



# Knox Town Board Minutes

*January 9, 2019*

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

Present on this date:

- Supervisor Lefkadits
- Councilman Barber
- Councilman Barcomb
- Councilman Pritchard
- Councilman Saddlemire
- Superintendent of Highways Gary Salisbury
- Town Clerk Traci Schanz
- Town Attorney Javid Afzali

**RESOLUTION 029-2019** – A motion was made by Councilman Barcomb, seconded by Councilman Barber to suspend the public meeting and begin the Public Hearing for Local Law 1 2019 Code of Ethics/Conflict of Interest. The motion carried unanimously.

**RESOLVED**: to suspend the public meeting begin the Public Hearing for Local Law 1 2019 Code of Ethics/Conflict of Interest.

**RESOLUTION 030-2019** – A motion was made by Councilman Barber, seconded by Councilman Barcomb to suspend the public hearing for Local Law 1 2019. The motion carried unanimously.

**RESOLVED**: to suspend the public hearing for Local Law 1 2019.

This will be revisited next month.

Mrs. Dibble was going to stop by but did not attend. She submitted a request for permission from the Board to continue to use the space below in the Park for the Community Garden. The Board agreed that this was fine and Councilman Saddlemire volunteered to till the soil.

Kathy Stempel presented a slide presentation of various activities held at the Berne Public Library. She thanked the Board for supporting the library.

Councilman Barber provided an update from the Hometown Heroes Committee. There will be a link on our website as well as an article in the Enterprise to inform the public about the project. He asked the Board for an \$800 donation for 20 brackets to hang the banners. The cost will be \$135 per banner.

**RESOLUTION 031-2019** – A motion was made by Supervisor Lefkaditis, seconded by Councilman Barcomb to approve an \$800 donation to Hometown Heroes for the purpose of purchasing brackets. The motion carried unanimously.

**RESOLVED**: to approve an \$800 donation to Hometown Heroes for the purpose of purchasing brackets.

Councilman Saddlemire, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, spoke regarding the creation of a list of residents who have special needs such as wheelchair use, oxygen, home dialysis, elevators within their homes, hospital beds or any other items that may be affected by power outages. The list will be provided to the Albany County Dispatch and will then be able to provide responders with information regarding special needs of residents. He would also like to include anyone who may have large quantities of hazardous materials. He would also like people to know there is help available if many hands are needed in an emergency. Using the example of a barn collapse, there are Vet's available to help and ways to contact large amounts of people to assist with all types of emergencies.

**RESOLUTION 032-2019** – A motion was made by Councilman Pritchard, seconded by Councilman Barcomb to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2018 meeting.

**RESOLVED**: to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2018 meeting.

Superintendent of Highways Gary Salisbury reported a quick update on the grader purchase. He has submitted all of the paperwork and is waiting for a build date. He would like to receive the grader by March.

Supervisor Lefkaditis led a discussion regarding the large increases in the costs of recycling. An agreement needs to be executed and there are no other choices at the time. Councilman Pritchard reported that in the meetings he has attended it has been stated that this is only the beginning and things will get worse. The Town may have to raise the prices of recycling certain items. This will be put on the March agenda to see if costs need to be adjusted. There is information available at the Transfer Station for the public regarding recycling.

**RESOLUTION 033-2019** – A motion was made by Councilman Barcomb, seconded by Councilman Pritchard to authorize the Supervisor to execute the recycling agreement with Evolution Recycling Inc. This motion carried unanimously.

**RESOLVED**: to authorize the Supervisor to execute the recycling agreement with Evolution Recycling Inc.

Supervisor Lefkaditis thanked Doug Roether for volunteering and changing all of batteries in the emergency lights at the Town Hall. All lights are up and running after not working for several years. Supervisor Lefkaditis has also purchased new pads and batteries for the AED machines that had expired in 2013.

There was a discussion regarding the replacement of the downstairs floor. Councilman Saddlemire volunteered to get three contractor estimates and will report back to the Board next month.

**RESOLUTION 034-2019** – A motion was made by Councilman Saddlemire, seconded by Councilman Pritchard to authorize the Supervisor to execute the Energy Audit contracts. This motion carried unanimously.

**RESOLVED:** to authorize the Supervisor to execute the Energy Audit contracts.

**RESOLUTION 035-2019** – A motion was made by Councilman Barcomb, seconded by Councilman Pritchard to appoint Gary Kappel as the Chairman to the Agricultural Advisory Committee. This motion carried unanimously.

**RESOLVED:** to appoint Gary Kappel as the Chairman to the Agricultural Advisory Committee.

Councilman Barber volunteered to review the Justice Court books. This item will be added to the agenda in February.

Supervisor Lefkaditis led a discussion regarding an update on annual reports and explained the delays with the Reports. After the explanation, Mrs. Adriance, Mrs. McAuliff, Mr. Young, Ms. Woessner, Mrs. Anderson, Mr. Jennings and Councilman Barcomb all had questions and/or statements regarding the filing of reports, Supervisory Duties, submitting reports to the clerk, legal recourse for previous bad council, inquiries if the Supervisor needs help, prioritizing, and fixing the problem and moving on.

The newsletter is almost complete and will be sent out upon completion.

The facilities walk through will be done differently this year. Supervisor Lefkaditis will compile a list of improvements/concerns since the last walk-through and the list will be discussed in February.

The Pucker Street fair committee from last year will continue this year and will provide an update next month.

**RESOLUTION 036-2019** – A motion was made by Councilman Barber, seconded by Councilman Barcomb to appoint Tim Fredericks as the 2019 Chairman of the Board of Assessment Review. This motion carried unanimously.

**RESOLVED:** to appoint Tim Fredericks as the 2019 Chairman of the Board of Assessment Review.

**RESOLUTION 037-2019** – A motion was made by Councilman Barcomb, seconded by Councilman Barber to appoint Jocelyn Ferrar to the Board of Assessment Review with a term ending on September 30, 2023. This motion carried unanimously.

**RESOLVED:** to appoint Jocelyn Ferrar to the Board of Assessment Review with a term ending on September 30, 2023.

**RESOLUTION 038-2019** – A motion was made by Councilman Barcomb, seconded by Councilman Pritchard to appoint Kevin Sherman as the 2019 Chairman of the Conservation Advisory Council. This motion carried unanimously.

**RESOLVED:** to appoint Kevin Sherman as the 2019 Chairman of the Conservation Advisory Council.

The ZBA has one more open position. McKenzie Hemstead would like the position, but she is the current recording secretary. Per Attorney Afzali, she is not this is considered a conflict and she cannot

do both. Supervisor Lefkaditis will contact her and report back to the Board in February with her decision. There is one more individual who is also interested, and this person will be contacted after speaking with McKenzie.

There was a discussion regarding the Tax Assessor position whose current term expires in September 2019. Russ Pakorny has indicated that he does not wish to continue at the end of his term. Russ had an idea that the new person should shadow him for 2019 and learn the position and the significance of it. Russ voiced his concerns regarding Albany County Real Property Services and what the process will be for his successor. Councilman Barber asked if the new assessor had to be a Town resident, and per Attorney Afzali they new person does not because it is an appointed position, not elected.

**RESOLUTION 039-2019** – A motion was made by Councilman Saddlemire, seconded by Councilman Pritchard to accept the donation of the salary of Senior Services Coordinator Charlotte Fuss, with gratitude, in the amount of \$500.00. This motion carried unanimously.

**RESOLVED:** to accept the donation of the salary of Senior Services Coordinator Charlotte Fuss, with gratitude, in the amount of \$500.00.

**RESOLUTION 040-2019** – A motion was made by Councilman Barcomb, seconded by Councilman Barber to journal \$500.00 from A6772.41 to A6772.4 under Programs for the Aging. The motion carried unanimously.

**RESOLVED:** to journal \$500.00 from A6772.41 to A6772.4 under Programs for the Aging.

**RESOLUTION 041-2019** – A motion was made by Councilman Barcomb, seconded by Councilman Pritchard authorizing the Supervisor to transfer \$805.00 from General account ending in 9638 to Lighting Account ending in 9688. The motion carried unanimously.

**RESOLVED:** to authorize the Supervisor to transfer \$805.00 from General account ending in 9638 to Lighting Account ending in 9688.

**RESOLUTION 042-2019** – A motion was made by Councilman Pritchard, seconded by Councilman Barcomb to approve Abstract #13 for 2018. The motion carried unanimously.

**RESOLVED:** to approve Abstract #13 for 2018.

**RESOLUTION 043-2019** – A motion was made by Councilman Barcomb, seconded by Councilman Pritchard to approve Abstract #1 for 2019. The motion carried unanimously.

**RESOLVED:** to approve Abstract #1 for 2019.

At 8:30 pm Councilman Barber had to leave the meeting.

#### **Public Comment**

Several residents had questions/comments/statements regarding the three new Transfer Station appointees, clarification of an article printed in the Enterprise, past practice of firing a previous Transfer Station employee, past practice of previous administrations regarding advertising, civil service and DEC hunting licenses. Mr. Young asked if the new appointments could be revisited and Supervisor Lefkaditis said he would get back to him. Mrs. Adriance stated she was concerned about the length of time it was taking for the clerk to be able to issue DEC permits and claimed to have had a conversation with a DEC

representative who then explained the process to her. She provided contact information from someone at DEC to the Supervisor.

Councilman Barcomb wanted to poll the Board to see if the Board members would change their vote based on what was heard tonight.

**RESOLUTION 044-2019** – A motion was made by Supervisor Lefkaditis, seconded by Councilman Pritchard to adjourn the meeting. This motion carried 4:1, with Councilman Barcomb voting NAY.

**RESOLVED**: to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Traci Schanz

Knox Town Clerk

\*PLEASE SEE BELOW THE ATTACHED COMMENTS REGARDING THE TRANSFER STATION SUBMITTED IN WRITING FROM RESIDENTS AT TONIGHT'S MEETING\*

9th January 2019  
Knox Town Board Meeting

Subject: Transfer Station Changes

Vas and Members of the Town Board,

I have come tonight in an attempt to understand why well trained, hard working, town employees have been summarily replaced.

I have been to the recycling center once since the firing, and it appeared that many more men were required to take the place of the three who have been fired. While I was there, there seemed to be no help offered to old people, and as a result of this there were some difficulties which resulted in extra work for the new men.

Vas, I met you when you first came to Knox and one thing you said to me, I was pleased to hear. After doing exhaustive research, you and your family decided to move here because you believe Knox to be the safest place to live. You chose a small community to settle your family...an important decision for anyone. I know nothing of the place you came from, but you chose a community where people care about one another. We know the needs and concerns of one another. We listen, we hear, we respond and we care. We help where we can.

I am aware you have the capacity to make changes that you deem to be within your purview, but may I offer, just because you can, does not make it right. Please take a moment to reconsider motives behind actions.

Harm to none should be the adopted lens through which all decisions should be viewed.

Thank you,



Mary B Browne

Read & submitted by Joan Adriance 1.9.19

There are so many things that I would like to say about the situation with the transfer station, but tonight I only want to clarify one point contained in the article published this week by the Altamont Enterprise:

The article reads:

At the meeting, Joan Adriance questioned the town board's hiring process, asking who had interviewed the then-current transfer station employees before making a decision. Salisbury said that he spoke to two of the workers.

"Joe said to me that you said 'I need to interview you,' but it never happened," said Joan Adriance, referring to her husband.

"I talked to him Saturday," said Salisbury.

"Excuse me, myself? Did you interview me?" Mark Young asked rhetorically.

"As much as I did anybody, Mark," said Salisbury.

What the article doesn't clarify is that Gary's conversation with my husband was not an interview... Joe asked him a question and he responded. I do not want anyone to be misled that Gary's comment in this article meant that he interviewed Joe, because he did not. Gary never even spoke with Dick Dexter - not a single word.

The statement he made to Mark "As much as I did anybody, Mark" makes me wonder how Mr. Salisbury was able to determine that the new hires were "more than qualified".

I would like these comments to be added to the official minutes of this meeting.

→ I'd also like to state, for the record, that I've heard that one of the new hires is a friend of our town supervisor and one of them is the father-in-law of the town's attorney.

