TOWN OF NEWTON BOARD MEETING

June 9, 2021

The Town Board meeting of the Town of Newton was held on Wednesday, June 9, 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: Denise Thomas, Chairman; Kevin Behnke, Supervisor #1; Mark Knorr, Supervisor #2; Paulette Vogt, Treasurer; Barbara Pankratz, Clerk; Mike Slattery, Zoning Administrator. Dave Mueller, Road Superintendent/Law Enforcement Officer, Larry Stock, Tom Klabunde, Ed Downing, Charlie Bauer. Roger Busse and Eric Letter from Northeast Asphalt.

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

The minutes of three May, 2021 meetings were approved as presented by the clerk 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. Kevin Behnke made a motion to accept the treasurer’s report as presented. Mark Knorr seconded the motion which carried. Paulette Vogt, Treasurer indicated that the software firm she has her dog license and tax program with (Transcend) indicated to her that they are going on line for the next tax season but that there would be no extra cost to the Town. She also indicated there was to be a webinar tomorrow, June 10th for the ARPA – American Rescue Plan Act – Local Fiscal Recovery Funds from the State of Wisconsin. The clerk will listen to the webinar and file the necessary papers which are due Friday, June 18, 2021.

Mike Slattery, Zoning Administrator had submitted his report to the Board and there were no questions about the same.

The next item on the agenda was public in-put. Larry Stock mentioned about the jake braking which was addressed at the May meeting and stated that it seems to be a lot quieter than it had been. Chairman Thomas indicated that the Board had done some work on it.

There being no further public input said agenda item was closed.

Road Supervisor, Dave Mueller stated about gravel being laid down, spraying of weeds, mowing (half done), fire house roof was leaking so he caulked it; when ditching he noticed nine culverts were full or half full so Rightway Applications (Brandon and Nick) brought two trucks and cleaned the culverts out at no charge to the town so that the water could get through; County started on guard rail on Gass Lake Road. Chairman Thomas asked Dave to address grass that is growing at intersections before he does ditch cutting because it is very hard to see. She requested him to cut on County C to the Agricultural Center ditch to ditch and go back a week later and cut ditch to ditch.

Dave Mueller, Law Enforcement Officer gave a report on incidents he had – one being about a tree planted close to the lot line. Supervisor Behnke told Dave that if a tree is planted on a lot line and the other land owner cuts branches - if the tree dies the person who cut the neighbor’s tree would be liable. He noted that signs are posted about the railroads no longer in use. Dave did contact the railroad company about whether or not the tracks could be blacktopped but he has not heard from them.

Supervisor Behnke stated that there will be a free electronics collection at the Recycling Center on July 10, 2021 and there will be signage displayed for this. He suggested an electronic collection twice a year. That will be decided later.

Kevin Behnke made a motion to approve the purchase of an awning at the Recycling Center for the workers. Denise Thomas seconded the motion which carried.

Kevin indicated that on the 29th of May the attendants at the Recycling Center started keeping track of the large items being dropped off and how much was generated. By this tracking the town will be able to compare our charges for this dumping with the cost of getting rid of it.

Chairman Thomas stated that Northeast Asphalt was awarded Sonnenburg Lane for the amount of $20,840. Alfson Excavating was awarded the culvert jobs of Northeim Road (2 culverts) and Center Road for the amount of $22,135. Motion was made by Mark Knorr for this work. Said motion was seconded by Kevin Behnke. Motion carried.

A discussion between the Board and treasurer, Paulette Vogt about our banking situation ensued. We are pursuing going to ACH Manager. Chairman Thomas made a motion to have Paulette talk to Bank First National asking them to move the Town savings account to an interest-bearing account. Supervisor Behnke seconded the motion which carried. Kevin indicated it could be a Board decision to have direct deposit for all employees with this system as there is no company that issues paper checks for payroll.

The Retirement Plan that was discussed will be implemented by Treasurer, Paulette Vogt and Barbara Pankratz, Clerk who has to set it up in QuickBooks Payroll.

Chairman Thomas stated that she had the original contract for South 26th Street dated in 1942 as well as a contract dated in 2012 which was not signed. She suggested revising the 2012 contract like the one the town has with Liberty and send it to Dale Marquardt and have him take it up with his Board and go from there. Supervisor Behnke suggested that would advisable because we have a good draft now.

The Emergency Plan has to be updated because of names and addresses. Kevin Behnke is current with his response classes.

The owner of property located at 4207 County Road CR, Manitowoc was sent a certified/return receipt requested letter in reference to the condition of the house and yard stating that he had 90 days to clean up the house. The Post Office was not able to deliver the letter. The building inspector will take a Board member to inspect the same. Kevin Behnke suggested that Denise check with Reed Gaedtke about how to proceed with this matter.

The next item of business was the cell phone/internet compensation for the chairman. The previous chairman had his cell phone ($65.00) paid monthly as well as his internet service. The internet service was discontinued for the previous chairman and our present chairman requested $65.00 for cell phone service and did not request payment for her internet. Said phone compensation matter was put into a motion by Kevin Behnke and seconded by Mark Knorr. Motion passed.

The clerk submitted the check report to the Board previous to the meeting. Denise Thomas made a motion to accept the report as submitted. Kevin Behnke seconded the motion which passed.

The clerk received the 2021 Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Request which is due June 18, 2021. It will be filed timely.

Kevin Behnke made a motion to adjourn. Denise Thomas seconded the motion. Motion passed. The Board went into closed session pursuant to Section 19.85 (1) (c) Wis.Stats.

Barbara Pankratz, Clerk