TOWN OF NEWTON

 APRIL 16, 2019

 ANNUAL MEETING

The Town of Newton Annual Meeting was opened at 7:00 pm pursuant to posted notices at the official posting places as well a notice on the website.

After reciting the Pledge of Allegiance led by Charlie Bauer, Chairman Roger Busse asked if there were any additions to the agenda for the evening. There being none the minutes of the previous annual meeting were approved as read by motion made by Ray Ross which was seconded by Tom Hochkammer and passed.

Chairman Busse asked if there were any questions about the Annual Report. Larry Stock questioned the fund balance. Our financial report is prepared by our auditor of many years and the Town is comfortable with their reporting of all financials for the Town. Our system is on a cash basis and that is put in the report. Motion was made by Ed Downing to accept the same as presented. Donald Schuette seconded the motion which carried.

Chairman Busse asked if there was any old business to come before the meeting and there being none said agenda item was closed.

Bob Ziegelbauer, County Executive was the first speaker. He thanked the town for the invitation to speak at our Annual Meeting. He indicated he had handouts for the County Parks, County maps and directories of the local offices on up to the president. If anyone has any questions they can contact him at any time. He stated that Manitowoc County was in a strong financial shape. We have a County long term financial plan to hold the line on taxes while continuing to maintain county roads and equipment and another example why the County does not need a sales tax as we have all of the taxpayers we need and we can hold the line on taxes for a long time. Transportation is again our main focus his year . The big project on County R with the bridge proceeding on schedule. The widening of the road and the bridge is a nine-million dollar project. The County will have a resurfacing project of fourteen miles of four lanes this year and one additional bridge replacement and the Meijer project will be starting this month. We also have a newly elected sheriff as well as a new County Clerk and a new County Treasurer. Jim Luckow questioned the sale of property on Hecker and Viebahn Street and questioned whether town officers were invited to the meetings about this property and he as told that they as well as anyone else could attend the meetings. Mr. Luckow questioned whether the City is considering making an offer on the land to expand their Industrial Park. Bob indicated thought it would be used for farmland for a long time and the County Executive has the power to say whether or not the land is sold.

Chairman Busse gave a report on Carstens Lake Road and talked about future projects on roads including the Newton Road project on which there is more work to be done. Ray Ross stated that the project on Newton Road resulted in silt running into a natural lake and not into a manmade pond. Chairman Busse indicated the Town Board and Road Superintendent will be viewing roads for work to be needed in May.

Chairman Busse thanked everyone that advertised in the Annual Report and Fall Newsletter (Newton Notes) which helps defray expenses for printing and mailing. He also thanked members of the Board of Appeals, members of the Plan Commission who were asked to stand and acknowledged by applause. He also thanked the people who were election workers.

Supervisor Denise Thomas indicated there would be an electronics collection on April 20th from 8 am to 3 pm at the Recycling Center for citizens of Newton and Centerville limited to two televisions per household as well as any electronics. No dehumidifiers or anything with refrigeration would be accepted. She is hoping that the event will be a yearly collection event. Names and addresses will be taken and there will be cost to the citizens of Newton and Centerville or to either town board.

Dave Mueller, Law Enforcement Officer gave a report on his position as well as a message about lost dogs indicating that Friends of Newton Face Book is a successful source for locating a lost dog. He stressed that dog owners should have tags on their dogs.

Tom Hochkammer, Fire Chief indicated it was another busy year for the Newton Fire Department. A report is in the Annual Report. He stated that there were improvements at the Newton Fireman Community Park and that the Fire Department had acquired a new set of Jaws of Life. The Fire Department had received money from the Ant Hill Mob and the department had raised approximately $14,000.00 from the Annual Bowling Fund Raiser for Children’s Hospital. All members of the Fire Department stood and were recognized by applause.

Mark Knier of the Newton First Responders stated that they also had a busy year with one hundred thirty-six calls which averages to 2.6 calls per week. He also stated that they had received $15,000.00 from the Ant Hill Mob were able to purchase a new defibulator and traded in the old one. Their membership is down to seven people and anyone interested in becoming a First Responder should contact one of the members.

Larry Stock made a motion to allow the Town to borrow money if needed. Ed Downing seconded the motion which carried.

Dave Mueller, Road Supervisor gave a very informative presentation on how wild parsnip weed affects our area. During the last two years $3,000.00 has been spent each year. He requested anyone that has wild parsnip on their property to contact him and urged the residents to cut it themselves. It looks like Queen Ann lace but it is yellow whereas Queen Ann lace is white. The project also is trying to eliminate phragmites which the Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership, a qualifying non-profit organization with an approved accounting system, has anticipated investment of over a million dollars on this invasive. The LNRP is asking townships for a minimum donation of $2,500.00 to assist in this project. According to our attorney a motion from the floor at an Annual Meeting is necessary in order for the Town to approve said donation. Larry Stock made a motion to allow the Town Board of the Town of Newton to donate the sum of $2,500.00 to the Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership for this project. Mark Dempsky seconded the motion which carried. Chairman Busse indicated that said amount would be included in the Town of Newton’s 2020 budget.

He thanked Bank First National, CR Stop, Newton Meats, Pine River Dairy and Rural Insurance, for their contributions to the Annual Meeting. He also noted that the Town of Newton would no longer be plowing private driveways. He also stated that upon direction of Martenson & Eisle, the firm reviewing our zoning ordinances, that the chairman should step down from the Plan Commission. As a result, Mark Knorr and Ray Ross were appointed to the Plan Commission. Chairman Busse thanked the Plan Commission for their work and asked them to stand. They were recognized by applause.

He also asked the members of the Board of Appeals to stand for recognition. Lee Holschbach is the Chairman and Secretary of the Board of Appeals which is legal according to the Wisconsin Towns Association attorney.

Chairman Busse gave a road report indicating that $179,000.00 was spent for black topping, slag and center striping and it is anticipated that $235,000.00 will be spent this year for four culverts that have to be replaced, blacktopping and further road work. Chairman Busse indicated our Building Inspector issued fifty-one building permits.

Tom Hochkammer, Fire Chief indicated that the Fire Department had another busy year. The report is in the Annual Report. He also indicated that the Fire Department received an excellent audit report, which report is also in the Annual Report. The department acquired a new equipment van which can be viewed in the Fire Department. He asked that all Fire Department volunteers stand to be recognized by applause.

Mark Knier gave a report stating that the First Responders answered one hundred-fifty calls. The First Responders, which were formed in 1988, are down to eight members and need new members. Anyone who is interested please contact a First Responder member. He also indicated the dates for the Perch Fry (May 18th) and the Fish Boil (Sept. 7) and stated that the Newton First Responders were chosen by the Ant Hill Mob motorcycle group to receive funds from them. Money that is raised at the bike show is donated back and the First Responders will be one of the recipients.

Bob Ziegelbauer, County Executive appeared before the annual meeting and gave a report on County operations. He spoke about the 2017 renovation projects at the Heritage Center and the UW Center and indicated that in 2018 the focus will be on transportation starting with doubling the amount of road resurfacing. He also stated that he felt that the sales tax was not needed and that the line should be held on taxes keeping debt low in the future. He also said that the County had a five-year plan on roads. He thanked everyone who voted for him in the April election.

Chairman Busse asked Joe Janowski, our former Zoning Administrator to come up to the podium and Joe was presented with a plaque for his service of twenty-two years to the Town of Newton. Joe spoke about working for the Town but said he was enjoying his retirement.

Dave and Dan Stock were asked to come forward to receive a beautifully framed Terry Redlin picture entitled “Building The Community" with an engraved plaque on the bottom of the picture which was in memory of their dad Richard Stock. Stock Mfg. has done so much for the Town of Newton and continues to do so and the Board wanted to show their appreciation to Richard and his sons for the work they have done and continue to do for the Town.

Chairman Busse thanked the clerk for the work put forth which generated over $13,000.00 in revenue for the Recycling Grant. He indicated that the clerk position is now an appointed position and thanked the clerk for a job well done.

Chairman Busse asked for any other new business to come before the Annual Meeting but there was nothing.

The next item of business was the matter of wages for the Chairman, Supervisors and Treasurer. Scott Konik made a motion that the wages remain the same and Jon Luckow seconded the motion which carried.

Charlie Bauer made a motion that the Town of Newton retain Bank First National as the official bank for the Town. Dave Stock seconded the motion which carried.

Bob Marheine made a motion to allow the Town to borrow money. Said motion was seconded by Deb Holschbach.

Dave Mueller made a motion to adjourn this Annual Meeting until April 15, 2020. Ray Ross seconded the motion which carried.

 Barbara Pankratz, Clerk