TOWN OF NEWTON

 May 20, 2020

 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. There was twenty-two people plus the Board attending the Annual Meeting. Larry Stock thought that a post card should have been sent out about the change of the date.

After reciting the Pledge of Allegiance Chairman Roger Busse asked if there were any additions to the agenda for the evening. There being none the agenda was approved as presented by motion made by Bob Marheine and seconded by Jamie Aulik. Motion passed.

The minutes of the previous annual meeting were read by the clerk and approved by motion made by Jan Ross and seconded by Lee Glaeser. Motion passed.

Chairman Busse asked if there were any questions about the Annual Report and there were none.

County Executive Bob Ziegelbauer was the first speaker. He thanked the town for the invitation to speak at our Annual Meeting. He gave a report on the handling of the Covid 19 matter including the Health Department, Emergency Department and everyone who is involved in any way. He indicated many people are working at home, no one in the department has been laid off and that the people that are working at home will return to the Court House in two weeks. He stated that the State is offering community testing at the Expo. He stated that the County is in a strong financial position even with a forty per cent loss in revenue in April. Property taxes will not be raised and transportation continues to be a high priority. A bridge was built on County S and there was fourteen miles of road re-surfacing this year. The property tax was deferred by passage of Section 1.85 by the legislature dealing with the Covid 19. The State legislature controls the system of property tax. The County Board had to approve the resolution. The second step is for each City, Town and Village to enact the resolution by July 31st. Bob calculated that about $100,000. interest on taxes will be given up by the County because of the Covid 19. Bob thanked the Town for inviting him. There were no questions for him.

Jamie Aulik who is a recent member of the County Board indicated that the County Board was going to pass a property tax relief resolution and stressed that all towns and villages in the County should pass a resolution to this effect. He is on the School Board of Valders, representing part of Newton. He stated that Valders High School now has a deputy on site. No one had any questions for Jamie.

Paul Tittl, Representative of the 25th Assembly District stated that the Covid 19 property tax bill was passed. Paulette Vogt asked about the situation of the absentee ballots. Nothing has been decided at this point.

Supervisor Mark Knorr indicated that the Plan Commission for the Town of Newton has been working very hard on matters that have come up. The members of the Plan Commission that were present stood and were recognized by applause. He also thanked all of the snow plow drivers who did a great job when called upon.

The only member of the Board of Appeals present was Dan Stock who was recognized by applause also and thanked for all that Stock Mfg. does for the Town of Newton.

Chairman Busse gave a road report on road work done in the Town of Newton this year and what will be done in the future. He thanked Supervisor Denise Thomas for obtaining a substantial grant for the Town of Newton’s road work

Denise Thomas, Supervisor indicated that only ten per cent of the grants that were written were accepted and she thanked Tom Hochkammer, Jim Luckow, Steve Fischer and Doug Grotegut who assisted her in compiling the necessary information that resulted in the Town of Newton obtaining the grant. The amount received will be $220,000. and the Town has six years to do the projects.

Supervisor Denise Thomas thanked Ray, Al, Jim and Ed for the work they do at the Recycling Center and indicated that $13,065.00 would be received for a Recycling Grant. However, the costs are up at the Recycling Center and the income is down. This matter will be addressed in the future.

She was not sure if there would be an electronics collection in August or September but if there will be the same will be published on the web site for the Town of Newton. It would be for the 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 no cost to the citizens of Newton and Centerville or to either town board.

Paulette Vogt, Treasurer thanked everyone for cooperating with the payment of taxes. She reminded everyone to pay for the dog license with their taxes. All dog licenses should be paid by April 1st . Payment after that date results in a fine.

Clerk Barbara Pankratz stated that the Town of Newton has a web site which is townofnewton.org. She also gave a report on the voters and how the pandemic affected and continues to affect voting in the Town of Newton.

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 preferably with their phone number.

Dan Stock of the Newton Fire Department indicated it was another busy year for the Newton Fire Department. A report is in the Annual Report

Mark Knier of the Newton First Responders stated that they also had a busy year. The First Responder report is also in the Annual Report. Their membership is at nine members since two people just finished their training. Members of the Fire Department and First Responders stood and were recognized by applause.

Steve Thomas made a motion to authorize the Town to borrow money. Said motion was seconded by Bob Marheine and passed. Charlie Bauer made a motion to retain Bank First National as our bank. Jan Ross seconded the motion that passed.

Larry Stock made a motion to set the wages for the Town Board with an increase of two per cent starting April, 2021. Said motion was seconded by Jamie Aulik and passed.

Charlie Bauer made a motion to adjourn this Annual Meeting until April 20, 2021. Lee Glaeser seconded the motion which carried.

 Barbara Pankratz, Clerk