TOWN OF NEWTON BOARD MEETING

 SEPTEMBER 9, 2020

The Town Board meeting of the Town of Newton was held on Wednesday, September 9, 2020 at the Newton Town Hall, 6532 Carstens Lake Road, Manitowoc, WI 54220 at 6:00 pm. pursuant to posted notices.

The meeting was opened at 6:00 pm by Chairman Roger Busse. Present: Roger Busse, Chairman; Denise Thomas, Supervisor #1; Mark Knorr, Supervisor #2; Paulette Vogt, Treasurer; Barbara Pankratz, Clerk; Dave Mueller, Road Superintendent/Law Enforcement Officer; Brian Kraemer, Chairman of the Town of Centerville; Mike Bruckschen, Supervisor of the Town of Centerville; Jeff and Tammy Shemchak; Kelly Christiansen; Charlie Bauer and Ed Downing.

Chairman Busse called the meeting to order and everyone 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 as posted. Said motion was seconded by Mark Knorr and passed.

The minutes for the August 9, 2020 meeting, which were submitted to the Board previously were corrected. Instead of “Dale Marquardt called Roger Busse about the proposed waterlines and indicated there will be considerable road damage with the annexation of property located on Viebahn Street and Hecker Road.” The sentence should have read that the property was located on County Road CR, Thunder Ridge, Black Hawk Court and South 26th Street. After said changes were noted the August minutes were approved by motion made by Mark Knorr and seconded by Denise Thomas. Said motion passed.

Mark Knorr made a motion to approve the Treasurer’s report which was submitted to the board members previous to the meeting. Denise Thomas seconded the motion which passed.

The first item on the agenda was the matter of Jeff and Tammy Shemchak who appeared before the Board because the City has a proposed road going through a lot they purchased at Center and Hartlaub Lake Road. The Shemchaks submitted a copy of a certified survey map showing the road location. The Shemchaks appeared before the Plan Commission in reference to the property and were told they had to submit this to the Town Board. Jeff Shemchak contacted the Park Commission and informed them that they had purchased the property and that it has been surveyed. Jeff was told that a letter from the County, City, and Town signing off on this property would have to be submitted for this property to be taken off of the certified survey map. After a discussion Mark Knorr, Supervisor made a motion that the Town of Newton sign off on the road. Denise Thomas, Supervisor seconded the motion which carried. There being nothing further said agenda item was closed.

Charlie Bauer questioned the Board about a tower on Carstens Lake Road as to when or if they are going to come into compliance with the ordinance. Roger Busse heard nothing about it. Charlie asked if anyone had contacted the “tower people” about this matter. The Plan Commission is going to address the issue.

Denise Thomas stated that the Emergency Plan Committee has to be done this year and that the information can be printed on the office copy machine and will be given to the treasurer so that they can be inserted in the tax bills.

The next item of business to be discussed was the rising costs and depletion of income at the Recycling Center. Brian Kraemer, Chairman of Centerville and Supervisor Mike Bruckschen from Centerville were invited to the meeting for this discussion since residents from the Town of Centerville use the Recycling Center. The discussion centered around the use and price of bags versus using stickers.

Denise submitted a detailed report on the income and expenses of the Recycling Center stating that the Recycling Center was in the red at the end of July of $6,049.72. Kelly Christiansen questioned if giving stickers can the Recycling Center govern the size of the bags. Our bags presently are 30 x 42 inches. So a discussion entailed the pros and cons of bags or stickers. In Denise’s report she had prices and the use of stickers or bags that other towns used. She indicated that at present the income for recyclables is way down. She felt that if we went with the stickers at .75 cents that would help. Coupons can be used for stickers instead of bags. Brian Kraemer questioned the expenses at the Recycling Center and Denise informed him that the expenses were $55,000. and the income was $41,000. Brian indicated that he thought stickers would help next years budget. He thought we should go with stickers and increase the charge for recyclables. Denise Thomas indicated that she felt stickers should be .75 cents each and in the future if the recycling income went up the cost of stickers could decrease. Signs will be posted at the Recyling Center stating that immediately all trash bags now cost .75 cents each; one coupon is valid for four bags and in the near future stickers will replace bags. This will go into effect starting Saturday, September 12, 2020 and stickers will be started in 2021. Chairman Busse put this into a motion which was seconded by Mark Knorr and passed. When the Town of Newton bags are gone we will go to a sticker program at a cost of .75 cents each and the residents will have to supply their own bags. Town of Newton bags can be used until the resident’s supply is exhausted and then they will have to purchase stickers. At present we have two pallets of bags which were ordered in December, 2019 and received in January, 2020.

Dave Mueller, Road Superintendent stated that he had received a call from the Manitowoc Parks Department asking if he would trim brush near English Lake and whether or not the town would be interested in cutting trees and brush for the Parks Department and billing them. Apparently they want to rent a boom mower. Chairman Busse stated that Dave should check with Rick Krueger to see if he would do the work. Mark Knorr told Dave Mueller that if the Parks Department has no intention of renting a boom motor we could find out how much Liberty would charge and we could charge them accordingly.

Dave indicated that he is about one-third done with the ditch cutting. He also stated he had contacted Eric Letter from Northeast Asphalt and they were going to do the joint on Newton Road and one on English Lake Road and a patch. He didn’t give Dave an exact date but it is on their schedule to get them smoothed out. Roger Busse indicated that he had received some complaints about striping on English Lake Road and questioned whether or not the Town had any input about striping. Dave indicated another firm does the striping for Northeast and he didn’t know how they decided on where to put the stripes. He did indicate that no engineering was done for this. Dave stated striping will be done toward the end of the month on Newton Road. He also asked if there would be any money available for ditching this Fall and was told no funds were available. It was suggested that he contact Dan Stock about ditching instead of contacting the County.

Dave Mueller, Law Enforcement Officer stated that lawn needed cutting at 8712 Northeim Lane. He did contact the mortgage company and they were going to have someone cut it but it has not been done. The Board stated that Dave should issue a citation if it was not done timely. Dave also mentioned that only one dog was unlicensed and he was told to give the dog owner a citation.

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

Denise Thomas indicated that the maintenance fee shown on the new printer will be removed and we will not have to pay it. Mark Knorr inquired if the copy machine was wireless and Denise said that there is a hub in the machine and someone was going to come and set it up. Dave indicated that it was done.

She also submitted the only fuel bid she received from Weber for a contract dated October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021 full tank route system like we have at a price of $2.248 per gallon for ultra-low Sulphur which includes taxes. We got 1100 gallons last time. Non-ethynol mid-grade 1100 gallons at $2.1884. Dave thought the amount of gas might go up a little since the squad is now gas instead of diesel. Denise thought that the quota was reached last month so it was decided to raise the amount to 1500 gallons instead of 1100 on the gas. Denise Thomas made a motion that we accept the fuel bid from Quality State Oil for 4500 gallons of low sulfur diesel at $2.248 per gallon and 1500 gallons of non-ethanol mid-grade for a price of $2.1884 per gallon. Motion carried.

Last month Lee Engelbrecht approached the Board about joining the Town Advocacy Council. The Board decided that we should join this council at a membership cost of $.25 cents per capita with a cap of $2,500. The cost of this membership will be put into the 2021 budget. Denise Thomas made a motion that the Town of Newton join the TAC and Roger Busse seconded the motion which carried.

The door opener for the Town Hall was the next item of discussion. The statement for the same in the amount of $4,225.00 given to us by A.C.E. was submitted for the grant. It was decided by motion made by Mark Knorr and seconded by Roger Busse that if the door submittal was approved by the 15th of September, 2020 that installation of the door would be done. Motion passed.

Roger mentioned that we received a thank you note from Glenn Grothman for the use of our Town Hall for the meeting that he had at the Hall. Roger thought we should send him a thank you for coming which will be done by the clerk.

The next item was discussion about the vegetation matter at Russ Glaeser’s house at 6457 Clover Road. Dave Mueller cut vegetation which he thought was in the right-of- way with the mower. Mr. Glaeser thought that the native vegetation was not in the right-of-way. Denise felt that he (Russ) thought it was one way and Dave thought it was the other. There was not a defined line and nothing to indicate exactly where the vegetation was located. Dave stated that the line is marked now since a certified survey was done and he would not cut beyond that line. The vegetation was growing there naturally and payment for something that was growing naturally and not planted specifically does not warrant payment for cutting it. Motion was made by Denise Thomas that the ditch cutting was done non-maliciously. There was no defined number as to what the footage was and thirty-three feet is the defined right-of-way and it will not be cut from now on. No dollar amount will be awarded to the resident of that property. Roger Busse seconded the motion which passed. The clerk will send Mr. Glaeser a letter stating the Board’s decision.

There was a discussion about people being able to deposit ballots in the drop box. Roger said other towns are doing it and it was decided that it could be done if anyone wanted to use it. Roger Busse made a motion that the drop box could be used. Mark Knorr seconded the motion which carried.

The clerk was authorized to attend an informational meeting with personnel from INET, our web site provider, for the purpose of learning more about how to use our web site.

Roger met with the Town of Manitowoc in reference to water lines from the City of Manitowoc into our areas which would entail road damage. Denise indicated there is a Utility Policy consisting of eighty pages that the County has that the City did not know about. It references the County but also has Towns in it. It defines what has to be done if there is damage to roads. Denise stated it should be on the agenda next month that we accept the County Utility Policy.

Roger mentioned about junked cars at Custer Street and English Road as well as on Center Road and Newton Road. Mark Knorr stated that the town can deal with junk but that the County has to deal with junked vehicles but the people have to be told that the County will be notified about the junked cars.

Roger suggested that the laminator which we acquired with the election grant be left at the town hall in case anyone else wanted to use it including the Fire Department. After a short discussion it was decided that the laminator would stay at the clerk’s office at her home since she is the one making the signs upon request from the Board.

With the Covid 19 problem our election stations have to be increased for the November election. Since we need the election area six feet apart the ones we have in the hall are not able to facilitate voters. As a result last month Larry Stock was asked to build a sample booth for voting. He submitted a booth at this meeting which the Board approved of and he was told to build four more.

The clerk submitted a Resolution which was required to accompany the Recycling Grant Application that she will submit by October 1, 2020. Said resolution authorizes the clerk to act on behalf of the Town of Newton to submit for this financial assistance from the DNR in the form of a Recycling Grant. Mark Knorr made a motion to approve this resolution. Denise Thomas seconded the motion which carried.

Denise Thomas made a motion to approve payment of the checks that were submitted to the Board previous to the meeting. Mark Knorr seconded the motion which passed.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, the meeting was adjourned by motion made by Denise Thomas and seconded by Roger Busse.

 Barbara Pankratz, Clerk