TOWN OF NEWTON

TOWN BOARD MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 13, 2019

The February meeting of the Town Board of Newton was opened at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, February 13, 2019 by Chairman Roger Busse. Present: Roger Busse, Denise Thomas, Mark Knorr, Barbara Pankratz, Paulette Vogt, Charlie Bauer, Kevin Behnke, Ed Downing, Scott Konik and Mr. & Mrs. Al Radey. Everyone present recited the Pledge of Allegiance after which it is noted that an affidavit was signed by the Road Superintendent, Dave Mueller and notarized by the Clerk, Barbara Pankratz.

Supervisor Mark Knorr made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Supervisor Denise Thomas seconded the motion which carried.

Denise Thomas made a motion to accept both January meeting minutes (regular Board meeting held January 9, 2019 and the meeting with the DNR in Green Bay on January 24, 2019). Said motion was seconded by Mark Knorr and passed.

The treasurer’s report, which was presented to the Board previous to the meeting, was approved by motion made by Roger Busse and seconded by Mark Knorr. Motion carried.

Public in-put was opened. Kevin Behnke questioned the transfer of $100,000. from the General Fund to Committed Fund and made the Town Board aware of the rules governing said transfers. He questioned the chairman about how much money did the Town have in the undesignated fund, outside the budget, when the money was transferred. Mr. Behnke made the Board aware of the factors that should be considered when governing the level of unrestricted fund balance in the general fund as well as the potential impact on the entity’s bond ratings and the corresponding increased cost of borrowed funds. He also stated that generally governments should seek to replenish their fund balances within one to three years of use.

Mr. Behnke also addressed the DNR culvert matter on Newton Road and inquired about re-seeding again. Road Supervisor Dave Mueller stated that there was some growth so it may not be necessary.

Dave indicated that the trailer axles are here for the “plastic” trailer but he did not get them yet because of removing snow.

Dave also stated that he is working on a presentation about parsnip for the Annual Meeting in April. He said it should be cut in the ditches before the seed matured.

He mentioned also that the Governor had declared a state of emergency when we had the snow storm. Dave contacted Marc Holsen from the County to find out if the town would be eligible for any monetary relief. He will contact Marc again to get an answer.

Dave said that there is a problem of odor emitting from the men’s bathroom in the Town Hall when it is really cold outside. He used a gas monitor which did not show anything. He spoke to Rick Manlick who indicated it might be in the heating system.

Law Enforcement Officer Dave Mueller stated that he had issued one citation for burning and that he dealt with a couple of dog issues.

Treasurer, Paulette Vogt stated that tax collections were going well and that the February tax settlements will be sent out timely.

Al Radey and his wife appeared before the Board to discuss the change of their address number on County Road CR. The Board sent them a letter indicating that they wanted to change the Radey’s number from 3626 County Road CR to 3628 County Road CR because Nelson Trucking had the same number as the Radeys – that being 3626 County Road CR. Mr. Radey disputed the fact that he should not have to change his address number which he has had for many years. It would be a huge burden for him to change the address that he has had since 1964. It appears that Mr. Radey, Nelson Trucking and Whitewall Tire have the same address. The matter came to light when a fire inspection was done. The Board was informed and Mike Slattery, Zoning Administrator was informed at which time he contacted the County Map preparer. The Board will address this matter.

There being no further business public in-put was closed.

Denise Thomas indicated that Scott Konik will no longer be working at the Recycling Center and the Board will decide on his replacement at a later date.

Supervisor Mark Knorr presented Ordinance No. 2132019 to Amend the Zoning and Land Division Ordinance of the Town of Newton, Manitowoc County, WI. Mark also presented the draft minutes of the Town of Newton Plan Commission held on February 4, 2019. Mark Knorr made a motion that the Newton Town Board approve Ordinance No. 2132019. Chairman Roger Busse seconded the motion which carried. The clerk will send a draft copy of these minutes, a draft copy of the Plan Commission minutes as well as Ordinance No. 2132019 to Amend the Zoning and Land Division Ordinance of the Town of Newton, Manitowoc County, WI to the Manitowoc County Clerk and request that the same be presented to the Manitowoc County Board.

At the January 8, 2019 Town Board Meeting there were four actions which were not properly put into motions or seconded by the Town Board. As a result, said motions were brought to this meeting, namely:

1. Town of Centerville Recycling Contract. Chairman Roger Busse made motion to accept and submit said contract to the Town of Centerville. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Mark Knorr.

2. Manitowoc County Emergency Dispatch Contract. Chairman Busse made a motion to accept this contract. Supervisor Denise Thomas seconded the motion which carried.

3. Appointments to the Plan Commission – Lee Glaeser and Charlie Bauer were appointed for a two-year term. Said appointment was put into a motion by Chairman Busse and seconded by Supervisor Knorr. Motion passed.

4. Appointments to the Board of Appeals – DuWayne Hackmann and Jerald Weyer were appointed for a two-year term. Said appointment was put into a motion by Chairman Busse and seconded by Supervisor Thomas. Motion carried.

An enforcement conference summary letter was sent to Chairman Busse from Kody C. Hansen, Environmental Enforcement Specialist the DNR in reference to the culvert matter on Newton Road. Mr. Hansen requested that the town respond to three different statements: 1. The actions the Town will take to prevent future environmental releases from roadway projects; 2. Any clarifications or disagreements the Town has regarding this summary letter; and 3. Any additional information the Town would like considered in the DNR’s enforcement decision.

In answer to number one Chairman Busse and Road Supervisor Dave Mueller noted that on the permit there is noted “best practices” which has guidelines about installing silt fencing, etc. and it is an instructional manual which will be referenced.

As to number two – when the Town is going to put in a culvert we will check with the DNR to make sure it is installed properly. If there is a problem the Town would contact the DNR immediately.

Number three – the Board supported the fact that when the mishap occurred they did work with the DNR and cooperated fully.

The clerk was asked to prepare a letter to the DNR responding to the request from the DNR.

The Open Book dates for the Town of Newton will be on Tuesday, May 7, 2019 from 4:30 pm – 6:30 pm. The Board of Review will be held on Tuesday, May 21, 2019 from 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm.

The clerk was asked by a resident of the Town if meeting notices could be put on the web site called Next Door Newton. The Board felt that with the posting in three places as well as on the web site for the Town of Newton it was not necessary to post on the Next Door Newton site.

Supervisor Mark Knorr made a motion to pay the statements on the check report which was submitted to the Board previously. Supervisor Denise Thomas seconded the motion which carried.

The next Town Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 27, 2019 at 6:00 pm.

There being no further business to come before the meeting we adjourned by motion made by Supervisor Knorr and seconded by Supervisor Thomas. Motion carried.

Barbara Pankratz, Town Clerk

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