

**Town of Knox
Regular Meeting
May 12, 2015**

PRESENT: Supervisor Hammond
Councilwoman Pokorny
Councilman Viscio
Councilman Decker
Councilman Barber

ALSO: Town Attorney Dorfman
Town Clerk Murphy
Highway Superintendent Salisbury

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Judy Petrosillo, Manager of the Berne Library reported to the board on the 2014 Annual Report. Currently, there are 1,242 total library card holders, 204 are Knox residents. There were 13,652 library visitors in 2014. The library has 14,148 total items in collection, 934 items were added in 2014. Through the Upper Hudson Library System there is access to 22,344 e-books and 7,542 e-audios and 645 e-videos. The operating budget for 2014 was \$40,759; the operating disbursements were \$39,087. Of the operating fund \$23,319 covers the five part-time staff salaries. There were 197 total programs offered by the library in 2014 with 2,859 program attendees. Story time, adult book clubs, family movie night and the summer reading program are still offered among others. The library will be applying for another grant to replace windows and bricks. These grants are matching grants which means half of the funds will need to come from the Friends of the Library group or the Town of Berne. Surveys were sent out to library patrons and the feedback was very positive. The number one suggestion for improvement was to be open more hours, which would require more funding.

Donna Gwin reported that the Storywalk was being installed now and would be finished this week. 33 posts have been installed with laminated pages from the first book, titled "In a Nut Shell," by Joseph Anthony. The story will be changed 4 times a year.

Councilman Viscio suggested that the library consider putting together larger social events to benefit the library, similar to what other towns have done.

Claire Ansbro-Ingalls and Dawn Gibson, representatives of "Kenneth's Army," spoke to the Board about the group's upcoming events in the community. June 6th will be Kenneth's Ride, a motorcycle ride with all proceeds benefiting a scholarship fund for a BKW student furthering their education in the field of Social Services. There will be some upcoming press conferences for this event as well. The event will be held at Thatcher Park which has a carry in/carry out policy and asked if the Town of Knox could help with the garbage from this event.

Supervisor Hammond responded that the town trucks cannot be used for the event for insurance purposes however, something can be worked out at the transfer station to accept garbage from

the event. He also mentioned that he has a meeting set up with Judith to facilitate the location for Kenneth's memorial in the Knox Town Park.

Supervisor Hammond opened the floor for public comment:

John Rod from Craven Road spoke to the Board about concerns with his neighbor who has recently purchased the property next door and has since brought in a tractor trailer parked on the property as well as 8 cars and 3 tractors, several washers and dryers and piles of snowmobiles. His concern is that he now lives next to a "junk yard" which will negatively affect his property value as well as the other neighbors on the road. He has tried to talk with the neighbor about the situation and has had no success. Asking the Board to enforce the zoning laws and have the place cleaned up.

Town Attorney Dorfman explained that this is the first time they are hearing about this and it will be looked into and followed up on.

Highway Superintendent Salisbury spoke with the Board about the current CHIPS funding for the Town. (*The Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) provides State funds to municipalities to support the construction and repair of highways, bridges, highway railroad crossings, and other facilities that are not on the State highway system.*) After changing the system for calculating road length within the Town of Knox some of the information received on the current report is incorrect, with some town roads that have been maintained for over 10 years, now being classified as private roads. Salisbury will need to update this information with NYSDOT. Salisbury also suggested that the Board pass a resolution stating that the roads in question have been maintained by the Town for 30+ years.

Town Attorney Dorfman stated that he will research the Town Laws surrounding this kind of change and potential resolution and present it to the Board for discussion at the June meeting.

Highway Superintendent Salisbury presented the 284 Agreement to the board members. He discussed a new paving process being used in other towns called fiber matt chip seal. The single seal isn't lasting a year now on some of the roads with higher traffic so he would like to try this and see if it solves the problem. Old Stage Road from 156 to the top of the hill will be the first place to try the fiber matt. Street Road needs a little more prep work before it is ready to be paved, which should be complete in the next couple of weeks.

AGREEMENT FOR THE EXPENDITURE OF HIGHWAY MONEYS

AGREEMENT between the Town Superintendent of the Town of Knox, Albany County, New York, and the undersigned members of the Town board. Pursuant to the provisions of section 284 of the highway law, we agree that moneys levied and collected in the Town for the repair and improvement of highways, and received from the State for State Aid for the repair and improvement of highways, shall be expended as follows:

1. GENERAL REPAIRS. The sum of \$60,000 shall be set aside to be expended for primary work and general repairs upon 36.45 miles of town highways, including sluices, culverts and bridges having a span of less than five feet and board walks or the renewals thereof.

2. PERMANENT IMPROVEMENTS. The following sums shall be set aside to be expended for the permanent improvement of Town highways:

The following roads will have base work done for 201

Street (upper)

Wilty

Total amount of work will not exceed \$20,000

The following roads will be Moto Paved 1” deep with a fiber matt chip seal.

Old Stage Road from 156 to top of hill approximately 1 mile.

Total amount not to exceed \$70,000

The following roads will be Moto Paved 2” deep with a single seal.

Street Road from Knox Cave to just past Town Park.

Not to exceed: \$90,000

Total: \$180,000

RESOLUTION #49-2015 – ACCEPT 284 AGREEMENT FROM HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT SALISBURY FOR ROAD REPAIR AND IMPROVEMENTS

On motion of Councilman Viscio, seconded by Councilman Decker, the following resolution was ADOPTED AYES 5 NAYS 0

RESOLVED to accept the 284 Agreement from the Highway Superintendent.

Highway Superintendent Salisbury presented the Board with information about the purchase of a new front end loader for the Highway Garage. The current loader was purchased in 2000 and CAT is willing to give 50% back on a trade at \$40,000 towards the new machine on State Contract. The new model uses 35% less fuel with new injection system. The 930M model is on contract for \$143,845 total (minus a \$40,000 trade). This model will be coming out of contract in October 2015 and expected delivery would be January 2016.

Councilman Decker asked if there was any other needed equipment.

Salisbury stated that this was the next thing to be replaced. The truck was replaced last year and the backhoe will be kept for another 5 years.

Supervisor Hammond added that it is a good time to look into replacing the loader while the trade-in value is so high. The 2016 budget could cover this so there would be no borrowing against it. A letter of intent will be written to hold the price and sale of the loader until delivery in January 2016.

RESOLUTION #50-2015 - AUTHORIZE PURCHASE OF 2015 CATERPILLAR 930M FRONT END LOADER FOR \$143,845 SUBJECT TO PERMISSIVE REFERENDUM

On motion of Councilman Decker, seconded by Councilwoman Pokorny, the following resolution was ADOPTED AYES 5 NAYS 0

RESOLVED to purchase 2015 Caterpillar 930m front-end loader for \$143,845 subject to permissive referendum.

Supervisor Hammond reviewed a prior discussion from September 2014 with regard to a speed reduction on Seabury Road.

Councilman Viscio stated that he has had continued complaints of large trucks driving at speeds that are dangerous to local traffic. The complaints have been forwarded to the Albany County Sheriffs.

The board discussed the possibility of creating a reasonable weight limit for the road that would still allow for local delivery and farm equipment, however could prevent the current large construction truck traffic.

Town Attorney Dorfman responded that a weight limit change would have to be done through a local ordinance and therefore a public hearing. He will work on a resolution for this as well as the public hearing information for the next month's meeting.

Councilwoman Pokorny announced that all rough material and research has been sent to Nan Stolzenburg with maps and photos from the Scenic Resource Committee. Nathan Giordano, Chairman of the Conservation Advisory Council, has met with Ingrid Haeckel from the NYDEC. Ingrid will put together environmental survey along with a habitat assessment noting potential areas that should be protected from development.

Councilman Barber stated that he has information about a website for the baseball fence cap that may have a cheaper price. Supervisor Hammond stated that he would compare prices and make purchase.

Supervisor Hammond presented the 2015 Equalization Rate Status set for Albany County by the NYS Office of Real Property Tax Services. The Town of Knox has remained at 62% with a 0.00% change for 2015.

Dan Sherman, Knox Building Inspector, spoke with the Board about the property on Craven Road discussed earlier in the meeting. He and the acting Deputy Inspector will be going over to visit the property and will confer with John Dorfman about legal actions. He will also confer with John Dorfman about recent noise violation issues in reference to new complaints brought to the Code Enforcement Department.

Councilwoman Pokorny circulated a survey about Senior Programs in Knox put together by Senior Service Coordinator Charlotte Fuss. Councilman Viscio stated that he recently met with

Charlotte who is very active in senior services, working hard to bring more programs to Knox as well as working with individuals in dire need in town and working on solutions for each of them.

Councilman Barber reported that the Youth Council will have a float in the Memorial Day Parade with the Town Band and will host activities in the town park after the parade.

RESOLUTION # 51-2015 - APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of Councilman Barber, seconded by Councilwoman Pokorny, the following resolution was ADOPTED AYES 5 NAYS 0

RESOLVED that the minutes of the April 7 2015 meeting be approved.

Town Clerk Murphy submitted the final trailer court permit for review.

RESOLUTION #52-2015-TOWN BOARD TO ACCEPT THE TRAILER COURT APPLICATION FOR GREENACRES TRAILER PARK

On motion of Councilwoman Pokorny, seconded by Councilman Viscio, the following resolution was ADOPTED AYES 5 NAYS 0

RESOLVED to accept the Trailer Court Application for 2015 for Green Acres Trailer Park.

Supervisor Hammond asked the Attorney Dorfman research the possibility of an area wide speed limit for the whole town.

The Board discussed the recent repairs to both flagpoles at the Town Hall as well as the Highway Garage due to the harsh winter weather.

RESOLUTION # 53-2015 - APPROVAL OF MONTHLY REPORTS

On motion of Councilman Decker, seconded by Councilman Barber, the following resolution was ADOPTED AYES 5 NAYS 0

RESOLVED that the Reports of the Town Clerk and the Town Supervisor for the Month of April 2015 be approved.

RESOLUTION #54-2015 - PAYMENT OF BILLS

On motion of Councilman Viscio, seconded by Councilwoman Pokorny, the following resolution was ADOPTED AYES 5 NAYS 0

RESOLVED that the Bills be paid on General Abstract #05 of the General Fund, covering claims #95-121 in the amount of \$13,864.93 and of the Highway Fund, covering claims #122-137 in the amount of \$12,010.98 for the year 2015.

RESOLUTION #55-2015-ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 9:20PM

On motion of Councilman Decker, seconded by Councilman Viscio, the following resolution was ADOPTED AYES 5 NAYS 0

RESOLVED to enter into executive session.

Return to general session at 9:31PM.

RESOLUTION #56-2015–RETURN INTO GENERAL SESSION AT 9:31PM

On motion of Councilman Viscio, seconded by Councilman Barber, the following resolution was ADOPTED AYES 5 NAYS 0

RESOLVED to return to general session.

Travis Stevens announced that the proposed Albany County Law for protection of drinking water, entitled “Drinking Water Protection Law,” was unanimously passed and copies of the new Local Law will be sent to the Town Hall soon.

With no further business, on a motion of Councilwoman Pokorny, seconded by Councilman Barber, the meeting was adjourned at 9:33 p.m. Carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
May 28, 2015

Tara Murphy