



Knox Town Board Minutes

January 10, 2023

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

Present on this date:

- Supervisor Pokorny
- Councilman Cyr
- Councilman Saddlemire
- Councilwoman Springer
- Town Clerk Schanz

Not present on this date:

- Councilman Pritchard
- Highway Superintendent Schanz

RESOLUTION 027-2023 A motion was made by Councilman Cyr seconded by Councilwoman Springer to accept the minutes as presented from the December 13, 2022 and the Reorganization Meeting on January 1, 2023. This motion carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: to accept the minutes as presented from the December 13, 2022 and the Reorganization Meeting on January 1, 2023.

Presentations:

The HFCO (The Helderberg Family & Community Organization), consisting of Maryellen Gillis, Peter Evans, Nate Elble and Amanda Whitkoff, provided a presentation to the Board in the hopes that the HFCO can work together with the Town of Knox and other neighboring towns as well. The organization looks for gaps in programs and tries to fill them in while working together with various towns. They are a non-profit organization with several existing programs in place now. Funding comes from donations, grants and fundraisers. Some of the programs they provide and support are: Helderberg Hearts and Hands, Helderberg Heroes, Soccer Programs (Summer and Fall), Peace and Hope Festival of Trees, Breakfast with Santa, Summer Art Camp, Food Drives (Spring and Fall), support the Little Food Pantry, Jean Forti scholarship program, Holiday Donations with various organizations, and Helderberg Seniors. The organization would like to partner with other organizations, towns and the community as well as let everyone know they are here and also would like more help/volunteers. After the presentation there

was a brief discussion regarding how the Town might be able to help, possibly sponsor an event and post information to the Town website.

Some old business regarding the newsletter was brought up due to spreading information regarding the food pantries. The Board has decided to stick to their previous decision for two newsletters per year, and if there is something that the HFCO would like to share with the community it can be posted to the website rather than wait for the newsletter.

A brief update from the CAC to let the Board know they have purchased some materials to start working on the boardwalk. Materials are being stored in the parks building. They will start working on it when the weather breaks.

The Supervisor states he spoke with the Bookkeeper, and she is planning to have the 2020 AUD completed by the end of this month and then will complete the 2021 in February and most likely the Supervisor will file an extension for the 2022 AUD.

There was a brief discussion regarding the recent accidents and increased concern over the danger of the intersection of Route 156 and Knox Cave Road. There had been a previous discussion about placing stop signs on both sides of the road at the end of Knox Cave Road. Supervisor Pokorny will go back to his State contact to gather information about options to increase safety and awareness at the intersection. Councilman Saddlemire will gather accident/incident reports from the Fire Company to provide more information to the state.

There was a discussion regarding the use of the pavilion, scheduling residents, little league and softball games and finding a way to keep everyone happy with the availability and use of the pavilion/field. Questions were raised about using the BKW school field for practices for the older teams, as well as using Tubbs Field for little league. The Clerk will reach out to the Coaches of both Little League and HAVOC and discuss options with them regarding shared use of the pavilion/field.

Supervisor Pokorny has reached out to Amy Anderson at the Altamont Fair Grounds, to discuss the donation of the hockey rink to the Fair. He will continue the conversation with Amy and keep the Board updated.

There was a brief discussion regarding the security of the Town computers, including the ability to back up all the data from the different computers being used. This will be looked into in the near future.

There was a discussion regarding the transfer station. Supervisor Pokorny has been talking with Richard Grant, who is looking into the cost and what is needed to power up the new boxes including the possibility of a new transformer. The discussion also involved the layout of the transfer station, best options to decrease the bottle-necking of traffic, options to run the hydraulic lines and set up the meter. Councilman Saddlemire will look into prices for structures to cover the new boxes.

Supervisor Pokorny received a note from the Sherman family, thanking the Town for the Donation in Memory of Mary Sherman, who passed away in October 2022.

Supervisor Pokorny presented a bill from Albany County for the Elections. He asked the Board for approval to pay it.

RESOLUTION 028-2023 A motion was made by Councilman Saddlemire seconded by Councilman Cyr to pay the bill to the Albany County Board of Elections in the amount of \$4,912.02. This motion carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: to pay the bill to the Albany County Board of Elections in the amount of \$4,912.02.

There was a brief discussion regarding the possibility of a purchase of a bucket for the current tractor or a new tractor with quick connect attachments. Councilman Saddlemire will look into pricing.

Supervisor Pokorny stated he received a call from Digger Bush who works for BBL and he would like to be involved in the bidding when it comes time for the transfer station project.

Councilman Cyr shared information with the Board as a follow up from the last meeting regarding GSA contracting for GPS and roadside assistance. There are several options for the Board to look over. Councilman Cyr spoke with several highway superintendents who have the systems in place and provided examples as to why they are a benefit to municipalities. i.e.; being able to identify if a plow has been on a road if a resident states it hasn't, knowing where vehicles are in case of an emergency, milage and maintenance tracking.

There was a discussion regarding the 10% tax break for fire fighters that was just passed for municipalities to opt into. There must be a public hearing held, and more information is needed to move forward. The deadline is March 1st, meaning the public hearing must be held at the February meeting.

Councilman Saddlemire, as the Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, received communication from the Albany County Sherriff's Office regarding lithium ion batteries. There are considered fire and explosion dangers. The Sherriff's Department has created Hazmat teams to respond by area. Councilman Saddlemire will attempt to gather information from homes in Knox as to what types of batteries are in homes. There are different categories from small batteries in phones and computers up to large batteries in cars, etc., and if the batteries are inside or outside of homes. This information is useful when responding to calls. Councilman Saddlemire and the Clerk will create a post to put on the website to inform residents.

RESOLUTION 029-2023 - A motion was made by Councilman Cyr seconded by Councilwoman Springer to authorize the Supervisor to pay the bills from Abstract #13 including voucher #'s 391-402 in the General Account, totaling \$14,811.89 and voucher #'s 403-406 in the Highway Fund, totaling \$7,798.57. This motion carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: to authorize the Supervisor to pay the bills from Abstract #13 including voucher #'s 391-402 in the General Account, totaling \$14,811.89 and voucher #'s 403-406 in the Highway Fund, totaling \$7,798.57.

RESOLUTION 030-2023 - A motion was made by Councilman Saddlemire seconded by Councilwoman Springer to authorize the Supervisor to pay the bills from Abstract #001 including voucher #'s 001-003 in the General Account, totaling \$1,690.00 and voucher #'s 004-006 in the Highway Fund, totaling \$1,636.46. This motion carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: to authorize the Supervisor to pay the bills from Abstract #001 including voucher #'s 001-003 in the General Account, totaling \$1,690.00 and voucher #'s 004-006 in the Highway Fund, totaling \$1,636.46.

RESOLUTION 031-2023 - A motion was made by Councilman Saddlemire seconded by Councilman Cyr to accept the Clerk's report as presented. This motion carried unanimously.

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

RESOLUTION 032-2023 - A motion was made by Councilman Saddlemire seconded by Councilman Cyr to accept the Supervisor's report as presented. This motion carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: to accept the Supervisor's report as presented.

There was a discussion regarding the reactivation of Amy Pokorny's previous town email, which she asked to have reactivated to receive information from DEC regarding the HHW Day grant. The Board was not comfortable with this, as Amy is not an elected official, but did the application in her name as a member of the CAC. Suggestions were made to use a council members email or the supervisor email so everything is routed through the Town, rather than reactive a previous town email.

The DEC grant also requires a complaint form to be on file for discrimination. The state has a form that the town would like to use as the official complaint form.

RESOLUTION 033-2023 - A motion was made by Councilman Saddlemire seconded by Councilman Cyr to accept the NYS discrimination complaint form as the town's official complaint form. This motion carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: to accept the NYS discrimination complaint form as the town's official complaint form.

RESOLUTION 034-2022- A motion was made by Councilman Cyr seconded by Councilwoman Springer to adjourn the meeting. This motion carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: to adjourn the meeting

Respectfully submitted,

Traci Schanz

Traci Schanz
Knox Town Clerk