

**Town of Knox  
Regular Meeting  
January 10, 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 # 29-2017 – APPROVE TO CONSENT AGENDA AND MINUTES FROM 12.13.16 and 1.2.17 MEETING.**

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

RESOLVED to approve to consent agenda and minutes from 12.13.16 and 1.2.17 meeting.

**4. Presentations:**

- a. Supervisor Lefkaditis explained that Mark Jacobson would like to come in February to talk with the board about the opportunity to be considered the designated engineer for the Town of Knox to review projects at the behest of the Planning Board and at the expense of the applicants when needed.
- b. Peter Young will be coming in February as well to give his presentation on a Recycling Plan.
- c. Liaison Reports:
  - PB – Continuing to work on Solar applications
  - ZBA – no meeting held
  - CAC – have not had the January meeting yet
  - KYC – Youth Council is working on winterfest being held Saturday, January 14<sup>th</sup> from 11am-2pm; lots of activities; bonfire; chilli contest. Also next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 19<sup>th</sup> for Town Park Plan at 6:30pm.

**5. Highway/Transfer Station:**

- a. Highway Superintendent Gary Salisbury reported that he received a new recycling contract and it will need to be signed and returned before they will begin to pick up electronics. Charges for electronic recycling will have to be decided as well before the transfer station begins to accept TV's again. JGS is still being used to pick up AC units, Freon, propane but no TV's. Councilwoman Pokorny asked about the tires. Salisbury responded that almost 400 tires have been picked up but not all are out yet.

**RESOLUTION # 30-2017 – AUTHORIZE ENTERING INTO CONTRACT WITH EVOLUTION**

**RECYCLING INC. PENDING ATTORNEY REVIEW.**

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

RESOLVED to authorize entering into contract with Evolution Recycling Inc. pending Attorney review.

- b. FEMA – waiting on check for wheeled excavator; check in the amount of \$18685.89 was received for the trailer.

**6. New Business:**

- a. Supervisor Lefkaditis stated that the Little League would like permission to place a 10x10 storage shed behind 3<sup>rd</sup> base dugout.

**RESOLUTION # 31-2017 – APPROVE REQUEST FOR LITTLE LEAGUE TO PLACE 10 X 10 STORAGE SHED BEHIND 3<sup>RD</sup> BASE DUGOUT.**

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

RESOLVED to approve request for Little League to place 10 x 10 storage shed behind 3<sup>rd</sup> base dugout.

- b. CAC Term – CAC board member terms are only allowed to be a maximum 2 year term, therefore terms will need to be adjusted and staggered so they don't all expire at once. Terms to be discussed at February Meeting.
- c. Supervisor Lefkaditis met with new Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Megan Mason, she is ready to go and will be looking to see if there is any available training for this position and if so will bring it back to the board. Councilwoman Pokorny mentioned that she sent a contact list of 1<sup>st</sup> responders to get started and mentioned that Dee Weossner has offered to help Megan if she needs any assistance.
- d. Schedule Walk Through – board to decide a date by email when everyone can look at calendars and will be advertised on website and in paper.
- e. Schedule review of Court Books – Councilmen Hanley and Barcomb volunteer to review them before the February meeting.
- f. Electrical Damage – Supervisor Lefkaditis stated that a relay burned up in the electrical box in the Mechanical Room. Right now the safety relays are by-passed to allow for the heat to work in the building. Rich Fortuin came in to fix it and found many violations that need to be addressed.
  - i. By pass relays, 3 safety features are not working
  - ii. Ordered new relays to be put in when they arrive
  - iii. Fix problems, call put in to vendor contact

Supervisor Lefkaditis stated that the board must determine whether to put an insurance claim in against the town policy or go after liability of past contractor. Town Attorney Dorfman stated that he would look into the options and will pursue any and all insurance policy claim options. Supervisor Lefkaditis said once the proper relay is put in he will send any quotes around and the board can discuss further in February.

- g. Councilman Barcomb stated that he would like to see the town board create an Agriculture Advisory Board and suggested it have 5 members and 2 ex-officio

members – 1 from the town board and 1 from the planning board. Councilman Barcomb read the following sample resolution:

*BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Knox hereby establishes the*

***Purpose, Structure, Operational Parameters, and Membership of the  
Town of Knox Agricultural Advisory Committee***

**Section 1** – *The purpose of the Agricultural Advisory Committee is to advise the Town Board and other Town agencies on matters pertaining to the preservation, promotion, and ongoing operation of agricultural activity in the Town of Knox.*

**Section 2** –

A. **Committee; Personnel; Appointment; Organization.** *There is hereby established in the Town of Knox a permanent committee to be known and designated as the "Town of Knox Agricultural Advisory Committee" which shall consist of five (5) residents of the Town of Knox who are engaged in farming, agri-business, or a vocation related to agriculture; and two (2) residents of the Town of Knox who shall serve as ex-officio members, one of whom shall be a Town Board member and one who shall be a Planning Board member or alternate member. Ex-officio members shall only be eligible to serve on the committee while they hold the other cited Town office. The members of the said committee first appointed, shall serve for terms as follows: one (1) appointee for a one (1) year term; one (1) appointee for a two (2) year term and one (1) appointee for a three (3) year term; one (1) appointee for a four (4) year term and one appointee for a (5) year term. Thereafter, all appointments shall be for terms of five (5) years and vacancies shall be filled for the unexpired term only. The Knox Town Board will select one member of the said committee to serve as chairperson for a one (1) year term on an annual basis. The members shall serve until their respective successors are appointed. The members of the committee shall receive no compensation for their services.*

*The committee shall organize within thirty (30) days after the appointment of its total membership for the remainder of the then calendar year and thereafter annually. Said committee may establish rules of order and meet at least once annually and from time to time as its rules of order might provide. The Agricultural Advisory Committee shall report to the Town Board and to such other Town agencies as may request its assistance.*

B. **Assistance.** *The Agricultural Advisory Committee may request technical assistance and/or specialized advice from any resource it may deem appropriate, including but not limited to other local residents; other Town of Knox officials; Albany County Cooperative Extension; Albany County Soil and Water Conservation; Albany County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board; American Farmland Trust; New York Agricultural Land Trust and NYS Agriculture and Markets. However, no contracts for payment for services or other expenditure of Town funds may be entered into by the Committee.*

**C. Funds for Committee Operations**

*As a citizen advisory committee, the Agricultural Advisory Committee may not authorize any expenditure of Town funds. Funds necessary for proper committee operation may be requested by the committee from the Town Board and, in accordance with customary procedures, the Town Board may authorize such funds and approve the expenditure thereof.*

**Section 3 - Responsibilities of Committee.** *The responsibilities of the committee shall be as follows:*

1. *To create, recommend methods, review proposals, and develop proposals for the implementation of the goals of the Town of Knox Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan and, report their findings to the Town Board.*

2. *To, from time to time, amend and update the Plan as needed and refer such updates and amendments to the Town Board.*
3. *To monitor local farming activity and determine existing issues facing farmers and those in related endeavors and to recommend reasonable and desirable solutions to the Town Board.*
4. *To monitor trends in agriculture, and local development so as to identify future issues, which will face farmers and those in related endeavors and to recommend reasonable and desirable solutions to the Town Board.*
5. *To identify methods whereby the Town Board, County or State governments can encourage existing farmers to continue in active agricultural operation.*
6. *To, when requested by the Town Board or other agencies engaged in and environmental review of proposed private or public development projects and/or infrastructure projects, provide input regarding the impacts on agriculture of such projects.*
7. *To recommend to the Town Board, Town Planning Board and/or other agencies techniques that will help preserve large, contiguous and economically viable tracts of agricultural land.*
8. *To communicate with local farmers that the Agricultural Advisory Committee exists and can offer direction and assistance in many cases, invite their participation in Committee activities, and either directly or through interaction with other government agencies advise them of benefits and protections to which they are entitled.*
9. *To facilitate the local presentation of educational programs by Cooperative Extension and other experts for farmers for the purposes of improving local farming practices and meeting the challenges the industry faces.*
10. *To assist in minimizing conflicts between agricultural uses and adjacent and nearby rural residential and commercial activities.*
11. *To encourage and assist applications to farmland preservation programs including but not limited to the New York State Purchase of Development Rights program, and, when such applications are submitted provide input into the review thereof.*
12. *To encourage appropriate conservation strategies and agricultural activities.*
13. *To study and comment on proposals by local, county, state or federal governments that may impact on local farms and farmlands.*
14. *To recommend to the Town Board reasonable and desirable changes to this listing of responsibilities.*
15. *To make an annual report to the Town Board setting forth and detailing the activities and operations of the committee during the preceding year.*
16. *To accomplish any other tasks referred to it by the Town Board or other local agencies having to do with agricultural related activities.*

Councilman Barcomb stated that he hopes this group would help all farmers to be successful, network, and advocate. He suggested advertising to get interest of local farmers and then the town board would appoint members. To be discussed further in February

with possible names of participants.

In addition the board member discussed creating a local business directory to be posted on the website. Councilwoman Pokorny mentioned that the HHA started something like this and could continue where that left off. Supervisor Lefkaditis stated that this is worth looking into but needs more research. Councilman Barcomb stated that he would look into how the Town of New Scotland has done this directory and discuss further in March.

#### **7. Old Business:**

- a. Proposed Business District along 156/157 – Supervisor Lefkaditis stated that the board needs decision from Planning Board and will move forward in February regardless.
- b. Town Clerk Murphy stated that she is moving forward on applying for the NYS Archive Grant due on January 17<sup>th</sup>.

#### **RESOLUTION # 32-2017 – DESIGNATE TARA MURPHY AS LGRMIF PROJECT MANAGER LIAISON.**

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

RESOLVED to designate Tara Murphy as the LGRMIF Project Manager Liaison.

#### **8. Finance:**

#### **RESOLUTION # 33-2017 – AUTHORIZE TRANSFER OF \$1,000 FROM A7140.4 TO KNOX LIGHTING DISTRICT PER 2017 BUDGET.**

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

RESOLVED authorize the transfer of \$1,000 from A7140.4 to Knox Lighting District per 2017 Budget.

- a. Update on Serial Bond: Attorney Dorfman stated that when the town financed the building project in Sep of 2009 it was funded utilizing a Bond Anticipated Note (BAN). The BAN was extended each Sep 7 times through Sep 2016. By doing so the BAN's were extended in error 2 additional years. The final BAN should have been paid off or converted into a Bond in Sep 2014. Now that the Town is refinancing, the current Bond Counsel advised that in order to Bond the outstanding balance and refinance the BAN it would require the approval of the NYS Legislature. This process can cost between 1,500.00 and 3,500.00 in legal fees.

#### **RESOLUTION # 34-2017 – AUTHORIZE SPENDING CAP OF \$3,500.00 FOR NEWLY APPROVED BOND COUNSEL TO PROVIDE PAPERWORK FOR LEGISLATIVE APPROVAL TO CORRECT ORIGINAL BAN.**

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

RESOLVED authorize spending cap of \$3,500 for newly approved BOND Counsel to provide paperwork for Legislative approval to correct original BAN.

Councilwoman Pokorny announced that Senior Coordinator Charlotte Fuss brought flyers for free water testing kits available for Albany County residents while supplies last. Information will be put in the newsletter and up on the website.

### **RESOLUTION # 35-2017 - APPROVAL OF MONTHLY REPORTS**

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

RESOLVED that the Reports of the Town Clerk and Town Supervisor for the Month of December 2016 be approved.

### **RESOLUTION 36-2017 - 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 #13-2016 of the General Fund, covering claims #390-402 & 417-418 in the amount of: \$9,541.52 and of the Highway Fund, covering claims #403-415 in the amount of: \$8,306.82 for the year 2016 and General Abstract #1-2017 of the General Fund, covering claims # 1-8 in the amount of \$2,895.18 for the year of 2017.

Councilwoman Pokorny asked if the Mold Remediation bill had been paid yet. Supervisor Lefkaditis mentioned that it has not because he is still waiting for a detailed invoice from them because the amount on the invoice does not seem to be what was agreed upon. The board decided to pull abstract #416 in the amount of \$271.32 to be reviewed and returned in February.

### 9. Public Discussion:

Councilman Barber stated that the Historical Society would like to request a fire alarm to be set up and connected to the Town Hall monitoring system. Supervisor Lefkaditis stated that there may be some kind of wireless system and will look into the technology to see what options are available and let them know.

Planning Board Chair Bob Price and Supervisor Lefkaditis discussed the status of the PILOT program. Attorney Dorfman suggested it would be in the best interest to tax payers to see if the town could negotiate not only for the town and fire department taxes but to include the school and other special groups as well. This needs to be looked into.

Ed Ackroyd announced to the board that NYS has raised the Vet exemptions again and is

asking the Town of Knox to consider raising the tax exemption for Vets for 2018.

The board agreed that this will need to be reviewed by the Town Assessor to determine the figures for what the tax impact to non-veteran residents would be. The board will need to review these figures before a vote is taken.

Anna Wolfe asked about the status of the Comprehensive Plan. Councilwoman Pokorny stated that she had just received comments back from Nan Stolzenburg and has not had a chance to review them yet. Anna stated that she would like Nan to interpret the data on question #25 of the survey before she does anything else. Councilwoman Pokorny stated that Nan's work was to review all of the data and to provide a report and comment for review by the board. She will review and send around the Town Board so that they can begin to work on a draft for the website.

Councilman Barcomb asked about the status of the skating rink. Councilman Barber stated that the project was stalled by the DOT as they waited for approval to put a culvert in to gain access to the property. At this point the town will try again next year. For now the pond in the Town Park is frozen and can be used.

With no further business, on a motion of Councilman Barcomb, seconded by Councilman Barber, the meeting was adjourned before going into Executive Session, not to reconvene, at 8:48 p.m. Carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,  
January 18, 2017

Tara L. Murphy