost the township \$8,570 to replace the approximately 34-foot culvert. Additionally, a very old, degraded corrugated culvert on 21<sup>st</sup> will be replaced at a cost of \$6,969. The \$15,539 will be apportioned from the township's road funds. Richards' will perform the work, including concrete strengthening on the Country Lane culvert. Newport will complete the asphalt on the top once the culverts are set.

Edmonds notes area trees are dying from the drought conditions present over the last several years. Burr oaks, red and white oaks have been especially hard hit.

The departments' 1997 International 6-wheeler was sold at auction. After expenses, Newport received \$7857.

The highway department's 5-yard International recently required repairs. Invoices for the repairs are included in the bill packets

**Assessor's Report:**

No report.

**Clerk's Report:**

The monthly board audit report is circulating for signatures.

**Trustee Comments:**

Daryle Spiller—No comments.

Joe Kust—No comments.

Mike Wells—No comments.

**Township Business:**

Supervisor Whitmore introduces the appointment of township resident, Kevin Zupec to the Newport Fire District Board.

Motion by Kust, second by Wells to approve the appointment of Kevin Zupec.

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

Motion passes, 4-0.

Supervisor Whitmore introduces the approval of the culvert replacements, as discussed by Rodger Edmonds in his report.

Motion by Kust, second by Spiller to approve the replacement of culverts for Country Lane and 21<sup>st</sup> Street, totaling \$15,539.

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

Motion passes, 4-0.

**Finances:**

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

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

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

Motion passes, 3-0-1.

**Public Comment:**

Dan Rossman – Resident Rossman shares concerns with the semi-truck traffic throughout the township, and specifically on Russell Road. The volume is out of control. Drivers routinely throw bottles of urine and other garbage into the ditches along Russell. The engine breaking in the middle of the night is ridiculous and disrupts resident’s sleep. Drivers either ignore or cannot

read the signs that prohibit engine breaking. Russell & Kilbourne now has a county traffic camera so that the county can survey issues in the area. As a result, the county lowered the speed limit. It hasn't helped and for the most part isn't being enforced. Mr. Rossman asks why does Illinois let this happen? These vehicles are abusing Illinois roads and Illinois residents for the benefit of Wisconsin.

Rodger Edmonds notes that Lake Co. opened the door for this a few years ago by allowing 80,000-pound trucks to traverse area county roads, claiming that since trucking companies pay motor fuel tax, nothing can be done to stop them from driving these roads. At least that is the story that was provided at the time. Additionally, these vehicles do not confine themselves to county roadways and they abuse the local and township roads as well.

Rossman and others are frustrated as clearly these vehicles are evading the scales and we have no enforcement of traffic laws from Lake County Sheriff. Further, the driver's clear debris off their vehicles by allowing their tailgates to hang loose and bang down the road. Rossman is looking for where to go next for help. He also notes realtors are telling residents that home values in the area are being negatively affected by the pervasive semi-truck traffic. The majority of the offenders are drivers heading to the Wisconsin industrial park directly north of the line or are garbage scow vehicles with poorly covered loads littering the roadways. Mr. Rossman has lived in his home 30 years and is frustrated with the lack of police (sheriff) support for the area on traffic control offenses.

**Motion to Adjourn:**

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

Motion by Spiller, second by Kust.

Voice Vote: Ayes, all. Nays, none.

Motion passes, 4-0.

Meeting adjourns at 7:33 p.m.

**Dated the 20<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2022.**

s/Debbie Spurgeon

**Debbie Spurgeon, Township Clerk**