

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 July 16, 2025

Members Present:

J. Daryle Spiller, Trustee

Corey Kirschhoffer, Trustee

Mike Wells, Trustee

Debbie Spurgeon, Clerk

Call to Order: Trustee Spiller calls the Regular Township Meeting of the Board of Town Trustees to order at 7:01 p.m.

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

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

Also present, Rodger Edmonds, Highway Department Director.

Approval of Minutes: Trustee Spiller requests a motion and a second to approve the June Regular Meeting Minutes.

Motion by Kirschhoffer, second by Wells to approve the June 18, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes.

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

Motion passes, 3-0.

Reports:

Supervisor's Report:

No report.

Highway Department Report:

Highway Department Director Rodger Edmonds reports the paving projects for Delany at Russell Road and N. Old Woodford Road are complete. The county has confirmed to the director that MFT Funds will be used for the paving expenditures. Going forward, Lake County will be taking maintenance responsibility for the intersection of Russell and Delany Roads. Additional work in progress includes: striping, a solar powered STOP sign and a solar powered STOP AHEAD sign.

Edmonds says his employees will be working on tree trimming in the coming weeks. Additionally, he may hire NP Paving do some grinding work in front of Newport School before school opens in the fall.

Edmonds reports he continues to discuss the truck traffic concerns through the town of Russell, which have greatly increased as in recent years the county has opened up weight limits to allow heavy semi traffic. The issue of semi traffic is a significant concern plaguing not only Russell Road, but Wadsworth and Delany Road as well. The increased traffic, engine breaking noise, speeding, extensive littering, wear on local adjacent roads and railroad crossings are all results of the change in allowable weight limits. The board agrees and area residents are frustrated. Edmonds says the railroad has told Lake County it will not continue to repair the downtown Wadsworth crossing if the county continues to allow heavy weighted semi traffic to continually damage the crossing threshold.

Lastly, Edmonds is working with the county on consideration of a sidewalk on the northside of Russell Road from the Kilbourne & Russell intersection, through the downtown. It's a safety issue that can allow for area residents to traverse the downtown without walking on the busy roadway shoulder.

A brief discussion occurs on solar farms during damaging storms in McHenry County.

Assessor's Report:

No report.

Clerk's Report:

The clerk will address the annual financial report under New Business.

Trustee Comments:

Daryle Spiller—No comments.

Corey Kirschhoffer—No comments.

Mike Wells— Trustee Wells requests the highway department evaluate a dead tree for removal. The tree is located on the east side of Crawford Road, near Edwards Road. Wells says the tree is in the township right-of-way and he is concerned it will eventually come down in the roadway.

Frank Kaiser – No comments.

Township Business:

The township’s Annual Financial Audit is presented to the Board of Trustees, with each board member receiving a copy. The annual report is completed for the fiscal year ended February 28, 2025 and was performed by Evoy, Kamschulte, Jacobs & Co, certified public accountants. It is the opinion of the auditor that they have obtained sufficient, appropriate evidence from the township to form a conclusion about Newport’s financial position. The township currently uses a modified cash basis of accounting. The township’s assets exceed its liabilities. Newport’s total net position decreased by \$16,341. At February 28, 2025, the township’s governmental funds reported combined ending fund balance of \$752,660, an increase of \$5,640 in comparison with the prior year. At February 28, 2025, the unassigned fund balance for the General Fund was \$172,592 or 84.4% of total General Fund expenditures. This means approximately 22.9% of the township’s funds are available for spending at the township’s discretion.

The annual report consists of a series of financial statements and to fully understand the township’s financial position, the report is best evaluated in whole. A copy of the Annual Financial Audit will be available for public viewing at the Newport Township Offices, 19020 W. Old Town Court, Old Mill Creek, during regular office hours, and the required notice published in the Lake County News Sun. Persons having questions about the report or needing additional information, should contact the township supervisor.

Trustee Spiller requests a motion to accept the Annual Financial Audit.

Motion by Kirschhoffer, second by Wells to accept the Annual Financial Report for the year ended February 28, 2025.

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

Motion passes, 3-0.

Finances:

Trustee Spiller requests a motion to pay the monthly bills.

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

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

Motion passes, 3-0.

Public Comment:

No public comment.

Motion to Adjourn:

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

Motion by Wells, second by Kirschhoffer to adjourn the Regular July Board Meeting.

Voice Vote: Ayes, all. Nays, none. Meeting adjourns at 7:21 p.m.

Dated the 16th day of July, 2025.

 s/Debbie Spurgeon

Debbie Spurgeon, Township Clerk