

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 August 16, 2023

Members Present:

J. Daryle Spiller, Trustee

Mike Wells, Trustee

Corey Kirschhoffer, Trustee

Debbie Spurgeon, Clerk

Jerome Berens, Assessor

Call to Order: Trustee Spiller calls the Regular Township Meeting of the Board of Town Trustees to order at 7:02 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance: Trustee Spiller leads the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: In attendance, Daryle Spiller, Mike Wells, Debbie Spurgeon, Jerome Berens and Corey Kirschhoffer. Absent, Supervisor Randy Whitmore and Trustee Frank Kaiser.

Also present, Highway Department Director, Rodger Edmonds.

Approval of Minutes: Trustee Spiller requests a motion and a second to approve the June Regular Meeting Minutes, held over from the previous meeting. Spiller explains the supervisor did not clearly identify his brother, Roger Whitmore, as being appointed to the Decennial Committee. As a result, the clerk thought the supervisor was speaking about Rodger Edmonds, who was present during the discussion. As presented, the minutes are corrected from Rodger Edmonds, to Roger Whitmore.

Motion by Wells, second by Kirschhoffer to approve the June 21, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes, as presented.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes, Spiller, Wells, Kirschhoffer. Nays, none.

Motion passes, 3-0.

Trustee Spiller requests a motion and a second to approve the July Regular Meeting Minutes.

No discussion.

Motion by Kirschhoffer, second by Wells to approve the July 19, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes, Spiller, Wells, Kirschhoffer. Nays, none.

Motion passes, 3-0.

Reports:

Supervisor's Report:

Trustee Spiller indicates the supervisor reports there is no new update from Lake County regarding the expansion of internet service to under-served parts of the township. Whitmore will continue to check with the county committee for further updates, and report as necessary.

Highway Department Report:

Highway Department Director Rodger Edmonds discusses the Kazmer Road project. Kazmer has been ground and one culvert replaced. Edmonds says the culvert work requires further adjustment.

Edwards Road, west of Crawford, is currently experiencing muskrat tunneling issues. The township is using gravel to mitigate. A second load may be needed.

Road patching is ongoing.

Edmonds mentions the recent news from Lake County regarding improperly disbursed tax monies from the previous county clerk administration, totaling \$3.1 million. The township will be getting \$906 for Road & Bridge and \$381 for General Township.

Assessor's Report:

Assessor Berens provides the board with a handout explaining the budget and levy process, property assessment appeals and township equalization factors. He summarizes that normally when assessments go up, rates go down. It did not happen as per usual, which is why the increases in the area are larger than normal. The anomaly of 2022-23 is a Consumer Price Index (CPI) at 8.0% due to inflationary pressure.

Berens comments that 'blue sheets' are out and property owners have 30-days to contact the Assessor's office to contest valuations they disagree with. He reviews available exemptions--information that can be found on the 'blue sheet'. Berens strongly suggests contacting him via email rather than by phone, noting he responds to each message.

The assessor says Multiple Listing Service (MLS) values in the area have gone up 15% in the past two-year period.

Berens responds to a few comments interjected from the audience and in conclusion, says he is the assessor not the tax man.

Clerk's Report:

The clerk elaborates on the statement provided from Lake County Clerk, Anthony Vega. Several million dollars in tax monies collected by the county were not fully disbursed to individual taxing bodies, such as Newport, under the previous county clerk's administration. The situation came to light when, upon taking office, Vega requested a financial audit. As Rodger Edmonds indicates, the township is due additional money from the county.

Invites board members to review and sign the monthly board audit report.

Trustee Comments:

Daryle Spiller—No comments.

Corey Kirschhoffer—No comments.

Mike Wells—No comments.

Frank Kaiser—No comments. (Absent.)

Township Business:

Trustee Spiller notes there is no new business before the board tonight.

Finances:

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

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

Roll Call Vote: Ayes, Spiller, Kirschhoffer, Wells. Nays, none.

Motion passes, 3-0.

Public Comment:

None.

Motion to Adjourn:

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

Motion by Wells, second by Kirschhoffer.

Voice Vote: Ayes, all. Nays, none.

Meeting adjourns at 7:29 p.m.

Dated the 16th day of August, 2023.

_____s/Debbie Spurgeon_____

Debbie Spurgeon, Township Clerk