TOWN OF NEWTON BOARD MEETING

December 9, 2020

The Town Board meeting of the Town of Newton was held on Wednesday, December 9, 2020 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 Roger Busse. Present: Roger Busse, Chairman; Denise Thomas, Supervisor #1; Mark Knorr, Supervisor #2; Paulette Vogt, Treasurer; Barbara Pankratz, Clerk; Dave Mueller, Road Superintendent/Law Enforcement Officer, Larry Stock, Tom Klabunde, Kelly Christiansen, and Charlie Bauer.

All those present joined in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. The clerk stated that the agenda was posted by her on the official posting places as well as on the Town of Newton web site. Said agenda was notarized by Paulette, Vogt, Treasurer. Denise Thomas made a motion to approve the agenda. Said motion was seconded by Mark Knorr and passed.

The minutes of the Proposed Budget Meeting were approved by motion made by Mark Knorr and seconded by Denise Thomas. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Denise Thomas to approve the minutes of the Town Elector’s Meeting which motion was seconded by Mark Knorr. Motion carried.

In our previous board meeting the clerk gave an incorrect remaining amount after submission number three for the Grant money which was $9,897. which would be given one-half to St. Johns School and one-half to the First Responders or $4,948.50 each. After the meeting in November and upon further checking the clerk informed the supervisors that there was in fact $13,218.94 left and because of her error their motions were incorrect. Mark Knorr made a motion that St. John’s School in Newtonburg receive an additional $1,211.50 making their total $6,160.00 and the Newton First Responders receive an additional $2,110.44 making their total $7,058.94. Motion was seconded by Denise Thomas and carried.

The treasurer’s report has been submitted to the Board previous to the meeting. There were no questions. Roger Busse, Chairman indicated the Clerk and Treasurer had balanced so everything was correct. As a result, Roger Busse made a motion to accept the report as presented. Mark Knorr seconded the motion which carried.

Paulette Vogt, Treasurer read a letter she drafted to the Board in reference to the Covid Recovery Program referring to the payment to St. John’s School. She was not able to attend the last meeting but wanted to clarify that she did not send any money to St. Johns as she does not issue checks. Also, she was waiting for the check for the fourth submission from the State after which the clerk would give her a check for St. Johns and issue a check to the First Responders.

The treasurer also indicated that the emergency inserts in the tax bills only have to be returned if the person is in need of assistance. She also stated that the tax bills were sent out on Friday, December 4, 2020. Paulette also mentioned that the Town of Newton stickers to be used starting January 1, 2021, which are inserted in the tax bills, fall apart. She was wondering if the stickers could be like labels which could be peeled off of the sheet instead of being perforated. This matter will be addressed after the stickers are used up.

Public input was opened. Larry Stock talked about 1) Some information in the minutes was incorrect; 2) If two or more board members are together at a meeting where town business is being discussed then the meeting should be posted; 3) Felt the Board was dysfunctional. They have a job to run this town and should work together as a unit not three individuals and should try to get along.

Road Supervisor/Law Enforcement Officer Dave Mueller gave his report to the Board. He indicated that most of the ditching is done, he has two plows on the trucks and he had hired two more snow plow drivers who were cleared with the insurance company. He also stated that RightWay came and jetted nine different culverts and never submitted a bill to the Town. The clerk will send them a thank you card.

Dave also stated that he has $2,100.00 in machine rental so far. He would like to do a small section on Brunner Road and Wehausen Road. He also indicated there are tile wash outs and questioned whether the owner or the town was responsible. The Board thought if it is in the right of way it is the owner’s responsibility.

Dave also tended to some dog, cow and pig incidents as well as a call about tire squealing and to many cars in a yard.

Dave indicated that there are approximately thirty trees that need to be cut on the Augustine property to ditch about three hundred feet to get to the road.

Roger Busse handed out the road report charges. Roger had contacted the auditor and was told that the Board should amend the budget to reflect the actual TRIP grant revenue and related expense. The auditor also stated the Board should increase the TRIP revenue by $258,000. and Highway Maintenance – Other by $258,000. The $258,000. Is calculated as follows: Grant #1 ($252,310 + Grant #2 ($26,659) less original budget ($21,000.) = $257,969. or $258,000. rounded. Roger made a motion to increase the TRIP revenue (chart of account #43532 and Highway Maintenance-Other (chart of account #53313) by $258,000. to reflect actual TRIP revenue and related expenses. Mark Knorr seconded the motion which carried.

Chairman Busse, by motion approved the statement report as submitted by the clerk. Mark Knorr seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Denise Thomas made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Roger Busse and passed.

Barbara Pankratz, Clerk