TOWN OF NEWTON BOARD MEETING

February 10, 2021

The Town Board meeting of the Town of Newton was held on Wednesday, February 10, 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 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, Tom Klabunde, Larry Stock, Ed Downing, Charlie Bauer and Kevin Behnke.

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. Mark Knorr made a motion to approve the agenda. Said motion was seconded by Denise Thomas and passed.

The minutes of the January , 2021 were approved by motion made by Denise Thomas and seconded by Roger Busse. Motion carried.

The treasurer’s report for December, 2020 was approved by motion made by Roger Busse and seconded by Denise Thomas. Motion carried. The January, 2021 treasurer’s report submitted to the Board previous to the meeting was approved by motion made by Mark Knorr and seconded by Denise Thomas. Motion carried.

Public in-put was opened. Kevin Behnke questioned the agenda item under the Chairman’s Report “Transfer funds to the Committed Fund”. Chairman Busse indicated that $55,000.00 would be added to the Committed Fund for the 2021 Budget. Supervisor Thomas questioned whether or not we had to have a Resolution to do so.

The other item under public in-put was Larry Stock questioned the January minutes in reference to trucking and digging which Dave Mueller and Rick Krueger are doing. Apparently Dave will be doing the trucking and Rick Krueger will do the digging on a culvert on Rangeline Road.

Road Supervisor Dave Mueller stated that he had gotten new tractor tires installed and addressed maintenance items on the building including broken hinges on the door where the tractor is so he made a call and the person is also going to install weather stripping. The furnace by the Kabota has holes in the exhaust pipe and Dave installed new pipes. He noticed that the cistern was filling and it turned out there was a bad valve on it. He contacted Nichols Electric because he thought there was something electrically wrong and Nichols checked it out but it turned out to be a bad valve which he changed and now it is ok. Dave indicated he has been working on snowplowing which has been a challenge because of the weather. He received one quote for a compressor from Air Dynamics located in Milwaukee. A five horse eighty gallon single phase, starter mounted and wired, anti-vibration pads, one hundred per cent cast iron for $3,539.90. He will call Appleton Compressor to get prices from them. Dave talked to David Stock who does business with Appleton Compressor and recommended them but also indicated that he would recommend getting a refrigerated air dryer for the unit which would be an additional cost of $1,295.00. Dave will make copies of his quotes and give them to the Board. The total cost would be $5,351.90.

Dave is waiting to hear from the DNR after e-mailing them in reference to the ditch cleaning on Orchard Lane. He also indicated that he had talked to the County about the bids for the culvert at Center Road and County C and is waiting to hear from them also.

Dave also stated that the sewer gas has returned in the men’s bathroom when it is cold and there is a westerly or northwesterly wind.

Dave also asked about voting next week whether or not the extra booths had to be erected. Because of the small turnout expected he was told that it would not be necessary and that only one ballot box would be needed.

Dave, law enforcement officer, indicated he issued a second citation for burning without a permit.

The zoning administrator’s report was submitted by Mike Slattery and there were no questions.

Treasurer, Paulette Vogt submitted her report. She settled up with the County for a little over three million. She has about 140 dogs to go yet but there is time. She indicated that we had received $9.00 on the three million. The bank indicated we had gotten two per cent but when COVID hit was when the drop occurred. The stock market also is a deciding factor. She indicated that the bank stated that we could go back to a regular savings account but we could not switch back and forth. Either we have this low interest until something breaks with COVID or we switch to a regular savings. The bank indicated that you could not switch back and forth. The Board decided to leave it as is.

Supervisor Denise Thomas was told by the recycling attendants that the stickers for the bags are falling off because of the cold so she was looking for a remedy. One suggestion was to hand the stickers to the attendant rather than putting them on the bags. A discussion ensued on how to handle the situation.

Denise asked the Board if the Town had a contract with Advanced Disposal for the dumpsters for trash pick-up. The Board did not think that we did. The reason for asking was that Waste Management bought out Advanced Disposal and she had heard that they wanted to raise their rates double what they are. There is another company – GSL that she is looking into. Supervisor Mark Knorr said that GSL has Advanced Disposal and Waste Management vehicles which now are under GSL name. GSL contacted Denise to see if we would enter into a contract with them. Denise will contact GSL to see what the contract would be.

The next item was the zone change for Steve and Kim Fischer. The Plan Commission voted on February 1, 2021 to rezone a .176 acre parcel from A-3 Farmland Preservation District to A-2 General Agriculture District and voted to have the Town Board approve said zone change. Mark Knorr made a motion that the Town Board approve said zone change. Roger Busse seconded the motion which passed.

Supervisor Knorr talked about the 20 year Comprehensive Plan for the Town of Newton meeting which will be held at the Newton Town Hall on Wednesday, March 3, 2021. Here is mapping changes but no drastic changes. On April 12, 2021 the Plan Commission will be holding the public hearing.

Denise Thomas, Supervisor made a motion to accept the Utility Policy with the corrections. Mark Knorr, Supervisor seconded the motion which carried. The clerk will re-type it when ready.

The next item of business was the auditor’s annual report.. After Roger and Denise spoke to the auditor it was decided that the Town of Newton could save $2,500 - $2,800. if we discontinued the detailed financial report and just did a CT audit. Denise Thomas made a motion to do a CT audit. Roger Busse seconded the motion which passed.

Roger Busse read a letter he received from Ray Ross that effective April 11, 2021 he will no longer be working at the Recycling Center. Roger indicated that we would have to look for a replacement.

Mark Knorr made a motion to pay the bills. Denise Thomas seconded the motion which passed.

Chairman Roger Busse made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Said motion was seconded by Supervisor Mark Knorr and passed.

Barbara Pankratz, Clerk