**TOWN OF NEWTON - MARCH 24, 2021**

  The Town Board meeting of the Town of Newton was held Wednesday, March 24, 2021 at the Newton Town Hall, 6532 Carstens Lake Road, Manitowoc, WI 54220 at 6:00 pm.

 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; Dave Mueller, Road Superintendent/Law Enforcement Officer; Sara Borneman, Chris Borneman, Larry Stock, Charlie Bauer, Tom Klabunde, Kevin Behnke, Ranger Rosewick. Barb Pankratz was excused. Denise Thomas Supervisor #1 will take minutes as requested by Chairman Busse.

All those present joined in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. Mark Knorr made a motion to approve the agenda, said motion was seconded by Roger Busse. Motion carried.

Mark Knorr made a motion to accept previous meeting minutes as printed; said motion was seconded by Denise Thomas. Motion carried. Denise Thomas made a motion to accept the treasurer’s report as printed, Mark Knorr seconded the motion; motion carried.

Public in-put was next on the agenda. Tom Klabunde questioned about the loud engine braking that was discussed at the January meeting and if anything could be done. Chairman Busse stated that he took a letter over to Tom. Tom thought a few signs would help. Discussion of the problem was continued with no action taken. Kevin Behnke informed everyone about the Canadian Railroad tracks that are not used at this time. Kevin Behnke is working on getting the tracks abandoned. The County Executive Bob Ziegelbauer has the authority to work with the railroad. Kevin Behnke will discuss this with him and the proper channels and let us know an update as it becomes available. Larry Stock asked if anything is getting done with Dave Mueller's paychecks or if this is a personal matter, but something has to happen. Chairman Busse said we are aware of the situation and does not know if any fines will be given.

Dave Mueller, Road Supervisor was next on the agenda. Dave informed the board that he replaced the lock cylinders in the doors of the firehouse as well as the first responder doors. Next he had a question on his culvert report that he had given to us in January and wondered how many bids he could get. He does have 28 culverts on his report that he feels should be replaced. Supervisor Knorr said that Dave should get the bids on Rangeline Road culverts, some of those will be shared with Liberty, the ones down by the intersection of County Road C and Rangeline, and the one on Carstens Lake Road to start. Some of the culverts would fall under Bridge Aid if the right size. Blacktopping was his next question and he would like to see Center Road black topped from Carstens Lake Road to the T intersection if possible. He also stated that if we are going to do any blacktopping in the future and if there is a culvert that needs replacing if we could do the replacement the year before. Bridge report was next and a guard rail on Gass Lake Road over Pine Creek needs to be replaced. He will try and set up a meeting with the company on crack filling.

Dave Mueller, Law Enforcement reported that he had a loose dog and the owner contacted Dave, he informed the owner where the dog was and also told her to get a hold of Paulette and get that dog licensed. The burning citation that was issued last month was paid and another citation was issued when the flames got out of a burning barrel.

Chairman Roger Busse asked to go to his report of the discussion of the Resolution of Inclusion under Wisconsin Retirement System.  A short discussion of the resolution was held as to who is eligible, how the program works for funding, if any cost to the town.  Roger Busse made a motion to sign the Resolution of Inclusion under Wisconsin Retirement System. Mark Knorr seconded the motion.  Discussion was held on the eligible employee participation option and Paulette Vogt was asked to get clarification on each of the options.  Motion was called 3 nay votes motion was defeated.

Denise Thomas, Supervisor #1 asked for a motion to hire Robert Jost as a Recycling/Transfer Station attendant.  Roger Busse made that motion and Mark Knorr seconded said motion.  Motion passed.  A thank you will be   sent to Ray Ross for his time that he has worked at the Transfer Station.

Chairman Busse then went back to his remaining agenda items.  Next item was the culvert replacement on the corner of County Road C and Center Road.  Two bids were submitted by Signature Landscapes of $6,260.00 and Manitowoc County Highway Department of $6,666.22.  Mark Knorr made a motion that we have the County put in the culvert.  Roger Busse seconded the said motion that the County does the work on the culvert on the corner of Center Road and County Road C the north side.  Motion carried.

Orchard Lane was the next item on the agenda.  Dave Mueller was in contact with the DNR and he read a lengthy e-mail from them which stated all the things that would have to be looked at to determine if this was something that could be done.  The DNR suggested that we have an engineering firm draw up plans for this project.  After a brief discussion the board decided to table this issue with no action to be taken.

Approval of the printed updated Town of Newton Utility Policy dated February 10, 2021.  Motion was made by Denise Thomas and seconded by Mark Knorr.  Motion carried.

The Town of Newton’s Annual Meeting will be held in the Fire House.  Lunch will be a buffet and will be served to the town residents.  City Limits will be contacted for the food.  Side note: Manitowoc County Unit meeting Christmas Party hosted by the Town of Newton is booked at the City Limits on December 2, 2021.  Any desserts will be cut up and put on plates.  Mark Knorr will contact the Fire Department to let them know about the meeting.

Next on the agenda is the purchase of the air compressor. Two bids were submitted to the Board.  Dave submitted bids from Fluid-Aire Dynamics and Brabazon.  Both companies are American made units, air dryers are added on each bid per unit as requested.  A discussion was held o the two bids and the warranty on each bid.  A motion was made by Mark Knorr to accept the bid from Fluid-Aire Dynamics for the quote of $5,351.00 as stated in the bid with the better warranty.  Roger Busse seconded the said motion.  Motion carried.

Denise Thomas made a motion to pay the bills as submitted by the clerk.  Mark Knorr seconded the motion which passed.

Chairman Roger Busse made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 pm.  Said motion was seconded by Supervisor Mark Knorr and passed.

Denise Thomas, Supervisor #1 under Wisconsin Retirement System. A short discussion of the resolution was held on who is eligible, how the program works for funding, if any cost to the town. Roger Busse made a motion to sign the Resolution of Inclusion under Wisconsin Retirement System. Mark Knorr second the said motion. Discussion was held on the eligible employee participation option, and Paulette Vogt was asked to get clarification on each of the options. Motion was called 3 nay votes motion was defeated.

Denise Thomas, Supervisor *#*I ask for a motion to hire Robert Jost as a transfer attendant. Roger Busse made that motion and Mark Knorr second the said motion. Motion passed. A thank you will be sent to Ray Ross for his time that he has worked at the Transfer Station.

Chairman Busse then went back to his remaining agenda items. Next item was the culvert replacement on the comer of County Road C and Center Road. Two bids were submitted by Signature Landscapes of $6260.00 and Manitowoc County Highway Department of $6666.22. Discussion on the bids were held, in the county's bid the black topping was included. Mark Knorr made a motion that we have the county put in the culvert. Roger Busse seconded the said motion that the county does the work on the culvert on the comer of Center Road and County Road C the north side. Motion carried.

Orchard Lane was next item on the agenda. Dave Mueller was in contact with the DNR and he read an lengthy email from them, which stated all the things that would have to be looked at to determine if this was something that could be done. The DNR suggested that we have an engineering firm draw up plans for this project. After a brief discussion the board decided to table this issue with no action to be taken.

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Respectfully Submitted: Denise Thomas, Supervisor *#*I