



Knox Town Board Minutes

January 14, 2020

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The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by Supervisor Lefkaditis followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present on this date:

- Supervisor Lefkaditis
- Councilman Pritchard
- Councilman Saddlemire
- Councilman Cyr
- Councilwoman Springer
- Town Clerk Traci Schanz
- Attorney Javid Afzali (arrived at 7:30 pm)
- Highway Superintendent Schanz

RESOLUTION 021-2020 - A motion was made by Councilman Pritchard seconded by Supervisor Lefkaditis to suspend the public meeting of January 14, 2020 and reconvene the public hearing on proposed Local Law 1 of 2020 regarding Hog Farming within the Town of Knox. The motion carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: to suspend the public meeting of January 14, 2020 and reconvene the public hearing on proposed Local Law 1 of 2020 regarding Hog Farming within the Town of Knox.

No public comments were made.

RESOLUTION 022-2020 - A motion was made by Councilman Saddlemire seconded by Councilman Pritchard to suspend the public hearing on proposed Local Law 1 of 2020 and reconvene public meeting of January 14, 2020. The motion carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: to suspend the public hearing on proposed Local Law 1 of 2020 and reconvene public meeting of January 14, 2020.

RESOLUTION 023-2020 - A motion was made by Councilwoman Springer seconded by Councilman Pritchard to suspend the public meeting of January 14, 2020 and open the public hearing on proposed

Local Law 2 of 2020 regarding Knox's participation in a Community Choice Aggregation program. The motion carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: to suspend the public meeting of January 14, 2020 and open the public hearing on proposed Local Law 2 of 2020 regarding Knox's participation in a Community Choice Aggregation program.

Presentations:

Katie Veschio from Mega completed a presentation for residents regarding CCA (Community Choice Aggregation) The FAQs for Residents and Small Businesses she provided this evening are attached at the end of these minutes. Questions regarding this program may be emailed to: megaCCAteam@energynext.com or residents may call 518-533-5399.

PUBLIC COMMENT FROM COMMUNITY CHOICE AGGREGATION PUBLIC HEARING

Ernie Cupernall – What kind of company is MEGA? Answer- Non-for profit

-Why are we bound by decision made by Board? Answer- under municipal law, the Board is able to do so. Residents will have to opt out if they do not want to participate.

- If you qualify for Ag rate are you eligible. Answer – will most likely not be eligible.

-Will you still receive one bill? Answer-Yes, one bill with National Grid portion and other supplier

-Is the legally binding contract signed by the Town of Knox and your organization for a period of two years? Answer – the term could be two, three or 5 years or somewhere in between. Right now it is a two year program. The contract is signed by the town and MEGA acts on your behalf to sign with the supplier.

-What does the town have to do to adhere to the contract? Answer- the contract will be placed on the website.

- Are there any liabilities or penalties that the town might be liable for. Answer – No.

Tom Wolfe – Is it compatible with solar, wind, etc? Answer - Yes, completely compatible with solar, budget billing etc.

-an affirmative vote by the town, authorizes you to get bids? Answer – yes, a filing form for the local law, a resolution, a letter to residents regarding opt out period, and an education plan are gathered and those are filed with Department of Public Service who are the regulators that say MEGA can request the data from utilities to request the bid. This process takes several months.

Bob Price – how much will bill change? Answer – complicated answer-depends on pricing, but it fluctuates with market.

Ed Ackroyd – is time demand eligible? Answer – No, only service class one residential or small commercial using under 2000 kw/month. If you have a demand meter or if you have a larger business, you are not eligible for the program.

- If current meter spins backward and receive credit, will the credits be extended? Answer– Katie will check into this

Joan Adriance – Between now and February what is the plan to educate the residents? Answer- information will be posted on Facebook, the town website, possibly the mail, newspaper coverage, ads on the radio, flyers and banners.

-If you opt out, can you opt back in? Answer – yes, it takes one billing cycle.

Cindy Gustafson- Could you put it in the town newsletter? Answer – Yes, but it will be cutting it close.

Paul Scilipoti – In your opinion, will renewable rates continue to go down over time? Answer – We have every reason to believe the state is doing everything they can for renewables.

Councilwoman Springer - The end goal is to get affordable, clean energy? Answer – Yes, support renewable energy at a lower price, and offer residents stable pricing and competitive rates.

Councilman Cyr – When do you start educating the public? This is not yet enough education. Answer – press release, banners, etc. It varies by community. At least two presentations and the public hearing is a way to offer residents information.

Councilman Saddlemire – are the supplier prices affected by competition? Answer – MEGA does the middle work, and the suppliers are the competition amongst each other. MEGA only works with PSC licensed suppliers.

RESOLUTION 024-2020 - A motion was made by Councilman Pritchard seconded by Councilman Cyr to suspend the public hearing of January 14, 2020 on proposed Local Law 2 of 2020 and reconvene the public meeting of January 14, 2020. The motion carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: to suspend the public hearing of January 14, 2020 on proposed Local Law 2 of 2020 and reconvene the public meeting of January 14, 2020.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Amy Pokorny – commented on high speed internet and the Clean Energy Grant. A special meeting will be held by the Board to discuss the Grant.

Brigid McAulliffe – commented on the MRD, Article 18 of General Municipal Law, drug testing for town employees/officials and police activity at 2160 Berne Altamont Road

Cindy Gustufson – commented on the minutes from October 2019

Paul Cilipoti – commented on how he believes comments should be chosen carefully

Dianne Champion – questioned the available budget for the Pucker Street Fair

Consent Agenda:

RESOLUTION 025-2020 - A motion was made by Councilman Saddlemire seconded by Councilman Cyr to approve the consent agenda as presented and approve the 12/10/19 and 1/1/20 meeting minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: to approve the consent agenda as presented for the 12/10/19 and 1/1/20 meeting minutes.

Highway/Transfer Station:

Superintendent Schanz has no report.

Supervisor Lefkadits thanked Superintendent Schanz and the Highway workers for setting up the skating rink down by the park. He also thanked the Fire Departments of East Berne, Berne, Knox and Altamont for supplying water for the skating rink.

Old Business:

The Workplace Violence and Sexual Harassment training was well attended with approximately 43 people attending. Only a few people were unable to attend, and arrangements are being made for them to take it online. A few items to note from the training are: SDS never existed for the park building and the town hall, this needs to be worked on; Hepatitis B shots need to be offered specifically to the

Transfer Station employees, possibly everyone, and if refused, employees need to sign off; an Exposure Control Plan needs to be created for the Transfer Station; an Emergency Response Plan needs to be created for the Transfer Station. PERMA has plans that they will provide and work with the Town to customize. Supervisor Lefkaditis asked for volunteers to take this on. He will ask Mr. Walsh to help with the SDS. Councilman Cyr offered to get in touch with PERMA and will report back at the next Board meeting.

The CEC grant will be added to February's agenda.

Councilman Cyr would like to start the process for updating the Veterans' Memorial in front of the Town Hall. He will talk with Councilman Saddlemire and Mr. Champion to discuss options and will report back to the Board in February. Supervisor Lefkaditis informed him that the County Highway Department will do stamped concrete as a shared service if that is something that is of interest.

New Business:

The possibility of hiring a FT maintenance/TS/highway employee was discussed. Supervisor Lefkaditis discussed the current payroll expenses, and the anticipated costs of a FT employee and total anticipated savings. It was discussed that rather than have several people do peace-meal jobs and pay several part time employees, to create one position to cover all the areas of need, whether it be at the Town Hall, Transfer Station, Park or Highway Department. Mrs. Adriance suggested the part time employees at the Transfer Station be considered for this position. Supervisor Lefkaditis and Councilman Saddlemire stated this is an ongoing discussion, and a detailed job description needs to be created. When this was discussed last time, 30 hours was not enough for two qualified individuals who applied, so the position will now be a full-time position. Councilman Saddlemire will work with Superintendent Schanz to create a job description and advertise it, and report back to the Board.

RESOLUTION 026-2020 - A motion was made by Councilman Pritchard seconded by Supervisor Lefkaditis to approve the advertising and scheduling of a public hearing for proposed Local Law 3 of 2020 regarding proposed Home Occupation amendment to the Town of Knox's zoning ordinance for February 11, 2020 at 7:00 pm at the Knox Town Hall. The motion carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: to approve the advertising and scheduling of a public hearing for proposed Local Law 3 of 2020 regarding proposed Home Occupation amendment to the Town of Knox's zoning ordinance for February 11, 2020 at 7:00 pm at the Knox Town Hall.

RESOLUTION 027-2020 - A motion was made by Councilwoman Springer seconded by Supervisor Lefkaditis to authorize the submission of the proposed MRD application to the Albany County and Knox Planning Boards. The motion carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: to authorize the submission of the proposed MRD application to the Albany County and Knox Planning Boards.

Personnel:

RESOLUTION 028-2020 - A motion was made by Supervisor Lefkaditis seconded by Councilman Cyr to authorize the additional \$0.60 per hour for the Transfer Station Supervisors effective January 1, 2020. The motion carried unanimously with a vote of 4:1, as Councilwoman Springer abstained.

RESOLVED: to authorize the additional \$0.60 per hour for the Transfer Station Supervisors effective January 1, 2020.

RESOLUTION 029-2020 - A motion was made by Councilman Pritchard seconded by Supervisor Lefkaditis to appoint Ed Ackroyd to the Planning Board with a term expiring December 31, 2026. The motion carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: to appoint Ed Ackroyd to the Planning Board with a term expiring December 31, 2026.

Councilman Cyr along with the Supervisor thanked Bob Price for his time and years of service to the town. Supervisor Lefkaditis stated his level of commitment was unparalleled. Mr. Price received a round of applause for his years of service from the Board and members present from the community.

RESOLUTION 030-2020 - A motion was made by Councilwoman Springer seconded by Councilman Saddlemire to approve the Clerk's report as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: to approve the Clerk's report as presented.

RESOLUTION 031-2020 - A motion was made by Councilwoman Springer seconded by Councilman Saddlemire to authorize the supervisor to pay the bills from Abstract # 13. The motion carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: to authorize the supervisor to pay the bills from Abstract # 13.

RESOLUTION 032-2020 - A motion was made by Councilman Cyr seconded by Supervisor Lefkaditis to authorize the supervisor to pay the bills from Abstract # 1. The motion carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: to authorize the supervisor to pay the bills from Abstract # 1.

RESOLUTION 33-2019 - A motion was made by Councilman Saddlemire seconded by Councilman Pritchard to adjourn into executive session, not to reconvene into public session. The motion carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: to adjourn into executive session, not to reconvene into public session.

Respectfully Submitted,

Traci Schanz
Knox Town Clerk