

PUBLIC HEARING/PROPOSED BUDGET MEETING/REGULAR MEETING

NOVEMBER 8, 2023

Chairperson Denise Thomas called the Public Hearing on the Proposed 2024 Budget meeting to order on November 8, 2023. Roll was called and members present: Denise Thomas, Chairperson; Kevin Behnke, Supervisor; Kelly Christiansen, Supervisor; Paulette Vogt, Treasurer; Alyssa Grotegut, Clerk; Dave Mueller Road Supervisor/Law Enforcement Officer. Members excused: Mike Slattery, Zoning Administrator.

Chairperson Thomas and Supervisor Behnke explained certain points of the Budget that have changed. Such as the General Property Taxes have increased by \$2308.00. Shared Revenue also increased by \$65627.35. General Transportation Aids have stayed the same. They also discussed how the Newton Fire Company budget has increased to \$92,000.00 due to state mandates on replacing gear and equipment. Lastly, the committed funds will have \$40,000.00 budgeted.

Chairperson Thomas asked if the public had any questions, Larry Stock just stated how the Fire Company's budget will remain high in the coming years, he then questioned the Board about future road projects. Lastly, Larry suggested to look into the Wisconsin Retirement System for current and possibly future employees and the Board agreed to look more into that. Dan Habermann thanked the Board for looking at surrounding townships on their pay scales and using that information for the Budget. Roger Busse just questioned the Board on the amount allotted for auditing and legal fees and also asked about the Rangeline Road project as well.

With no further questions public input was closed. A motion was made by Supervisor Behnke to close the public hearing, seconded by Supervisor Christiansen. All in favor, motion carried.

PROPOSED BUDGET MEETING

Chairperson Thomas called the Proposed Budget meeting to order, pursuant to Sec. 60.12(1)(b) of the Wisconsin Statutes.

The notice of said meeting has been published in the Valdars Journal and in the three official posting places in the Town of Newton along with the Town of Newton. An affidavit indicating that such postings took place is on file with the clerk.

Chairperson Thomas asked if the public had any questions, with no questions public input was closed.

Charlie Bauer made a motion to adopt the Town of Newton 2023 Budget, Ed Downing seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

A motion to adjourn the Proposed Budget meeting was made by Supervisor Christiansen, seconded by Kevin Behnke. All in favor, motion carried.

ADOPT THE LEVY MEETING

Chairperson Thomas called the meeting to order at 5:21 p.m. Supervisor Behnke made a motion to adopt the 2024 Budget and 2024 Levy. Supervisor Christiansen seconded said motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Chairperson Thomas made a motion to adjourn the Adopt the Levy Meeting, seconded by Supervisor Christiansen, all in favor, motion carried.

## TOWN OF NEWTON BOARD MEETING

Immediately after the Proposed Budget meeting the regular Town Board meeting was opened by Chairperson Thomas. Everyone joined in the reciting of The Pledge of Allegiance.

### **VERIFICATION OF POSTING – APPROVAL OF AGENDA & MINUTES**

An affidavit is on file showing the agenda was posted in the proper posting places. Supervisor Behnke moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Supervisor Christiansen, all approved, motion carried. Supervisor Behnke made a motion to approve the amended time change in the September 7 meeting minutes, Supervisor Christiansen seconded said motion. Next, Chairperson Thomas presented the minutes from October 11 meeting, Supervisor Behnke made a motion to approve the presented minutes, Supervisor Christiansen seconded. All approved, motion carried.

### **TREASURER’S REPORT**

The treasurer’s report was submitted to the Board prior to the meeting. Treasurer Vogt stated she needs updated numbers for the Committed Fund and ARPA money. Supervisor Behnke made a motion to approve the treasurer’s report, seconded by Supervisor Christiansen. All approved, motion carried.

### **PUBLIC INPUT**

Dave Mueller questioned the Board on if agenda topic points are too vague. With no further public input, public input was closed.

### **REPORTS**

*Road Supervisor* – Dave Mueller gave his report stating the Fire Department shop door wouldn’t open and had that bad spring replaced. Also made the Board aware that the Fire Departments holding tank leaks and has multiple cracks. Dave has been working on ditch cutting and tree trimming. Lastly, he presented The Board with bids for Radial Tires for the Grader from Pomp’s Tires and Pat’s Tires, the Board didn’t make any decisions on this yet.

*Law Enforcement* – Dave Mueller stated there was an elk loose but was later returned.

*Zoning Administrator* – Mike Slattery submitted his report prior to the meeting, there were no questions.

*Supervisor 1* – Supervisor Behnke stated that we will have a free electronic collection November 18. The guidelines for this event our posted on our sign outside the Town Hall, along with on the website. Next, he gave an update on what the county has planned for the Courthouse repair for the next eighteen months. Chairperson Thomas then brought up burning barrel covers and increasing the price has our cost has increased. This will be added to next months agenda.

*Supervisor 2* – Supervisor Christiansen started his report with how he met with the Fire Department committee for the Future Building plans to let them know that the Board isn’t going to move forward with that plan right now. The committee stated they will continue to make plans and look into funding options for the future.

*Joe Denor* – Joe Denor discussed his reassessment numbers from this past year and presented our new five-year contract with Fair Market Assessment. Chairperson Thomas made a motion to accept the five-year contract from Fair Market Assessment, seconded by Supervisor Behnke. All approved, motion carried.

*Chairperson* - Chairperson Thomas just questioned Dave's list of obstructed driveways on what needed to be done for those driveways. Next, discussed truck bids for a new pickup truck. The Board received bids from Ewald Auto Group, Van Horn, Bergstrom Automotive and Broadway automotive. After discussing, Supervisor Behnke made a motion to accept Ewald Automotive Group's bid for 2024 Ford F250 for \$46,177, seconded by Supervisor Christiansen. All approved, motion carried. Chairperson Thomas stated that Jerry Ney is stepping in for Plan Commission and we still need one more appointment as the current appointee will not renew their term come 2024. Lastly, a town resident was concerned about their existing driveway needing to be redone due to the new permit, but the Board decided these driveways will be grandfathered in.

*Clerk* – There were no correspondence. Chairperson Thomas made a motion to approve the paying of the bills, seconded by Supervisor Christiansen. All approved, motion carried.

**NEXT MEETING DATE**

Monthly Meeting – Wednesday, December 13, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.

There being no further discussion, Supervisor Behnke made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Supervisor Christiansen and the motion was adopted by acclamation. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alyssa Grotegut, Clerk