

TOWN BOARD MEETING
TOWN OF NEWTON
MAY 9, 2018

The town board meeting for the Town of Newton was held on Wednesday, May 9, 2018 pursuant to posted notices. Said meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Chairman Roger Busse.

Present were: Roger Busse, Denise Thomas, Mark Knorr, Barbara Pankratz, Dave Mueller, Ed Downing, Charlie Bauer, Scott Konik, Doug Grotegut, Ron Ratajczak and representatives from DTE Energy a dairy based renewable Natural Gas company. Treasurer, Paulette Vogt was excused.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance recited by everyone present. The agenda has been posted by the Road Superintendent Dave Mueller as well as put on the web site by the clerk and the affidavit of said posting is on file with the clerk. Supervisor Mark Knorr made a motion to approve the submitted agenda. Supervisor Denise Thomas seconded the motion which carried.

Chairman Roger Busse made a motion to approve the previously submitted April Board Meeting minutes as well as the Annual Meeting minutes. Denise Thomas seconded the motion which carried.

Public input was opened. The representatives from DTE Energy, having already attended the Plan Commission meeting, appeared before the Town Board to explain their plans in constructing their dairy based renewable natural gas project in the Town of Newton on a piece of property located on South Union and Newton Road. Presently they have twenty-one facilities across the country. The building will measure 165 X 50 feet. They have been producing renewable natural gas for over fifteen years and anticipate dealing with at least four dairies in the area including Grotegut Farm and Maple Leaf Dairy. 80,000 lb. trucks will be operating seven days a week and it takes six to eight hours to unload a semi but six semis can be unloaded at a time. They voiced concern about weight limits being enforced since they will have one to three trucks a day coming in. They inquired about the weight restrictions being lifted. They were informed about the policy of distance on driveways that businesses are held accountable and the policy would be outlined in their conditional use permit. Ron Ratajczak expressed concern about CO₂ being a pollutant and indicated that Manitowoc County has a "F" rating for air. He also stated that the town roads are not designed for 80,000 lb. weights and it would be advisable to require a fee for wear and tear on the roads, require functioning mufflers on the trucks and no jake breaking. He also expressed concern for sulphuric dioxide gas and was told that the gas in the product would be burned off. There being no further public in-put said agenda item was closed.

Dave Mueller, Road Superintendent indicated that ditching will be started on the South side of Scheffler Road. He also stated that road salt is ordered; culverts will be installed when it dries out, plows are off the trucks, and the speed zone sign on Silver Creek Road will be posted this week. He also told the Board that the TRIP program roads have to have a rating of five or six to be eligible for the TRIP Program. He issued a burning citation and is following up on unlicensed dogs.

Chairman Busse submitted Zoning Administrator Mike Slattery's report. Mike did come to the meeting later.

Supervisor Denise Thomas stated that at this time Ray Ross and Scott Konik are the only recycling attendants and the Town will pursue getting a couple more attendants for the rotation of working on Saturdays at the Recycling Center.

Originally the old landfill is open the last Saturday of the month but because there seems a need to have it opened more the Board decided that it will be open two Saturdays (the second and fourth Saturday) during day-light saving time. The clerk was instructed to put this information on the web site.

Chairman Busse indicated that the Manitowoc Gun Club is having an event May 19 and 20th and there will be as many as five hundred kids at the Gun Club. There will be "No Parking" signs on the South side of Clover Road. Chairman Busse also stated that there have been property site complaints about property on Custer Street and English Lake. Dave Mueller was instructed to send both property owners a letter about the condition of their property.

The next item of business was discussion of road work to be done. Since only one estimate was received by Superintendent Dave Mueller, he was instructed to get further bids before our Board of Review date (May 21st) and the bids would be reviewed after the Board of Review adjourns. Notice to this effect will be posted timely.

Supervisor Mark Knorr made a motion to pass Ordinance #592018 which is an Ordinance to Amend the Zoning and Land Division Ordinance of the Town of Newton. Notice was received from the Plan Commission that they unanimously approved the amendments as submitted to them by Martenson & Eisele, Inc., Planning and Environmental Services.

Fireworks Permits and other correspondence was submitted by the Clerk. The check report which was previously sent to the Board was approved by motion made by Supervisor Mark Knorr and seconded by Supervisor Denise Thomas. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Mark Knorr, Supervisor and seconded by Denise Thomas, Supervisor to adjourn our May meeting. Motion carried.

Barbara Pankratz, Clerk

