

**Town of Knox
Regular Meeting
February 14, 2017**

PRESENT: Supervisor Lefkaditis
Councilwoman Pokorny
Councilman Hanley
Councilman Barber
Councilman Barcomb

ALSO: Town Attorney Dorfman
Town Clerk Murphy
Highway Superintendent Salisbury

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

RESOLUTION # 37-2017 – SUSPEND REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONVENING THE ADVERTISED PUBLIC HEARING ON ADOPTED SOLAR AMENDMENT TO THE ZONING ORDINANCE

On motion of Councilman Barcomb, seconded by Councilman Hanley, the following resolution was carried unanimously.

RESOLVED to suspend regular Town Board meeting for the purpose of convening the advertised public hearing on adopted Solar Amendment to the Zoning Ordinance.

With no public discussion a motion was made to close the public hearing.

RESOLUTION # 38-2017 – ADJOURN PUBLIC HEARING AND RECONVENE THE PUBLIC BOARD MEETING

On motion of Councilman Barcomb, seconded by Councilman Hanley, the following resolution was carried unanimously.

RESOLVED to adjourn public hearing and reconvene the public board meeting.

RESOLUTION # 39-2017 – APPROVE TO CONSENT AGENDA AND MINUTES FROM 1.10.17 MEETING.

On motion of Councilman Barcomb, seconded by Supervisor Lefkaditis, the following resolution was carried unanimously.

RESOLVED to approve to consent agenda and minutes from 1.10.17 meeting.

6. Presentations:

a. Liaison Reports:

- PB – Continuing to work on large scale solar applications
- ZBA – a public hearing has been scheduled for a variance request.
- KYC – Youth Council is working park improvement project and the grant application
- CAC – discussed natural resource inventory and pollinator garden in town park.

- b. Peter Young – future agenda item, would like to give a presentation
- c. Rabies Clinic will be held in Berne on March 18th 2:30-4:00pm

7. Highway/Transfer Station:

- a. Highway Superintendent Gary Salisbury reported that repairs are needed to the Champion Grader – radiator core is shot, complete rebuild is required of radiator and engine. Estimated cost is \$2,500 for the radiator and \$7,000 for the engine. Approximately 2 weeks to complete the work. The Town Board discussed repair vs. cost of purchasing a new grader or engine. The estimated expense total requires a motion to authorize the expense of the repair. This piece of equipment will be needed in the spring for necessary road repairs.

RESOLUTION # 40-2017 – AUTHORIZE EXPENSE TO REPAIR CHAMPION GRADER, NOT TO EXCEED \$13,000.

On motion of Councilwoman Pokorny, seconded by Councilman Hanley, the following resolution was carried unanimously.

RESOLVED to authorize expense to repair Champion Grader, not to exceed \$13,000.

Recycling – Salisbury reported that the backlog of TV's and electronics has been picked up and can now accept them again at the Transfer Station. Prices will stay the same as they were: \$15 for TV's and \$75 for cabinet TV's, projection and consoles. Town Clerk to update website.

8. New Business:

- a. Supervisor Lefkaditis addressed the requested Veteran exemption increase from Level K to Level N. (War-Time = \$45,000/ Combat = \$30,000 / Disabled = \$150,000) The Town Board reviewed the data received from the Town Assessors showing that the cost for non-veteran residents would be approximately \$0.14 per year per average household. 17 Veterans will increase their exemption; 110 already are at the max exemption so their exemptions will not change.

RESOLUTION # 41-2017 – APPROVE VETERAN EXEMPTION INCREASE FROM LEVEL K TO LEVEL N.

On motion of Councilman Hanley, seconded by Supervisor Lefkaditis, the following resolution was carried unanimously.

RESOLVED to approve Veteran exemption increase from Level K to Level N.

Resident Ed Ackroyd thanked the Town Board for being the first to do this.

- b. Building Use – There has been an increase in building use and requests to use the building for private and public functions. Councilman Hanley will look into what other towns do for reserving space.

RESOLUTION # 42-2017 – APPROVE TEMPORARY USE OF TOWN HALL PROVIDING A CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCE NAMING THE TOWN OF KNOX AS ADDITIONAL INSURER AND THAT SAID INSURANCE IS PRIMARY.

On motion of Supervisor Lefkaditis, seconded by Councilman Barcomb, the following resolution was carried unanimously.

RESOLVED to approve temporary use of Town hall providing a certificate of insurance naming the Town of Knox as additional insurer and that said insurance is primary.

- c. Pucker Street Fair – The Town Board discussed and set the Pucker Street Fair date for July 7-9, 2017 with fireworks. Will reach out to Chris Smith to see if he is interested in serving alcohol at the event through the Maple Inn. Reach out to Fire Co. to see if they would be interested in participating.
- d. The town board reviewed the following list of repairs to be made at Town Hall utilizing excess building funds.
 1. Cover the exposed foam insulation around the exterior of the foundation.
 2. Replace saddle to archive room
 3. Replace louvered door to the storage room.
 4. Replace electric hot water heater with instant heaters.
 5. Repair drain for the janitor's slop sink.
 6. Re-connect exterior water faucet (west end of old town hall).
 7. Replace handles for cupboards copy room
 8. Install water softener.
 9. Re-paint yellow caution line at the front entrance and sidewalks.
 10. Replace front entrance vestibule signage.
 11. Repairing the exterior vinyl siding.
 12. Replacing lights in old part of Town Hal to LED's.
 13. Repairing saddle outside of the BZA door in the foyer.
 14. Repairing hand rail leading from basement level to landing area on 156 side

RESOLUTION # 43-2017 – APPROVE LIST OF REPAIRS AS PRESENTED UTILIZING EXCESS BUILDING FUNDS.

On motion of Supervisor Lefkaditis, seconded by Councilman Barcomb, the following resolution was carried unanimously.

RESOLVED to approve list of repairs as presented utilizing excess building funds.

- e. Planning Board Chair Robert Price met with Town Engineer candidate Mark Jacobson and reported that it went really well. Town Attorney John Dorfman explained that if Jacobson is appointed he would be a town employee, needing to be added to payroll or he could be hired as an expert when needed and paid by client. The Board decided to move this discuss to next month for further time to review. The Board gave Town Attorney Dorfman approval to speak with Jacobson.

RESOLUTION # 44-2017 – APPROVE REQUEST TO SWAP MOBILE HOME WITHIN 30 DAYS ON LOT # 24-2.12.

On motion of Councilman Barcomb, seconded by Councilman Hanley, the following resolution was carried unanimously.

RESOLVED to approve request to swamp mobile home within 30 days on lot # 24-2.12.

RESOLUTION # 45-2017 – AUTHORIZE \$100.00 ANNUAL EXPENDITURE OF \$100.00 TO SUPPORT HOSTING FEES FOR ALBANYHILLTOWNS.COM AND \$150 TO OFFSET COST FOR

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE ORGANIZED BY THE HELDERBERG KIWANIS.

On motion of Councilman Barcomb, seconded by Councilman Hanley, the following resolution was carried unanimously.

RESOLVED to authorize \$100.00 annual expenditure of \$100.00 to support hosting fees for albanyhilltowns.com and \$150 to offset cost for Memorial Day parade organized by the Helderberg Kiwanis.

9. Old Business:

- a. Proposed Business District along 156/157 – Supervisor Lefkaditis stated that the Planning Board returned a vote of 5-1 against the designation of a business district along 156/157. Supervisor Lefkaditis explained that the board has 4 choices:
 1. Approve the recommendation from the Planning Board with no further action
 2. Send back to Planning Board asking for them to figure out a way to make it work.
 3. Override the recommendation and go straight to a Public Hearing
 4. Consider a MRD (Multi-Residential District).

The board discussed the options. Supervisor Lefkaditis stated that he was fully in support of the idea, citing current businesses already there. He suggested setting a date for a Public Hearing for review of this area explaining that it was a step largely ignored in the current Comprehensive Plan.

Planning Board member Travis O'Donnell added that all potential business districts should be addressed in the Public Hearing, which is stated in the referenced section of the Comprehensive Plan.

Supervisor Lefkaditis mentioned data collected and re-evaluated by previous town resident John Elberfeld showing support of business districts in the town.

Travis O'Donnell cautioned the Board on considering this data to justify change, stating that the process used was problematic and that the raw data shows a different number.

Councilwoman Pokorny agreed that the original survey question was poorly written and that the raw data results do show support for business, however John Elberfeld's results were not accurate because results were counted more than once.

Councilman Barcomb asked what kind of businesses people want to see, stating that there should be balance. Supervisor Lefkaditis responded that rural and business can coexist.

Resident Ernie Cupernall suggested that the Board build consensus and find out what people want, then decide where to put it. Create an atmosphere for successful business.

Resident Pam Kleppel recalled that Supervisor Lefkaditis had contacted gas station companies and they were not interested in putting business up here. Even if people want to see a gas station up here the companies do not want to come here.

Supervisor Lefkaditis suggested that residents save comments for the Public Hearing.

RESOLUTION # 46-2017 – BASED ON LANGUAGE IN CURRENT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND RESULTS OF A TOWN SURVEY FROM 2014 THE TOWN BOARD WISHES TO PURSUE A PUBLIC HEARING ON APRIL 11, 2017 AT 7PM TO DISCUSS THE CREATION OF BUSINESS DISTRICTS ON 156/157 AS WELL AS 146 IN THE VICINITY OF THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT & TOWNSHIP TAVERN AND LEWIS ROAD TO MIDDLE ROAD, AS WELL AS THACHER PARK ROAD & KETCHUM ROAD, CONTINGENT UPON PREPARATION AND APPROVAL OF NOTICE PREPARED BY TOWN ATTORNEY.

On motion of Supervisor Lefkaditis, seconded by Councilman Barber, the following resolution was carried unanimously.

RESOLVED based on language in current Comprehensive Plan and results of a town survey from 2014 the town board wishes to pursue a public hearing on April 11, 2017 at 7pm to discuss the creation of business districts on 156/157 as well as 146 in the vicinity of the highway department & Township Tavern and Lewis road to Middle road, as well as Thacher park road & Ketchum road, contingent upon preparation and approval of notice prepared by town attorney.

Travis O'Donnell asked if the Board would identify the tax parcels effected and notify residents. Councilwoman Pokorny said she would look into that and discuss at the next meeting.

Town Attorney Dorfman suggested that the resolution was too vague and suggested that he prepare a public hearing announcement to be reviewed by the Board at the March meeting.

- b. Electric Vehicle Charging Station Grant – Councilwoman Pokorny explained the process of applying for the larger \$100,000 grant and that the town must complete 4 out of 10 tasks. The town has already completed 3 tasks and the final task has 3 options that seem realistic for the town to compete.
 1. Energy Code Enforcement Training – working on this with the town Building Inspector who is waiting on a project in Albany that could take 2-3 more months to complete.
 2. LED Street Light conversion – Knox is on the list for this work to be done but have no date for completion.
 3. Charging Station – Pokorny stated that admittedly the town does not need, however the town has received a grant for \$2,500 already along with the DEC grant for \$11,835 with a 20% match requirement which would cover the cost of the EV equipment and install. Councilwoman Pokorny explained that if the Highway Department completed the trenching and concrete pad this would cover the match.

Supervisor Lefkaditis opened up the floor for public comment. Several of the present town residents spoke out against the charging station. Upon request Supervisor Lefkaditis read a letter into the record from a town resident:

Sitting way out in Buffalo, I am still appalled that Councilwoman Pokorny is pushing her extreme climate initiatives and forcing hard working, tax-paying Knox citizens to pay for these electric charging stations. The town pushes for this \$100,000 grant that Knox is not even GUARANTEED to get. How could any board member in their right mind think that this is one of the most important issues and of best interest to this town? I even pointed out in a letter to the Enterprise a few weeks ago that back in November, it was discussed that the town could send town building inspector's to a FREE training session in Albany to meet one of these climate goals.

Wouldn't something like that not only save the taxpayers' money but be more beneficial to the town? But no, let's put in an electric charging station that will make those feel good that they are helping the environment. If the councilmembers think that little ol' Knox is going to be saving this entire planet from "climate change" I have news for you, we will not!

It would seem that if this truly was a "town-wide" effort, wouldn't more than one councilmember be commenting on this issue. It always seems that Mrs. Pokorny is the one to spearhead these decisions and talk to the Enterprise about the charging station. It's great that you think climate change is a more pressing issues than our failing infrastructure and lack of services but when is the board going to wake up and realize this is not a top priority to the people. What do the other board members really feel about this issue? I hardly hear what the rest have to say.

Lastly, to have Mrs. Pokorny say this is "risk-free" is a lie. Please tell me how wasting our money to install these stations that will not help the town, is risk-free? For once, think about this: what person is actually going to come to Knox and charge their electric car at the town hall? A town hall... what fun and interesting things they can do there! I live outside of Buffalo for college and the very few electric charging stations present are near BUSINESSES, which Knox does not have. Stop lying and open your eyes to the real problems here. If you claim people can charge their electric car at their own home than what is the point in putting one in a parking lot of a town hall?

Simply put, this charging station is a farce. It is a waste of tax payer money and simply offers ZERO benefits to the town at all. I urge all councilmembers to reconsider this proposal and search for a more beneficial one for everyone!

Josh VonHaugg

Several Board members commended Councilwoman Pokorny on the work she has done for this project, however suggested that the town look into other options. Councilwoman Pokorny responded that the \$100,000 grant is a competitive grant that the town will be better positioned for by completing this task which the town has grant money to cover the cost of.

Councilwoman Pokorny made a motion to approve the charging station and accept the awarded grant money with no second.

- c. Reschedule Facility Walk through for Tuesday, February 21st at 10am to be advertised on website and the local paper.
- d. Now accepting electronics recycling, previously discussed by Hwy Superintendent.

10: Personnel:

- a. The board discussed setting the pay rate for the PT contractor. Supervisor Lefkaditis suggested \$18/ hour. Councilman Hanley responded that it should not be more than what the Highway Crew is making.

RESOLUTION # 47-2017 – SET PAY RATE FOR PART-TIME CONTRACTOR AT A RATE OF \$15 PER HOUR.

On motion of Councilman Barber, seconded by Supervisor Lefkaditis, the following resolution was carried unanimously.

RESOLVED to set the pay rate for Part-Time Contractor at a rate of \$15 per hour.

- b. Amend term expiration dates for CAC members as follows:

Kevin Sherman	12.31.17
Nathan Giordano	12.31.17
Eric Kuck	12.31.17
Tony Forti	12.31.18
Patricia Irwin	12.31.18
Dee Woessner	12.31.18
Peter Shunney	12.31.18

RESOLUTION # 48-2017 – AMEND EXPIRATION OF CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBER’S TERMS AS LISTED.

On motion of Supervisor Lefkaditis, seconded by Councilman Hanley, the following resolution was carried unanimously.

RESOLVED to amend expiration of Conservation Advisory Committee member’s terms as listed.

Councilwoman Pokorny mentioned that this committee can have up to 9 members with people interested in joining, should the Board add members as well. Supervisor Lefkaditis stated that it would lead having too many members to fill in the future. Councilman Barcomb suggested bringing it to the CAC for their input.

11. Finance:

RESOLUTION # 49-2017 – AUTHORIZE TRANSFER OF \$500.00 FROM CELEBRATION LINE A7550.4 TO SENIOR LINE A6772.4.

On motion of Councilman Barber, seconded by Councilman Hanley, the following resolution was carried unanimously.

RESOLVED authorize the transfer of \$500.00 from Celebration Line A7550.4 to Senior Line A6772.4.

RESOLUTION # 50-2017 – TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF KNOX INSPECTED THE JUSTICE COURT’S RECORDS

On motion of Councilman Hanley, seconded by Councilman Barcomb, the following resolution was carried unanimously.

RESOLVED, Town Board of the Town of Knox inspected the justice court’s records.

RESOLUTION # 51-2017 - APPROVAL OF MONTHLY REPORTS

On motion of Councilman Barber, seconded by Councilman Barcomb, the following resolution was ADOPTED unanimously.

RESOLVED that the Reports of the Town Clerk and Town Supervisor for the Month of January 2017 be approved.

RESOLUTION 52-2017 - PAYMENT OF BILLS

On motion of Councilman Barber, seconded by Councilman Barcomb, the following resolution was ADOPTED unanimously.

RESOLVED that the Bills be paid on General Abstract #14-2016 of the General Fund, covering claims #419-422 in the amount of: \$476.98 and of the Highway Fund, covering claims #423-427 in the amount of: \$3,997.86 for the year 2016 and General Abstract #2-2017 of the General Fund, covering claims # 9-34 in the amount of \$10,788.84 for the year of 2017 and of the Highway Fund, covering claims #35-45 in the amount of: \$8,000.65 for the year 2017.

RESOLUTION #53-2017 - TOWN BOARD TO ACCEPT THE TRAILER COURT APPLICATIONS FOR KNOXVILLE TRAILER PARK FOR 2017

On motion of Councilman Hanley, seconded by Councilman Barber, the following resolution was ADOPTED unanimously.

RESOLVED to accept the trailer court application for Knoxville Trailer Park for 2017

RESOLUTION #54-2017 – ACCEPT REGISTRAR REPORT FOR 2016

On motion of Councilman Barcomb, seconded by Councilman Hanley, the following resolution was ADOPTED unanimously.

RESOLVED to accept Registrar Report for 2016.

RESOLUTION #55-2017 – REAPPROVE AMENDMENT TO ZONING ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING STANDARDS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR REGULATION OF SOLAR ARRAYS

On motion of Councilman Barcomb, seconded by Councilman Hanley, the following resolution was ADOPTED unanimously.

RESOLVED reapprove amendment to Zoning Ordinance establishing standards and requirements for regulation of solar arrays.

With no further business, on a motion of Councilman Barcomb, seconded by Councilman Hanley, the meeting was adjourned before going into Executive Session, not to reconvene, at 9:39 p.m. Carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
March 1, 2017

Tara L. Murphy