

## TOWN OF NEWTON ANNUAL MEETING (ROUGH DRAFT)

April 18, 2023

The Town of Newton Annual Meeting was opened by Chairman Denise Thomas at 7:00 pm following dinner that was served at 6:00 pm at the Newton Town Hall. The Town Board, Clerk and Treasurer were present.

Everyone joined in the Pledge of Allegiance. Roger Busse made a motion to approve the agenda as printed, seconded by Bob Marheine. Motion carried.

The 2022 minutes were read by the clerk. A motion was made to approve those minutes by Will Schmitz and seconded by Ed Downing. Motion carried.

Bob Ziegelbauer, County Executive indicated that the County had a very low debt and held the line on taxes. He believes the biggest challenge we are facing is inflation. He mentioned how we now have a 4<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court. Next, he talked about the County Courthouse renovation and had a FAQ handout available.

Ryan Phipps gave his stance on the Courthouse renovation. He is on the County Board and the Courthouse renovation committee as well. He shared his concerns with inflation, operational costs, and the economy.

Kevin Behnke elaborated on what the committee is doing, and mentioned they are far from anything happening with this renovation and that final vote.

Denise Thomas then gave her chairman's report, thanked all Town employees for everything they do to make this town run as smoothly as it does. The Town of Newton is looking for a new cleaning person and if you or someone you know is interested to reach out to her. She then stated we have a total of \$190,000 worth of culverts that will be replaced with our ARPA funds along with our 50/50 payback from the County. A HUGE thank you to Dave for the extra help with this. Another thank you was given to the men and women on the Fire Department and First Responders for everything they do for this town.

The town was saddened by the loss of Duwayne Hackmann who served on the Board of Appeals for many years.

Kevin Behnke started his report by giving credit to Bob Ziegelbauer for how he leveraged the County's ARPA money to give back to the municipalities, no other county does that. He then moved on to the Recycling Center, we have a new provider in Backroads Recycling. Lastly, he thanked our attendants for working with the brutal conditions to be there for the town.

Kelly Christiansen gave his report explaining broadband, our need for a new Driveway permit so we can provide our emergency services safely. He then touched on our future building expansion and the committee the Fire Department set up to receive preliminary pricing on those needs. Garrett Braun spoke on behalf of the committee to update everyone on what they have been doing.

Treasurer, Paulette Vogt was excused.

The clerk briefly mentioned the best way to reach her is via text or email.

Dave Mueller began by thanking Newton Meats, Pine River Dairy, and CR Stop for their donation and to City Limits for providing food for the dinner. He then indicated to please have your dogs tagged. Next, he

thanked his snowplow drivers for all the work they do. Please give him a call if you have any road concerns or tips.

Mark Knier stated this was the 35<sup>th</sup> year of First Responders and they are still looking for new members. They will also look into having a blood drive held at the Town Hall.

Tom Hochkammer requests residents keep their driveways clear. They went on 64 calls last year.

Public input was opened, Vicki Waack reminded everyone there is a 5-gallon bucket for can tabs at the Recycling Center. She also commended the town employees and residents for making this such a great place to live.

A motion was made by Tom Hochkammer to give the town authority to borrow money if needed, seconded by Garrett Braun. Motion carried.

Charlie Bauer made a motion to have Bank First National as the official bank for the Town of Newton. Said motion was seconded by Bob Marheine. Motion passed.

Barb Pankratz was recognized for her 41 years of service as the Town Clerk.

Mark Knorr made a motion to adjourn the Annual Meeting until Tuesday, April 16, 2024, said motion was seconded by Will Schmitz. Motion carried.

Alyssa Grotegut, Clerk