TOWN OF NEWTON BOARD MEETING

January 13, 2021

The Town Board meeting of the Town of Newton was held on Wednesday, January 13, 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; Paulette Vogt, Treasurer; Barbara Pankratz, Clerk; Dave Mueller, Road Superintendent/Law Enforcement Officer, Larry Stock, Tom Klabunde, Ed Downing, and Charlie Bauer. Mark Knorr was excused.

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 Roger Busse and passed.

The minutes of December, 2020 were approved by motion made by Denise Thomas and seconded by Roger Busse. Motion carried.

The treasurer’s report was submitted to the Board previous to the meeting. Denise Thomas questioned the fact that there was a statement from Fricke Printing for printing and folding tax bills when the Town has a printer as well as a folding machine. Road Supervisor Dave Mueller indicated he had tried to print time cards but he could not get the cards to line up for printing on the back side. As a result cards were ordered and Dave now has enough for a couple of years. Denise Thomas indicated she would try to do it in the future.

Paulette Vogt questioned the charge for installing the handicapped door which should be inserted in last years expenses as well as the phone charge for the chairman. Both of these items will be addressed by the clerk and will be inserted in the December, 2020 charges instead of in January, 2021. As a result the Treasurer’s report for December, 2020 will be adjusted and a new check detail will be generated by the clerk for December, 2020. Paulette questioned whether or not the Town of Newton needed the detailed annual report generated by our auditor, Paul Corson. She indicated that he did the auditing for Centerville and Eaton and the report generated was sufficient and not as detailed and not as expensive. There was a discussion about the report. The chairman will contact the auditor to see if the report can be condensed and not as detailed.

The next item on the agenda was public in-put. Tom Klabunde spoke to the Board about putting engine braking signage at the intersections of Highway 42 and Union Road, Highway 42 and Highway C and Union Road and Highway C. He was told that 42 and C was a County road but Mr. Klabunde told the Board that he had spoken to Bob Ziegelbauer, County Executive who told Mr. Klabunde that the Town had to “get the ball rolling” on this matter. Larry Stock mentioned that there was a lot of engine braking by farmers in the summer when hauling and it is quite loud. Chairman Busse said he would have our Road Supervisor Dave Mueller look into the matter and report back at next month’s meeting.

Ed Downing inquired about whether or not the annual meeting for the Town was going to be held in April. Chairman Busse and Supervisor Thomas said that it probably would be better if it was held in the Fire Department area which would allow for social distancing.

Road Supervisor Dave Mueller extended an invitation to the Board to attend the annual Fire Department meeting which will be held the second Thursday in February at 8 pm.

Dave indicated he completed a culvert report which he gave to the Board. He highlighted a few that he thought were the worse. Some were really bad but since they didn’t carry a lot of water they were not high on the priority list. He asked that they be reviewed since it had been discussed about getting some of the roads done. Denise asked about the culvert on C which should be done when the County works on blacktopping in Spring which would be great if the weather cooperated. Dave felt if the culverts were done under the roads that have to be done then they would have a year to settle. Dave was told that the culvert prices, either steel or plastic, would be going up in the near future as much as thirty per cent. Chairman Busse asked if the County was going to do the work and Dave indicated that if the County did not do it then the Town would have to pay $150. for a permit for working in the right-of-way. Chairman Busse asked Dave to contact the County and give us an estimate. Dave indicated that if there were any questions about any of the street work that he could get the information or take pictures – whatever was needed.

Dave got some tree cutting done last week on Union Road. Jeff Check was doing some tree cutting by Haluska’s property and there were four trees left there but they were in the right-of-way and he was not comfortable cutting them. Dave informed him that he would take them down and Jeff could clean the rest up which he was ok with that. Dave gave the chairman and supervisor a sheet on Orchard Lane with a price estimate from J & J Trucking for the digging of the road ditch on the Augustine property so the road can drain properly. Dave felt that the tree removal estimate was pretty close and he was hoping that he could accomplish the tree removal during the winter. Dave thought they could work around the stumps even though J & J thought they would have to grind the stumps out at $125./hour. Supervisor Thomas questioned whether the town would need a DNR permit for this work and Dave will check with the DNR about this matter. He also indicated he had finished up the ditching and started working on some tree cutting last week. The 30” culvert located six tenths of a mile from Pine River Dairy is in real bad shape. He had done some ditching there last spring. He talked to the DNR about it and got approval to replace it with a 36” pipe which will cover bridge aid which will only cost us a quarter of the cost since half of that will be the Town of Liberty’s expense. Rick Krueger would do the truck and Dave would do the digging. He also sent the DNR an application for one at Rangeline Road on Carstens Lake Road to the North which has an eighteen-inch pipe which plugs at times and he would like to make it a twenty-four-inch pipe. He is still waiting for approval. This is not covered by Bridge Aid but the cost would be half and half (Newton and Liberty). Dave and Rick would also handle this job.

He indicated the air compressor in the shop is in rough shape as it is about thirty years old. He did try to clean it up but he inquired if the town wanted him to just continue trying to use it. Chairman Busse indicated he should get some prices for a replacement and bring it before the Board next month.

Law Enforcement Officer Dave Mueller stated he had only one complaint this month about someone plowing snow across the road. The person will be visited during the next snowfall and he will be given a copy of the Statute indicating it is against the law to do so.

The Plan Commission has approved the zone change request from T & L Investment Group, 2717 South 44th Street, Manitowoc, WI to rezone three parcels totaling 2.23 acres from B-1 Business District, to A-2 General Agriculture District, parcel numbers 014-023-011-002.00, 014-023-011-002-01 and 014-023-012-003.00 to increase the value and more accurately represent the available use of these properties. Said approval was presented to the Newton Town Board who approved the same by motion made by Chairman Roger Busse and seconded by Supervisor Denise Thomas. Said motion passed.

Motion was made by Supervisor Thomas and seconded by Chairman Busse to approve the Joint Power Agreement between Manitowoc County Joint Dispatch Center and the Town of Newton. Motion carried.

The Recycling Contract between the Town of Newton and the Town of Centerville was presented to the Board by the Clerk. The same was executed by officers of the Town of Newton and passed by motion made by Roger Busse and seconded by Denise Thomas. The copies will be given to the Treasurer Paulette Vogt to present to the Town of Centerville. After it is executed by Centerville officials one of the copies will be returned to the Town of Newton.

Chairman Busse contacted Lee Holschbach, Secretary of the Board of Appeals and Deb Reis, Ed Downing and Ray Ross, members of the Plan Commission who agreed to an additional three-year term on their respective boards. Mark Knorr was not present but Roger submitted his name for another term on the Plan Commission as well Roger Busse made a motion to accept these appointments and Denise Thomas seconded the motion which carried.

The next item discussed was the plowing of Hecker Road and Viebahn Road. Chairman Busse received a call from an engineer with the City indicating they were not liable for plowing these roads. Dave Mueller, Road Supervisor had a legal survey showing that the City owned this property/road and as a result were liable to plow the same. The Town of Newton can plow but can turn around at the gravel pit on Hecker Road. After presenting the engineer with the map he conceded that the City of Manitowoc would be plowing both roads.

The matter of Bill Pay checks was the next item to be discussed. Since the entering of pay checks for snow plow or other workers for the town seems to take too long it was decided that the clerk would issue paper checks from now on which would expedite receipt for the workers.

Supervisor Thomas presented the Town Utility Policy which she has reviewed and after changes are made we will adopt it and take it back to the City of Manitowoc. It was decided that the Board would wait until Supervisor Mark Knorr could read it before it is adopted.

Denise Thomas made a motion to pay the bills. Roger Busse seconded the motion which passed.

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

Barbara Pankratz, Clerk