

TOWN BOARD MEETING

TOWN OF NEWTON

April 12, 2017

Our April meeting was held on April 12, 2017 pursuant to posted notices. Said meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Chairman Kevin Behnke who asked for verification of posting and was told by the clerk that a signed affidavit indicating said meeting was posted at the three official posting places in the Town and inserted on our Town of Newton web site is on file.

Present were: Kevin Behnke, Mark Knorr, Paulette Vogt, Barbara Pankratz, Mike Slattery, Dave Mueller, Ed Downing, Charlie Bauer and Roger Busse.

Before the meeting started Ed Downing took pictures of the Town Board, Treasurer and Clerk since this meeting will be the last Board meeting that Kevin Behnke will chair since Roger Busse won the election on April 4, 2017.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance after which Mark Knorr made a motion to approve the previously submitted March minutes. Denise Thomas seconded the motion which carried.

Denise Thomas made a motion to accept the submitted treasurer's report since there were no questions. Mark Knorr seconded the motion which carried.

Since there was no public in-put said agenda item was closed.

Mike Slattery, Zoning Administrator submitted his report showing what building permits were issued in March. There were no questions or discussion about his report. Mike also submitted his liability insurance form since he going to spray noxious weeds for the Town. The County charged \$410. 3-4 years ago and sprayed a little over a mile. Mike indicated he would spray the same distance for \$220. per mile. Mark Knorr made a motion to allow Mike Slattery to spray noxious weeds in the Town of Newton for \$220. a mile. Denise Thomas seconded the motion which carried.

A new updated building permit form was submitted by Mike Slattery and was approved by motion made by Denise Thomas and seconded by Mark Knorr. Motion passed.

Supervisor Mark Knorr informed the Board that the Branch Fire Department would not be purchasing the old fire truck. The new truck will be delivered in a couple of weeks. When the new truck is ready the department will try to sell the old one and if it does not sell then it will be put on the auction site.

Supervisor Denise Thomas received a contract from Hardrath Improvements, LLC for blacktopping under the cardboard dumpster at the Recycling Center site. Road Superintendent, Dave Mueller will be notified when the blacktopping will be done.

Denise also talked about the sale of the waste oil collection bin. The present bin was purchased in 2008 for \$8,623.53. Kevin suggested taking pictures of the bin and putting it on the auction site. Dave Mueller will take the pictures of the bin. Mark Knorr said we could set a reserve bid price at \$1,000. As a result of this discussion Denise Thomas made a motion to put pictures of the bin on the auction block with a reserve bid of \$1,000. Mark Knorr seconded the motion which passed.

Supervisor Denise Thomas also stated she felt that the Town should have a policy of no political posters or banners on any town property. She put this into a motion. Said motion was seconded by Supervisor Mark Knorr and passed.

Treasurer Paulette Vogt indicated that thirty-four dogs were not licensed. She turned the list over to Dave Mueller and he will call the dog owners and give them a week to get a license after which time the parties will receive a fine.

Denise Thomas and Dave Mueller talked about LED lights for the shop. Denise recommended getting twelve lights and just do one light. She will get a price list from Focus On Energy.

Dave Mueller checked the Utility Policy and he feels a manure line does not fall under the Utility Policy but Chairman Behnke felt that it did because the line went under the road. Mark Knorr questioned about driveways. Farmers want to run manure lines through the right-of-way. Trenching and boring is covered under the Utility Policy.

Dave Mueller and Denise Thomas felt that the policy of having the dump open the last Saturday of the month and having a honor system as long as it is not abused would be acceptable.

Dave Mueller indicated to the Board that Wilharms Road is listed on the TRIP Program and it was done last year. Kevin indicated you can substitute once so we will use our one change to English Lake Road.

It was decided that Alyson Menges would be hired to do the grass cutting at a rate of \$10.00/hour.

The lunch for the Annual Meeting was discussed and Dave Mueller will take care of ordering the food.

The next item of business was snow plowing private parking lots. Chairman Kevin Behnke made a motion that the Town create a policy not to plow any private parking lots within the Town effective May 1, 2017. Denise Thomas seconded the motion which carried.

Chairman Behnke made a motion that the present clerk be appointed by the Town Board for a three year term. Denise Thomas seconded the motion which passed. Kevin Behnke abstained from the discussion of compensation. After discussion motion was made by Supervisor Mark Knorr to abide by the ten per cent raise that was voted on at the April 19, 2016 Annual Meeting. Said motion was seconded by Supervisor Denise Thomas and passed.

Chairman Behnke also made a motion that the appointed clerk could be a poll worker at the polls and receive the same compensation as set by the Board. Denise Thomas seconded the motion which carried.

Mark Knorr made a motion to accept the statement report as submitted earlier by the clerk. Denise Thomas seconded the motion which passed.

There being no further business to come before the meeting the last Town Board meeting chaired by Kevin Behnke was closed by motion made by Kevin Behnke and seconded by Denise Thomas.

Barbara Pankratz, Town Clerk