



Knox Town Board Minutes

Special Meeting via Phone Conference Call

*(in accordance with NYS Executive order 202.1) **

May 12, 2020

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****This special meeting was held via a conference call in accordance with NYS Executive order 202.1. This meeting was properly advertised on the Town's website and proper notice was sent to the Altamont Enterprise. The public was able to listen by calling the properly advertised conference call # 978-990-5000 with pin# 801004.***

In attendance via conference call:

Supervisor Vas Lefkaditis

Councilman Dennis Cyr

Councilman Kenneth Saddlemire

Councilwoman June Springer

Councilman Karl Pritchard

Highway Superintendent Matthew Schanz

Town Clerk Traci Schanz

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Supervisor Lefkaditis: "There is no public comment, so if people could please mute their microphones to reduce the background noise, except Kenny, that would be greatly appreciated. Please mute your microphones at this time if possible. Much better, whoever was making all the static is now gone, thank you."

Supervisor Lefkaditis: "Item number 3a, I need a motion to act on the April 7, 2020 meeting minutes please."

Supervisor Lefkaditis: "June motions, Karl seconds. Everyone had a chance to review them, we're good? I will do a roll-call vote because of the conference call."

RESOLUTION 068-2020 - A motion was made by Councilwoman Springer seconded by Councilman Pritchard to approve the meeting minutes from April 7, 2020. This motion carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: to approve the meeting minutes from April 7, 2020.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilman Pritchard: "AYE"

Councilwoman Springer: "AYE"

Councilman Cyr: "AYE"

Supervisor Lefkaditis: "AYE"

Councilman Saddlemire: "AYE"

Supervisor Lefkaditis: "OK, the motion passes unanimously".

Supervisor Lefkaditis: "A quick update on COVID 19 while everyone is together. A week or so ago, Traci, Dennis and June had an event on Saturday at the Town Hall and they handed out a whole bunch of masks. We have plenty to go, so over the next few days, lets organize another event if everyone's okay with it and let's do it again. I've had a handful of requests from a few residents. I will grab those masks tonight and drop them off tomorrow, but thank you to June, Dennis and Traci. I thought it worked out very well. The county was nice enough to give us quite a few. Also, there were a couple of people who reached out to us need some help. Through Charlotte Fuss, our Senior Service Coordinator and Traci, they were able to help them. It had to do with lawn cutting and some odds and ends for seniors."

Clerk Schanz: "I also left 100 masks or so with Lee today at the Transfer Station for him to hand out."

Supervisor Lefkaditis: "Does anyone have any other updates for the COVID 19, for the time being? We will also post something on the Facebook page and Town site that if people do need help, they can contact myself or Traci and we can see what we can do to help them out. If its food shopping or basic stuff around the house for our senior or elderly crowd, we'll do what we can."

Councilman Pritchard: "Kenny Coffey stopped at the garage today, stated he found information on Facebook but not on the website. I don't remember what though"

Supervisor Lefkaditis: "Okay, I will contact him directly and see what the issue was."

Supervisor Lefkaditis: "By the way, this is an abbreviated meeting, we're basically taking care of items that need to be taken care of, paying some bills and calling it quits. An additional update on COVID 19; I don't know how everyone else feels, but if we start ramping things back up like Cuomo said, I'm thinking our June meeting, we can return to our public session. We'll keep people 6' apart, we'll ask them to wear masks. If that's okay with you guys, that's where I'm leaning to now, unless the message changes from above. Kenny, are you okay with tentatively going back to normal with masks and social distancing in place for next month?"

Councilman Saddlemire: "I think it's fine unless more guidelines come from the State, I'm all for it."

Supervisor Lefkaditis: "So, 4a. Is Doug Roether on the line? Doug, chairman of the ZBA, are you on? Okay, we do not have Doug, if he joins in, he just wanted to give the Board a quick pitch on how he thought the ZBA should act going forward. He wants to expand on the successes and burry some of the previous year's failures."

There was static on the line, causing confusion if Mr. Roether was there or not. Supervisor Lefkaditis asked him to call his cell phone if he was there. After a short period of waiting, Mr. Roether did not call the Supervisor's cell number.

Supervisor Lefkaditis: "5a, so Matt has a lot of moves he wants to make in the Highway department. So, Matt, take it away."

Superintendent Schanz: "I want to sell the loader and buy a new loader. We can actually make money. And I'd like to get a cold planer for the skid steer to fix some roads."

Supervisor Lefkaditis: "So, let me expand on that. I sent everyone an email. Basically, Matt is looking to sell our 2017 payload for no less than \$170,000. We can purchase a brand new one for \$165,000. So, we net \$5,000. So, we will use the open market to sell ours."

An unidentified voice came through the line "excuse me, excuse me"

Supervisor Lefkaditis: "yes"?

Unidentified voice: "we can not hear anything that is being said"

Supervisor Lefkaditis: "alright, you know what, I'm going to hang up and dial back in, no one go anywhere. I think it's our phone."

After hanging up and dialing back in; Supervisor Lefkaditis: "okay, we're back, is that better? Anybody?"

Unidentified voice: "you are the only person we can hear"

Supervisor Lefkaditis: "okay, who is this by the way"?

Unidentified voice: "It's Brigid McCauliffe"

Supervisor Lefkaditis: "Okay, I'll try to have people speak directly into the microphone because I'm right in front of it and I'm being a little louder than everyone else."

Supervisor Lefkaditis: "Where I left off was, Matt is going to sell in the open market our 2017 payloader. We haven't authorized him to sell it, no less than \$170,000. Contingent upon that sale, we will purchase a new pay loader for \$165,000. So, for all intensive purposes we'll put \$5000.00 in the kitty. In addition, he wants to trade in the bucket off of our backhoe, that we do not use, its an extra bucket, and the snow thrower on the skid steer which we have put more than 3 or 4 hours on it in 3 years. So, trading those in, we're estimating \$9,500.00 for both of those items. The cold planer is \$14,000. So, we have to come out of pocket with \$4,500, however the \$4,500 will be paid for with the \$5,000 that we get for the pay loaders. So, at the end of the day, we get a new pay loader, a new cold planer, we get rid of the old pay loader and the two attachments we don't use, and we break even. All good."

Councilman Saddlemire: "A quick question, is there an issue with the loader?"

Supervisor Lefkaditis: "Oh, yes, the transmission is wiped out, not completely, but its whining and the estimates to fix it were in the tens of thousands. It's the secondary pump in the transmission. So we will get \$170,000, as is."

Councilwoman Springer: "Is someone trained to use hot patch?"

Superintendent Schanz: "We don't have a hot patcher, this is a cold planer. The cold planer preps it for a hot patch, from the back of a truck."

Unidentified voice: ..."hear what was said"? (this clerk could not hear what the voice said)

Supervisor Lefkaditis: "Excuse me, I understand its difficult, but please keep your comments everyone to themselves. There's no public comment and the meetings are transcribed verbatim."

RESOLUTION 069-2020 - A motion was made by Supervisor Lefkaditis seconded by Councilman Cyr to authorize the sale of our 2017 pay loader for no less than \$170,000.00 net to the Town of Knox.

RESOLVED: to authorize the sale of our 2017 pay loader for no less than \$170,000.00 net to the Town of Knox.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilman Pritchard: "AYE"

Councilwoman Springer: "AYE"

Councilman Cyr: "AYE"

Supervisor Lefkaditis: "AYE"

Councilman Saddlemire: "AYE"

Supervisor Lefkaditis: "OK, the motion passes unanimously".

Councilman Saddlemire: "Matt is difficult to hear. It sounds like there are several conversations going on. Just know it's hard to hear."

Supervisor Lefkaditis: "We will go one by one and have people speak directly into the microphone if possible."

Superintendent Schanz: "Can we advertise for getting rid of ditch dirt?"

Supervisor Lefkaditis: "So, Matt is asking us to advertise for ditch dirt. Its very helpful to us when we get rid of it, so we'll do that."

Councilman Cyr: "Matt, on the ditch dirt; up by the boardwalk, people are going down there to park, getting stuck and rutting that up. I'd personally like to see the ditch dirt put there to make a parking lot and then add some crusher run for parking. I'd like to refresh that.

Superintendent Schanz: "Yeah, that's great. We just have to be careful because of the nature stuff."

Supervisor Lefkaditis: "I'll actually add that to a future agenda. But, to summarize, Dennis is interested in making a little parking area near the rundown boardwalk and eventually revisiting the boardwalk, because it really is nice back there. I'll add it to a future agenda."

RESOLUTION 070-2020 - A motion was made by Supervisor Lefkaditis seconded by Councilman Pritchard to authorize the purchase of a cold planer not to exceed \$4,500.00 cash outlay from the Town of Knox and simultaneously trade or sell the snow thrower attachment form the skid steer and the backhoe swivel attach bucket.

RESOLVED: to authorize the purchase of a cold planer not to exceed \$4,500.00 cash outlay from the Town of Knox and simultaneously trade or sell the snow thrower attachment form the skid steer and the backhoe swivel attach bucket.

Councilman Saddlemire: "Your talking about just an extra ditching bucket, you said swivel, I'm assuming your talking the boom and everything or what?"

Superintendent Schanz: "Its an actual bucket, it's a wide ditching bucket that swivels for the backhoe."

Councilman Saddlemire: "I was confused, when you said swivel, I'm thinking like the whole boom on the back that swivels."

Superintendent Schanz: "No, just the bucket itself, it has a cylinder on it that goes left to right. But we haven't used it since we got the wheeled ax, and that has a swivel on it already."

Councilman Saddlemire: "Okay, just clarification, that's all."

Roll Call Vote:

Supervisor Lefkaditis: "AYE"
Councilman Cyr: "AYE"
Councilwoman Springer: "AYE"
Councilman Pritchard: "AYE"
Councilman Saddlemire: "AYE"

Supervisor Lefkaditis: "Thank you. Okay, old business. The Veteran's Memorial update. Kenny, do you want to go first to talk about the memorial out front or do you want Dennis to go first."

Councilman Saddlemire: "We've talked about it a few times and mentioned concrete and/or paving blocks. At this point I don't have anything set in stone as far as a plan. My only concern is if we want to put something live there; we can always remove a paving block or two if you want to plant something in the ground but that's actually as far as I've got. I was thinking this year because of the situation we in being shut down and everything that I would try to go up there and refresh it, put in new mulch, plant new flowers for this year.....I'm open to suggestions, if Dennis has talked to someone else and has suggestions, I'm more than happy to hear them."

Councilman Cyr: "Hey Kenny, my thoughts is to make the area smaller. If you look at it, I think we can make it smaller. Don Champion was going to bring prints or something, but there's a lot of things happening since then. My idea is to minimize the area, and not necessarily use or pour concrete. Just minimize it, dress it up, add grass where we need to, make it simple and plant flowers that come up every year. I think we could figure something out to make it less maintenance and make it cost effective too."

Councilman Saddlemire: "I had that same conversation with Donny. We talk about Hosta, they come up every year with different variations. I'm for something that's low maintenance too and maybe put in annual flowers each year for live flowers."

Councilman Cyr: "Kenny would you like to meet some time this week? You and I can get together and come up with something for this year and make it nice."

Councilman Saddlemire: "I agree. I think perennials are the way to go, they'll come up every year and visit it once or twice a year to do maintenance. I can meet any day of the week."

Councilman Cyr: "You let me know. I'll get your number from Vas and I'll text you."

Supervisor Lefkaditis: "Thank you, we appreciate it. Whatever you guys come up with, let us now if you need anything."

Supervisor Lefkaditis: "Okay, so Betty needs a new computer. Her computer is literally 15 or 16 years old. It's a 2003 or 2004 laptop. She cannot use the new software. I haven't had a chance to price them, but I have an idea of what laptops go for. Then you have to buy the software package. To give us a bit of leeway, I'd like to authorize no more than \$1,000. We won't spend it, but I don't have estimates so let's just cover our butts."

RESOLUTION 071-2020 - A motion was made by Supervisor Lefkaditis seconded by Councilman Pritchard to authorize an expense not to exceed \$1000.00 for a new laptop and software for the tax collector.

RESOLVED: to authorize an expense not to exceed \$1000.00 for a new laptop and software for the tax collector.

Roll Call Vote:

Supervisor Lefkaditis: "AYE"

Councilman Cyr: "AYE"

Councilwoman Springer: "AYE"

Councilman Pritchard: "AYE"

Councilman Saddlemire: "AYE"

Supervisor Lefkaditis: "Okay, 8a, paying bills, which is really why we're here. In the general account, I need a motion to pay vouchers #'s 107-121 as well as # 135 in the amount of \$11,729.95 and in the highway account vouchers # 122-134 in the amount of \$6,083.09.

RESOLUTION 072-2020 - A motion was made by Councilman Pritchard seconded by Councilwoman Springer to authorize the Supervisor to pay the bills; Abstract #5 for 2020, #'s 107-121 and #135 in the General Account in the amount of \$11,729.95, Highway Account vouchers #'s 122-134 in the amount of \$6083.09.

This motion carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: to authorize the Supervisor to pay the bills; Abstract #5 for 2020, #'s 107-121 and #135 in the General Account in the amount of \$11,729.95, Highway Account vouchers #'s 122-134 in the amount of \$6083.09.

Supervisor Lefkaditis: "Traci emailed the cover sheet of all these vouchers to all of you. I hope you've had a chance to see them, if you haven't, please say so. If you want to see the actual vouchers, just let Traci know and she'll show it to you, but we couldn't scan in a gazillion pages, but as you guys know the vouchers are repetitive, it's the same ones every month. It's very rare that there's any deviation in the vouchers, unless we've done a one-time purchase or something along those lines. So, any questions on the vouchers?"

Roll Call Vote:

Supervisor Lefkaditis: "AYE"

Councilman Cyr: "AYE"

Councilwoman Springer: "AYE"

Councilman Pritchard: "AYE"

Councilman Saddlemire: "AYE"

Supervisor Lefkaditis: " On the agenda, I wrote that we would accept the April and May Clerk and Supervisor reports, but those are even more voluminous, so my suggestion is to vote on, that should have said March and April, I apologize. That should have said March and April. In June we can vote on March, April and May and they are available at the Town Hall for any Board members or the public who would like to see them. Is everyone okay with that" (several voices respond with "yes") Kenny are you ok with that?"

Councilman Saddlemire: "yes"

Supervisor Lefkaditis: "So if anyone wants to see them, just ask Cathy or Traci and they will show them to you. But I'd rather have it all in front of us and approve them than by doing it by conference call. So we will do it in June. That's it, I need a motion to adjourn."

RESOLUTION 073-2020 - A motion was made by Supervisor Lefkaditis seconded by Councilman Pritchard to adjourn the meeting
This motion carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: to adjourn the meeting

Roll Call Vote:

Supervisor Lefkaditis: "AYE"

Councilman Cyr: "AYE"

Councilwoman Springer: "AYE"

Councilman Pritchard: "AYE"

Councilman Saddlemire: "AYE"

Supervisor Lefkaditis: "Thank you everyone. Have a good night and stay safe."

Respectfully submitted,

Traci Schanz