



Knox Town Board Minutes

November 4, 2020

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The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Supervisor Lefkadits followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Supervisor Lefkaditis held a moment of silence for Peter Becker and Glenn Walsh who both passed away recently. Supervisor Lefkadits stated how Peter gave 30 plus years of his life dedicated to the people of Berne and Knox, Peter was always willing to help and never had a mean word to say. He stated when Glenn came to the Town, he had big shoes to fill and it did it well, Glenn also joined the fire company, helping people in the Town of Knox. Both men will be missed very much.

Present on this date:

- Supervisor Lefkaditis
- Councilman Cyr
- Councilman Pritchard
- Councilman Saddlemire
- Councilwoman Springer
- Town Clerk Schanz
- Highway Superintendent Schanz

RESOLUTION 120-2020 - A motion was made by Councilman Cyr seconded by Councilwoman Springer to suspend the public meeting of 11.4.2020 to convene the public hearing on proposed Local Law 2 of 2020 proposed MRD rezoning near 156/157 intersection. This motion carried unanimously,

RESOLVED: to suspend the public meeting of 11.4.2020 to convene the public hearing on proposed Local Law 2 of 2020 proposed MRD rezoning near 156/157 intersection.

Public Hearing Comments

Brigitte McAuliffe – stated her confusion as to why the MRD was being voted on as she thought there should be two public hearings

- she stated her questions will go unanswered, but requested each Board member provide her with a statement that they, friends/family, business interests associated with them have no interest in the district they are trying to create

-she stated she is appalled that this hearing was held during a pandemic and she knows people who were afraid to come and sit in the room

Deb Nelson – began by asking questions and the Supervisor reminded her that no questions would be taken, but if she had a comment for the Board to consider to go ahead.

- Stated it was the responsibility of the Board to present the area to be rezoned and describe the activities allowed so the public could make informed comments

Joan Adriance – read a letter from Cindy Gufstafson who was unable to attend; she stated her concerns with the rezoning of 156/157

- Questioned if the Board members thought this was important
- Questioned how the meeting was advertised
- Stated concerns with appearance of town
- Stated Board should be concerned with fixing what has been forsaken
- Stated she believes the Board doesn't need to change the zoning, but change priorities

Joan Adriance – stated concerns regarding the posting of the meeting

- Stated she is opposed to the Board ruling on the proposal tonight
- Stated her concerns with residents not being able to voice their opinion due to the risk of compromising their own health by attending in person
- She believes the Board should postpone the vote to a future date as she does not believe this fits into the essential business category put forth by the Governor
- She would like to Board to make arrangements for a Zoom or Google meet to be made so the residents can participate

Maureen Brown-Lansaw - stated she is in support of the last two women who spoke in regards to doing things in an open manner

- She believes meetings should be virtual so all can be included and asked the Board to consider this for future meetings

The Supervisor read three letters received via email.

Letter #1; Russ Pokorny – stated concerns with rezoning include no explanation has been given

- Stated the rezone should include all parcels and leaving out some parcels does not exclude them from the affect of the rezone
- Stated there is an existing commercial zone, an MRD and asked what demand the Board was responding to with this rezone

Letter #2; Sohaib Chekima – stated he is opposed to the rezone and is disappointed in the persistence of the Board

- Stated he believes this is for personal agendas rather than for the residents
- Stated he strongly opposes the proposal and asks the Board to withdraw the proposal

Letter #3; Paul Scilipoti – Stated he remains opposed to the proposed MRD

- Stated he believes it is spot zoning at its worse
- Supports the Boards desire to make more opportunities within the town, but with the geology and opposition by neighbors believes this is not the way to make it work
- Hope everyone in attendance is wearing a mask

Deb Nelson - request the Board continue the hearing in a way where all can participate and requests a formal presentation on the MRD

A final call was made for any other comments for the MRD and no one spoke or raised their hand.

RESOLUTION 121-2020 - A motion was made by Councilman Pritchard seconded by Councilman Cyr to suspend the public hearing on proposed Local Law 2 of 2020 proposed rezoning near 156/157 intersection and reconvene the public meeting of 11.4.2020. This motion carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: to suspend the public hearing on proposed Local Law 2 of 2020 proposed rezoning near 156/157 intersection and reconvene the public meeting of 11.4.2020.

Public Comment:

David Erickson:

- stated he had 3 questions beginning with why the meeting was held downstairs tonight. The Board responded with the reason being that court was in session upstairs.
- He asked how many veterans worked for the town
- Stated his concerns with COVID and no ventilation in the basement of the town hall and would like to see the Board meetings on Zoom and asked that in the future the Board do something to include everyone.

Brigitte McAuliffe:

- stated she believes the Board in inept
- stated her concerns over the Board doing business while AUD isn't filed
- stated her concerns that the Board isn't concerned over contacts from the Sheriff's Dept. regarding COVID meeting protocols
- assured the Board that they will not have a legal leg to stand on for their lack of action

Bob Price:

- stated his sincere thanks for the employees at the transfer station and stated he believed Matt Schanz, Highway Superintendent is doing a very good job

Deb Nelson:

- stated 4 Board members were not wearing masks
- stated she believes the Board should uphold the same standards as the mandate put on by the Governor and set an example.

Joan Adriance:

- echoed Deb Nelson's comment
- stated she doesn't understand why the Board doesn't wear masks while she has to while seated in the audience

Marjorie (no last name given):

- stated people at the transfer station are not wearing masks
- stated it is irresponsible not to wear a mask

A final call was made for public comment and residents informed if the meeting was interrupted, they would be asked to leave.

Presentation:

Supervisor Lefkaditis congratulated the local candidates who won their races; Assemblyman Santabarbara, Senator Amedure, Congressman Tonko, and our own Highway Superintendent, Matt Schanz, who the Supervisor believes may have received the most votes ever in the Town. He thanked Matt and stated he does a phenomenal job.

Minute Approval:

RESOLUTION 122-2020 - A motion was made by Councilman Saddlemire seconded by Councilman Pritchard to accept the minutes as presented from the 10.13.2020 meeting. This motion carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: to accept the minutes as presented from the 10.13.2020 meeting.

Highway/Transfer Station:

The engine service agreement is being worked on. Superintendent Schanz contacted Palmer to see when the job will be done, and the highway dept. continues to work on their everyday jobs.

Old Business:

The County Engine shared service agreement has been executed and it is in Dan McCoy's hands. The Policy Committee needs to meet. Something will be scheduled via email between the members of the committee.

Councilman Cyr stated he believed the wording has to be changed on the job description for the full-time job position that has been posted. There was confusion as to whether an employee would be able to work and get paid from both the general and highway funds and if the Superintendent is allowed to supervise this position or not. Councilman Cyr will try to clarify this at a later meeting.

New Business:

The vote for the Local Law 2 of 2020 will be postponed until December 2020.

While waiting for the Supervisor to locate an item, Councilwoman Springer stated she understands the fear of COVID, she is an essential worker, and wears her mask coming in and going out. She sits approximately 6 feet apart from other Board members and believes she is not placing anyone at risk. She states she will not take the accusations of placing someone in danger. She also stated tonight's meeting was scheduled at the re-org meeting in January and was not a meeting that was just pulled together.

RESOLUTION 123-2020 - A motion was made by Supervisor Lefkaditis seconded by Councilman Saddlemire to authorize the Planning Board as lead agency for Knox PV, LLC. The resolution reads as follows:

Whereas, the Town of Knox has received an application from Knox PV, LLC for a Site Plan Approval; and

Whereas, the Town of Knox Planning Board in accordance with Article IV, Section 44 of the Town Zoning Code has the power to approve Large Scale Solar Arrays through site plan approval; and

Whereas, the Knox Planning Board wishes to begin the approval process which includes the completion of the SEQR process (this project is a Type I action under SEQR), the referral of the project to the County, and the notification of landowners and a public hearing.

Whereas, the next regularly scheduled Knox Planning Board meeting is more than 62 days from the receipt of the above referenced application;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Knox Planning Board will be deemed SEQR lead agency for site plan review of the above project and is hereby permitted and directed to complete all necessary SEQR review documentation in accordance therewith such appointment;

Be It Resolved that in accordance with Town Code and General Municipal Law Section 239-m the Knox Planning Board shall refer this proposed action to Albany County;

Be It Resolved that in accordance with Article VI, Section 61(f)(5) of the Town Code the applicant shall notify all landowners within a half of a mile of the proposed project site of any public hearing on the issue;

Be It Resolved that an extension of the sixty two (62) day requirement to hold a public hearing be hereby extended by an additional thirty (30) days due to scheduling of regularly held board meetings and notice requirements to ensure maximum public

participation;

Be It Further Resolved that a Public Hearing on this proposed project shall be held before the Knox Planning Board and that such hearing shall take place at December 10th, 2020 at 7:00pm at the Knox Town Hall.

Town Supervisor			Town Councilman			
Vasilios Lefkaditis	Aye	Nay	Dennis Cyr	Aye	Nay	
			Karl Pritchard		Aye	Nay
			June Springer		Aye	Nay
			Kenny Saddlemire	Aye	Nay	

Resolution: Passed Failed

Sworn to me and certified on November 4th, 2020 at 7:00PM at a duly authorized and properly advertised meeting of the Knox Town Council:

Traci Schanz
Town Clerk

SEAL

This motion carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: to authorize the Planning Board as lead agency for Knox PV, LLC.

Finance:

There was brief review of line item budget changes.

RESOLUTION 124-2020 - A motion was made by Councilwoman Springer seconded by Councilman Cyr to accept the 2020 Tentative budget as 2021 Preliminary budget with one change to DA5130.4 from \$200,000.00 to \$205,000.00. This motion carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: to accept the 2020 Tentative budget as 2021 Preliminary budget with one change to DA5130.4 from \$200,000.00 to \$205,000.00.

RESOLUTION 125-2020 - A motion was made by Supervisor Lefkaditis seconded by Councilman Pritchard to schedule and properly advertise a public hearing of the proposed 2021 budget for November 19, 2020 at 7:00pm at the Knox Town Hall. This motion carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: to schedule and properly advertise a public hearing of the proposed 2021 budget for November 19, 2020 at 7:00pm at the Knox Town Hall.

RESOLUTION 126-2020 - A motion was made by Councilman Cyr seconded by Supervisor Lefkaditis to journal \$50,000.00 from DA5148.0 to DA5130.4. This motion carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: to journal \$50,000.00 from DA5148.0 to DA5130.2.

RESOLUTION 127-2020 - A motion was made by Supervisor Lefkaditis seconded by Councilman Pritchard authorizing the Supervisor to pay \$115,000.00 towards purchase of 2021 Western Star 4700 from line item DA5130.4. This motion carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: to authorize the Supervisor to pay \$115,000.00 towards purchase of 2021 Western Star 4700 from line item DA5130.4.

RESOLUTION 128-2020 - A motion was made by Councilman Pritchard seconded by Councilman Cyr to journal in 2019 Budget \$9,733.69 from A1990.4 into each of the following line items accordingly; A1220.11 (\$5,720.48), A1220.4 (\$844.27), A1220.41 (\$1,388.66 and A1355.4T (\$1,780.28). This motion carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: to journal in 2019 Budget \$9,733.69 from A1990.4 into each of the following line items accordingly, A1220.11 (\$5,720.48), A1220.4 (\$844.27), A1220.41 (\$1,388.66 and A1355.4T (\$1,780.28).

RESOLUTION 129-2020 - A motion was made by Councilman Cyr seconded by Councilman Saddlemire to authorize the Supervisor to pay \$41,372 to NYSLRS prior to 12.15.2020. This motion carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: to authorize the Supervisor to pay \$41,372 to NYSLRS prior to 12.15.2020.

RESOLUTION 130-2020 - A motion was made by Councilwoman Springer seconded by Councilman Pritchard to accept the Clerks report as presented. This motion carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: to accept the Clerks report as presented.

RESOLUTION 131-2020 - A motion was made by Councilman Cyr seconded by Councilman Pritchard to authorize the Supervisor to pay the bills in Abstract 11 in the General Fund voucher #'s 319-335 in the amount of \$16,402.55 and in the Highway Account, voucher #'s 336-348 in the amount of \$8,268.98. This motion carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: to pay the bills in Abstract 11 in the General Fund voucher #'s 319-335 in the amount of \$16,402.55 and in the Highway Account, voucher #'s 336-348 in the amount of \$8,268.98.

RESOLUTION 132-2020 - A motion was made by Councilman Saddlemire seconded by Councilman Pritchard to adjourn into executive session pursuant to POL Article 7 §105(1)a. This motion carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: to adjourn into executive session pursuant to POL Article 7 §105(1)a.

Respectfully submitted,

Traci Sehanz

Knox Town Clerk