

**Town of Knox
Regular Meeting
August 11, 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 7:33 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Supervisor Hammond opened the floor for public comment.

John Elberfeld requested that all citizens involved in the Comprehensive Plan Meetings have a chance to publish on the Town website their comments and thoughts about the plan before scheduling another meeting.

Supervisor Hammond mentioned that the Comprehensive Plan would be discussed further into the meeting and this topic would be covered.

Supervisor Hammond read the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Supervisor of the Town of Knox is hereby authorized to:

- 1. Pay the principal sum of \$ 80,000.00 and interest in the amount of \$9,597.98 through and including September 6, 2015 to Key Bank pursuant to the Bond anticipatory note executed by the Town of Knox on September 7, 2014.*
- 2. Execute a one year extension of the Bond Anticipatory Note on the remaining principal amount owned to Key Bank after payment of the principal amount of \$80,000.00 at an annual interest rate not to exceed 1.57 per cent per annum. Said amount owed after said payments is \$ 559,981.00.*
- 3. Authorize the Town Attorney to execute an opinion of Counsel directed to Key Bank setting forth the compliance by the Town of Knox of all statutory requirements for the renewal of said Bond Anticipation Note.*
- 4. Renew a certain Bond Anticipation Note with Key Bank in the amount of \$ 559,981.00 at an interest rate not to exceed 1.57 per cent for a period of one year commencing September 7, 2015.*

**RESOLUTION #77-2015 – AUTHORIZE SUPERVISOR TO RENEW BOND
ANTICIPATORY NOTE**

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

RESOLVED to authorize Supervisor to renew Bond Anticipatory Note.

Councilwoman Pokorny reviewed the previous discussed proposed Climate Smart Community Program resolution and reminded the board that this is a completely voluntary program and that the DEC would give the town resources to help develop a plan however the Town of Knox has full control over the entire development of the plan.

Supervisor Hammond responded that this was forwarded to the Conservation Advisory Committee and they have not heard back from them yet on this topic. He would recommend tabling this discussed until the board has heard their response.

Councilwoman Pokorny stated that she would follow up with the CAC on this topic.

Highway Superintendent Salisbury discussed a proposed alternative payment option from FEMA for storm damage on Line Road. Keeping the road closed will satisfy FEMA requirements as long as a gate or barricade is installed closing it off. The affected area is only about 200 feet of Line Road which does not see much daily use other than occasional farming equipment. The funds could be used towards equipment for use by the town, an opportunity to get equipment that we could not ordinarily purchase. List follows:

- Caterpillar wheeled excavator (have wanted for over 30 years save on rentals and time; and less wear and tear on our backhoe)
- Roller (save on rental and would be use whenever we grade roads-all dirt roads)
- 20 ton Equipment trailer (replace our Eager Beaver which is not road worthy currently, would use to move equipment around)
- John Deere tractor w/over the rail mower (replace Challenger which has needed endless repairs)
- Skid Steer equipped with a snow blower

Councilman Decker inquired if the section of road was documented by FEMA, therefore if any further damage occurs it would be on the town to fix.

Hwy. Superintendent Gary Salisbury responded that the best thing right now is to leave it the way it is, with a section closed, and put a gate up. In the spring the Highway Department will work to get it back to the way it was and just keep an eye on it. Some basic work will get it back, small repairs have been done already.

Councilwoman asked if keeping the road closed would be inconvenient at all.

Hwy. Superintendent Gary Salisbury responded that it is never really traveled because it is a very narrow single lane road. Local traffic is using Schell Road to get to property.

Councilman Viscio asked Salisbury to explain the typical truck replacement process.

Hwy. Superintendent Salisbury explained that the next truck purchase would be 5 years down the road.

Salisbury also suggested that some funds could be used for equipment for the transfer station as well.

Supervisor Hammond asked Salisbury what he needed from the Town Board to move forward with this Alternative payment plan.

Salisbury stated that he needed a letter stating that Line Road is safe and secure along with a list of equipment needed with figures.

Councilman Decker asked how we could finance these purchases ahead of time before reimbursement was received.

Hwy. Superintendent Salisbury explained that the Roller and Backhoe would probably be the first in availability but no one knows the exact time for reimbursement at this time.

Councilman Viscio expressed that the town would have to have money flexible enough to move around.

Supervisor Hammond stated that using a Fund Balance or out of Operating Funds are both risky that the best option would be a Bond Anticipation Notice which would be short term at a favorable rate.

Hwy Superintendent Salisbury explained that going forward just trucks will be in replacement plan with all of this new equipment.

Supervisor Hammond stated that this is a sizeable investment of approximately \$567,548 that should not be passed up. The town may have to spend a little on interest.

Town Attorney Dorfman read the following resolution into record:

Reliance upon written and verbal representation by FEMA wherein the sum of \$608,824.47 has been awarded to the Town of Knox as reimbursement for Project # PW07100, Disaster 4020.

Hereby resolved that the Highway Superintendent of Knox is authorized to represent the Town of Knox and present to FEMA a compilation of expenditures to be made to the Town of Knox for

purchase of equipment not to exceed \$608,824.47.

RESOLUTION #78-2015 – AUTHORIZE THE HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT OF KNOX TO REPRESENT THE TOWN OF KNOX AND PRESENT TO FEMA A COMPILATION OF EXPENDITURES TO BE MADE TO THE TOWN OF KNOX FOR PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT NOT TO EXCEED \$608,824.47

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

RESOLVED to authorize the Highway Superintendent of Knox to represent the Town of Knox and present to FEMA a compilation of expenditures to be made to the Town of Knox for purchase of equipment not to exceed \$608,824.47

Attorney Dorfman commented that the purchase of the trailer is under \$20,000 so it would not need to be put out to quote. He will double check that and let Salisbury know.

Hwy. Superintendent Salisbury added that as the new equipment comes in the old equipment will be sold so money for used equipment comes back in quickly.

Councilwoman Pokorny stated that on September 19-20, 2015 the Farms and Artisan tour will take place in Knox. She requested that the town bathrooms be open to public during this time.

Supervisor Hammond explained that his is working to replace faucets in bathrooms downstairs and will have all set for that.

Councilwoman Pokorny discussed setting a date for the DEC presentation of the Habitat Summary Report. The presentation will be about 1 hour with questions after and they would like to have board members in attendance. The finished product of the report will all be worked into the comprehensive plan.

Councilman Decker stated that the town has held 10 meetings and has sent out over 57 emails about the most recent August 10th meeting with correspondence from people that have been involved. Right now the town needs to set a date to have final compilation with no more input in order to move forward and hand off to a third party for a draft comprehensive plan to be made.

Councilwoman Pokorny suggested setting the final meeting for the DEC report on 9/17 then allow one more week, until 9/25, open for input. That would give a couple of weeks to compile the raw data to be given to Nan Stolzenberg for review.

Councilman Decker reviewed that all public comments must be to Councilwoman Pokorny by 9/25/15 so that the board has time to review before the October meeting and can compile the data to be given to Nan for review.

Resident Anna Wolfe commented that there is a “working draft” now.

Resident Vas Lefkaditis commented that the draft is what they are working from and that the 8/20 meeting was the last opportunity for comment.

Councilman Decker responded that there is still opportunity for comment until 9/25/15

Resident Anna Wolfe asked if all comments would be placed on the website.

Councilwoman Pokorny responded that all public comments are on the website now and the next batch will go up after 9/25/15 deadline.

RESOLUTION #79-2015 – SET FINAL MEETING FOR DEC HABITAT SUMMARY REPORT FOR 9/17/15 AND CLOSURE OF PUBLIC COMMENT FOR COMPREHENSIVE PLAN SET FOR 9/25/15 AT WHICH POINT DATA WILL BE REVIEWED AND DELIVERED TO A THIRD PARTY FOR REVIEW.

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

RESOLVED set final meeting for DEC Habitat Summary Report for 9/17/15 and closure of public comment for comprehensive plan set for 9/25/15 at which point data will be reviewed and delivered to a third party for review.

Resident Anna Wolfe asked what Nan Stolzenburg will be doing with the Comprehensive Plan.

Councilwoman Pokorny responded that she will be hired by the Town of Knox, as an expert in the field of Municipal Comprehensive Planning, and will sort through the data to find pieces that are consistent with the town goals versus counterproductive items. Recommendations will be made to the Town for going forward.

Councilwoman Pokorny announced two meetings for residents of Knox.

Helderberg Community Energy will be presenting public informational meetings about two different kinds of affordable opportunities to use renewable solar energy.

7 PM on Wednesday, August 19 at the Octagon Barn - Community Net Metering: Use solar power that is generated by a large array at a remote site in Knox or Berne, at reduced rates, if you live in an apartment, or if you have a slate roof, an historic home, shade trees or any other reason why you might prefer this option over an installation of solar panels at your site. Save money using renewable energy without the responsibility of owning solar PV equipment. This opportunity is available to all residents of Albany County who are National Grid customers.

7 PM on Thursday, August 20 at Knox Town Hall, - Solarize Albany County <http://www.solarizealbany.org/> and their contracted installer, Apex Solar Power <http://www.apexsolarpower.com/solarize/> offer discounted bulk purchasing and installation of

equipment for solar PV panels at your home or small business. Save money using renewable energy without the cost of electricity. You can finance the equipment purchase at the level of your current electric bills to avoid up-front costs, and enjoy free electricity after the loan is paid off, although National Grid's monthly delivery charges (now <\$20) will continue. Rates are \$3/watt for roof mounted systems, \$3.50/watt for ground mounted systems, including installation. This opportunity is available to all residents of Albany County.

Residents may bring electric bills for the last year, or bring summary information about their annual power use, to help answer individualized questions at both of these presentations. (Information about both opportunities will be available at each meeting, but the emphasis will differ.)

Councilman Viscio explained to the board that he has been in contact with someone about the 4G service from the cell tower in town. Because of this service, residents without cable service have the option of using a 4G wifi system with cable capabilities. Viscio is putting together a meeting to discuss the details of this service further and gather more information for residents.

Resident Travis Stevens asked if Helderberg Community Energy (HCE) is a for profit or Not-for-profit group.

Councilwoman Pokorny responded that it is a citizens advocacy group established as an LLC that is not in business for making money.

Resident Vas Lefkaditis asked if this group is affiliated with the town at all.

Councilwoman Pokorny responded that she is a member of the HCE along with several other residents in town.

Supervisor Hammond stated that the Town Park is now covered in security cameras to prevent any further vandalism or break-ins.

Resident Vas Lefkaditis asked if the Little League, who will also be purchasing security equipment to put in the concession stand shortly, could store the recording device somewhere in the town hall for safety issues.

Supervisor Hammond responded that yes they could.

RESOLUTION # 80-2015 - PAYMENT OF BILLS

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

RESOLVED that the Bills be paid on General Abstract #008 of the General Fund, covering claims #209-223 & 236-237 in the amount of \$8,975.65 and of the Highway Fund,

covering claims #224-235 in the amount of \$118,608.59 for the year 2015.

RESOLUTION # 81-2015 - APPROVAL OF MONTHLY REPORTS

On motion of Councilman Viscio, seconded by Councilman Decker, 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 July 2015 be approved.

RESOLUTION # 82-2015 - APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

RESOLVED that the minutes of the July 2015 meeting be approved.

Councilman Viscio announced that several board members had a recent meeting with Youth Council Coordinator Maryellen Gillis to discuss plans going forward. A meeting will be announced for September to develop a plan for the Knox Youth Council to move forward.

With no further business, on a motion of Councilwoman Pokorny, seconded by Councilman Viscio, the meeting was adjourned at 9:16p.m. Carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
September 1, 2015

Tara Murphy