TOWN OF NEWTON BOARD MEETING

August 18, 2021

The Town Board meeting of the Town of Newton was held on Wednesday, August 18, 2021 at the Newton Town Hall, 6532 Carstens Lake Road, Manitowoc, WI 54220 at 6:00 pm. pursuant to posted notices.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Chairman Denise Thomas. Present: Chairman Thomas, Supervisor #1; Kevin Behnke, Supervisor #2 Mark Knorr, Paulette Vogt, Treasurer; Barbara Pankratz, Clerk; Dave Mueller, Road Superintendent/Law Enforcement Officer, Larry Stock, Tom Klabunde, Ed Downing, Roger Busse, Charlie Bauer, Melia Prange of Action Realty, City Attorney Kathleen M. McDaniel and Director of Public Infrastructure Dan Koski.

All those present joined in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. The clerk stated that the agenda was posted two official posting places as well as on the Town of Newton web site. Mark Knorr made a motion to approve the agenda. Said motion was seconded by Kevin Behnke and passed.

The minutes of the July meeting were approved by motion made by Kevin Behnke and seconded by Mark Knorr. Motion carried.

The treasurer’s report was submitted to the Board previous to the meeting. The treasurer advised the Board that she had done the paperwork for a $250,000. certificate of deposit with Community First Credit Union. The certificate is an automatic renewal. The treasurer will receive a letter about the renewal. The same was filed in the fire proof filing cabinet. She also noted corrections in the posting in the profit and loss report which will be addressed by the clerk. Kevin Behnke made a motion to accept the treasurer’s report. Said motion was seconded by Mark Knorr and passed.

Public in-put was the next item on the agenda. Melia Prange, Realtor from Action Realty appeared before the board questioning the zoning of certain land she is listing. She requested something in writing showing how the property could be listed. She was told that the property is in the I-43 development corridor and that it is in the 2040 plan and is open for business. Mike Slattery, Zoning Administrator indicated he would send her a letter explaining the zoning for the property.

Tom Klabunde expressed concern again about jake breaking. He was informed about the policy that the town cannot regulate posting of no jake breaking signs on County highways – only on town roads and the signs were removed from town roads because of regulations set forth by the County for enforcement issues.

Larry Stock inquired about planting trees in Salem Ebenezer Cemetery and was told that they can plant trees as long as they stay out of the right of way.

There being no further public in-put said agenda item was closed.

Dave Mueller, Road Supervisor indicated a gate at the Recycling Center was hit by a Radandt truck but that Stocks will address that gate as well as another one which is rusty. He also gave a report on road work done; indicated the air conditioner in the Fire Department is not working. Motion was made by Kevin Behnke and seconded by Denise Thomas to have a new air conditioner installed at a cost of $3,373. which will be posted at General Government Outlay chart of account number 57140. Dave Mueller, Law Enforcement Officer gave a report on animal matters. He also indicated that the Custer Street and English Lake Road clean-up has not been addressed and the thirty days are up on Monday.

City Attorney Kathleen M. McDaniel and Director of Public Infrastructure Dan Koski appeared before the Town Board in reference to the project update on the former City of Manitowoc gravel pit to give the Town an update on the water main project. They presented the Board with a detailed question and answer sheet about the project. Dan Koski also has detailed project maps showing what is proposed for this water project. Denise Thomas questioned whether or not the residents affected by this water project would get free water initially. She was told that would not be the case as there is a monthly rate. Denise asked about the time frame of construction for this project and was told it would be two to three months in duration. If more homes are affected they would be included in this project as that is allowed to be done with the project.

Supervisor Behnke requested the clerk to send the Advanced Disposal statements to that he can analyze whether or not fees have to be raised or any other adjustments made to cover the costs at the Recycling Center. He also stated that the truck committee will be meeting the last Tuesday in September for the Fire Department.

The Town of Liberty/Town of Newton Highway Maintenance Agreement dated July 28, 2021 was approved by motion made by Kevin Behnke, seconded by Mark Knorr and passed. The Town of Liberty agreed to pay $200. toward the attorney fees incurred . A copy of the signed agreement will be mailed to the chairman of the Town of Liberty, namely Joel Aulik.

The next item of business was the town clerk contract which runs from August 1, 2021 to December 31, 2022. A raise of two per cent was included and the car allowance remained the same. The contract was signed by the board as well as the clerk and the same was made into a motion by Mark Knorr and seconded by Kevin Behnke. Motion passed.

The next matter addressed was the culverts in Newton. Mike Slattery explained about the problem with the culverts and tile in the area. A bid was submitted by Ross Excavating of $33,025.40 and Chairman Thomas suggested that it should be done in Fall if possible. It would Supervisor Behnke inquired as to how much money was left for budgeting and was told that approximately $48,000. was available. Supervisor Behnke suggested that it was time to address the matter and get it done. The Board discussed the work that had to be done on this matter. Denise Thomas made a motion that the bid of Ross Excavating LLC in the amount of $33,025.40 be accepted. Kevin Behnke seconded the motion which carried. Chairman Thomas will contact Ross Frish about acceptance of his bid.

The next item was discussion about the culvert bids submitted by Alfson Excavating LLC. Motion was made by Supervisor Knorr to do the culvert work as per the bid on Gass Lake Road. Supervisor Behnke seconded the motion which carried.

Dave Mueller got bids on replacing the water softener with reverse osmosis. Dave suggested Stock’s building something above the ice machine to get it out of the way as floor space is a premium. Culligan gave a bid of $1,986. plus $225. for installation with a 500 gallon tank. Another quote was received from Lemmons and Veterans and the quotes were quite varied.

Chairman Thomas is looking into a different web site for the Town of Newton. The company that she is looking into does the web site for Elkhart Lake and she suggested that the Board members look at the Elkhart Lake web site to see what is offered. Treasurer Paulette Vogt suggested checking with County Clerk Jessica Backus who supports the Town of Manitowoc web site since their web site was very nice.

The clerk indicated that Dave Mueller’s Wisconsin Deferred Compensation matter has been taken care of. The application for recycling due in October has been submitted.

Supervisor Kevin Behnke made a motion to accept the billing statement submitted by the clerk. Supervisor Mark Knorr seconded the motion which carried.

There being nothing further to come before the meeting motion was made by Supervisor Mark Knorr and seconded by Supervisor Kevin Behnke to adjourn the Board Meeting to Wednesday, September 15, 2021.

Barbara Pankratz, Clerk