

TOWN OF NEWTON
BOARD MEETING
April 13, 2010

Our April Town of Newton Board meeting was held at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 13, 2010 pursuant to posted notices and an affidavit on file with the clerk. The April meeting was held previously to the Annual Meeting which was scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 13, 2010. Immediately following the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call our meeting proceeded with a motion made by Kevin Behnke and seconded by John H. Karbon, Jr. to accept the minutes of the March, 2010 meeting. Said motion was seconded by Donald Schuette. Motion passed.

Chairman Behnke asked for verification of the posted meeting which was presented by the clerk.

The next item of business was public in-put. Attorney Peter Mayer, who was on the agenda, appeared before the Town Board on behalf of the Community Bank which is the owner of the condo parcels known as Lakeshore Estates Condominium. Community Bank found that they were unable to obtain conventional financing because the property is known as "condo property" and requested that it be named "Home Owners Association" instead of condo owners. Attorney Mayer appeared before the Board to obtain permission to change said name and the Town Board agreed it was not a problem with the Town. The property would be considered a subdivision instead of condo property label. The lots would be sold as Home Owners Association and home owners subdivision lots. Everyone would own an undivided one-tenth interest. Attorney Mayer assured the Town of Newton that if any fees were incurred by Attorney Kate Reynolds and/or Foth would be paid for by the Community Bank. After Attorney Reynold's review is finished the Plan Commission will be notified and the Board felt that there should not be a problem with the process.

Gary Truettner appeared before the Board. He inquired if ValJean Marcoe, Law Enforcement Officer had ascertained who the dog belonged to that had been on his property. ValJean had checked but did not find who the owner of the dog was. Mr. Truettner also inquired if the Town had an Ordinance in effect about a dog biting someone. The Town does not have such an Ordinance and ValJean indicated that the Sheriff's Department is notified and a report is made to the County Health Officer who keeps records and it becomes a civil matter and not a town matter. A dog bite occurring on property other than the owners will result in a citation.

Mr. Truettner also inquired as to whether or not the Town of Newton uses a financial planner for our finances. Since we do not but have a competent treasurer, Paulette Vogt gave him information about how we do our investments.

He also stated that the Town of Newton should eliminate burning barrels and that the Town Board should look into such elimination. Chairman Behnke indicated that this matter is very controversial with the citizens of Newton.

The treasurer submitted her report to the Board and upon motion made by Donald Schuette and seconded by John H. Karbon, said report was accepted. Motion carried.

Joe Janowski, Zoning Administrator gave a detailed explanation of his March, 2010 report which included remodeling, new house, additions, tear down as well as hearing fees.

Ron Ratajczak addressed the Town Board about several matters of interest. The first item was his request for Town support in reference to him putting approximately eighty acres of his land into a new program for Wisconsin called PACE wherein a landowner voluntarily sells development rights to property to a local government or charitable organization. The land itself remains in private ownership. Sale of development rights is recorded in an easement that is attached to the deed and the land can be sold or passed down to heirs but all future landowners are bound by the easement. Kevin indicated that the Town is not considering the establishment of a Density Management System but will revise the Zoning/Land Division Ordinance with Foth per their February 24, 2010 letter.

Paulette Vogt, Treasurer indicated she had spoke to someone who had street lighting and there was nothing on their deed about lighting. Kevin Behnke stated that he had spoke to Attorney Kate Reynolds about the lighting matter and was waiting to hear from her. Paulette also indicated that personal property taxes were collected except for two outstanding. She stated there were sixty-eight dogs left unlicensed and she had mailed letters to the owners. Many of the owners names were duplicates because of different spellings of their names and she revised the dog owner's list.

Kevin Behnke, Chairman stated that the Outdoor Wood Burning matter would be presented to the Plan Commission in May and they will make recommendations to the Town Board. Kevin also indicated that he had met with Stecker Machine and Economic Development and they are considering low interest money and equipment and job training.

There being no further business to come before the meeting we adjourned by motion made by Donald Schuette and seconded by John H. Karbon. Motion carried.

Barbara Pankratz, Town Clerk