

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 October 15, 2025

Members Present:

J. Daryle Spiller, Trustee

Corey Kirschhoffer, Trustee

Mike Wells, Trustee

Frank Kaiser, Trustee

Debbie Spurgeon, Clerk

Randy Whitmore, Supervisor

Jerome Berens, Assessor

Call to Order: Supervisor 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, Corey Kirschhoffer, Jerome Berens, Mike Wells, Frank Kaiser, Debbie Spurgeon and Randy Whitmore.

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

Motion by Kirschhoffer, second by Spiller to approve the September 17, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes.

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

Motion passes, 5-0.

Reports:

Supervisor's Report:

Supervisor Whitmore introduces John Murray, Assistant Superintendent of the Veterans Assistance Commission of Lake County (VAC) and yields the floor to Mr. Murray, who explains the mission and purpose of the statutorily mandated agency. The VAC promotes the welfare of honorably discharged veterans of military service and their families with assistance in maximizing benefits. Benefit examples can include disability claims, widows' assistance, emergency financial aid, burial, and education. Their role is to be the chief veterans advocate in the county. Murray comments that the biggest gap is often widows of veterans, that may not realize they are eligible for services.

Murray says there are 44,000 veterans in Lake County. The agency has a \$6.7M annual budget and a staff of 22 people to assist veterans. The VAC is currently located at Hawkston Hall II, 1790 Nations Drive, Suite 221, Gurnee, IL 60031. After purchasing properties in Gurnee, former Outback Steakhouse & Joe's Crab Shack, and demolishing the sites, the agency is in the process of building its own space, which will house agency offices, a gym and kitchen.

The supervisor thanks Mr. Murray for coming to the meeting and providing awareness of the agency and its services.

Whitmore yields the floor to residents (Pat Palmieri, Kathleen Shea, Rolf Wagner, Susan Bozorgi) from Newport's Sheridan Oaks Subdivision, who wish to address the board regarding a natural gas pipeline proposal being foisted upon their neighborhood. Residents in the subdivision and nearby surrounding area, recently all received letters from Kinder Morgan and subsequently have had representatives appearing on their properties, flying imaging drones over their properties and attempting to take soil samples on private properties. Earlier this week, residents Dan & Renee Falotico, who are not in attendance at tonight's meeting, provided the township board with a copy of the letter that the area residents received. (Board members each have a copy of the provided letter.) Residents speak about what little they know about the gas pipeline project, as well as, their community and the natural and peaceful setting of their homes and properties. They want to make the board aware of the situation and are looking for any support that the township can provide, now and going forward. No residents have provided permission for these representatives to be in their properties, nor to take any surveys or samples. Township council has recommended an eminent domain law firm to the residents and they are currently in the process of researching and hiring legal counsel. Apparently, they have already been advised that the neighbors cannot operate as a gestalt ('a whole of many parts') and each property owner will need to obtain their own legal representation.

Whitmore briefly explains a vague call he received approximately a month ago, which now appears to be related to the same project. Whitmore advises the residents he will make some calls to see what more he can find out and will be in touch with them if he has something new to share. He thanks the residents for making the board aware of the situation.

Highway Department Report:

No report.

Assessor's Report:

No report.

Clerk's Report:

No report.

Trustee Comments:

Daryle Spiller—No comments.

Corey Kirschhoffer—No comments.

Mike Wells— No comments.

Frank Kaiser – No comments.

Township Business:

Supervisor Whitmore introduces the adoption of the Estimate of Levy.

Motion by Wells, second by Kirschhoffer to adopt the Estimate of Levy for 2025, which will be posted for public viewing. The Final Levy will be considered by the board at the November 2025 Regular Meeting.

Finances:

Supervisor Whitmore requests a motion to pay the monthly bills.

Motion by Spiller, second by Kirschhoffer to approve the October monthly bills.

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

Motion passes, 5-0.

Public Comment:

No public comment.

Motion to Adjourn:

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

Motion by Spiller, second by Kaiser to adjourn the Regular October Board Meeting.

Voice Vote: Ayes, all. Nays, none. Meeting adjourns at 7:46 p.m.

Dated the 15th day of October, 2025.

_____s/Debbie Spurgeon_____

Debbie Spurgeon, Township Clerk