



Knox Town Board Minutes

April 19, 2022

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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 Pritchard
- Councilman Saddlemire
- Councilwoman Springer
- Town Clerk Schanz
- Highway Superintendent Schanz

RESOLUTION 065-2022 - A motion was made by Supervisor Pokorny seconded by Councilman Pritchard to approve the minutes from the March 2022 meeting as presented. This motion carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: to approve the minutes from March 2022 as presented

Public Comment:

B. McAulliffe – commented on the overdue AUD, asked if an extension had been filed, questioned why it hasn't been completed in the past year.

L. Murphy? – questioned if anything had been done or any progress made with the internet/broadband

Old Business:

There was a brief discussion regarding the Economic Development Committee. Molly Belmont has been attending the Ag Committee meetings and will stick with this for now rather than a new committee and address the agri-business options within the town.

Highway Superintendent Schanz gave an update on the bids for the new pick-up trucks. He has a bid for a '22 Dodge, 1 ton for \$76K, a '23 Chevy 3500 for \$73K, and one truck at DeNooyer with a dump body for \$81K. We would sell/auction two trucks, no trade-ins.

RESOLUTION 066-2022 - A motion was made by Councilman Saddlemire seconded by Councilman Pritchard to purchase a Chevy Silverado 3500 single cab gas w/ stainless steel western v plow and also purchase a Chevy Silverado 3500 diesel cab and chassis up fitted with a 9' dump box stainless steel western v plow and western tornado poly sander from DePaula Chevrolet. This motion carried unanimously 4:1 with Councilwoman Springer voting NAY.

RESOLVED: to purchase a Chevy Silverado 3500 single cab gas w/ stainless steel western v plow and also purchase a Chevy Silverado 3500 diesel cab and chassis up fitted with a 9' dump box stainless steel western v plow and western tornado poly sander from DePaula Chevrolet.

RESOLUTION 067-2022 - A motion was made by Councilman Saddlemire seconded by Councilman Pritchard to purchase a Chevy Silverado 3500 single cab diesel w/stainless steel western MVP v plow and western tornado poly sander from Cappellino Chevrolet inc. This motion carried unanimously 4:1 with Councilwoman Springer voting NAY.

RESOLVED: to purchase a Chevy Silverado 3500 single cab diesel w/stainless steel western MVP v plow and western tornado poly sander from Cappellino Chevrolet inc.

Councilwoman Springer asked for an updated list of all trucks and equipment that the town has, for inventory purposes.

Superintendent Schanz has also looked into the price of a trailer for the town. He has been using his own trailer for the past year and a half to move the skid steer around. There is a trailer available in Greenville that would suit the needs of the town.

RESOLUTION 068-2022 - A motion was made by Councilman Pritchard seconded by Councilman Cyr to approve the purchase of a trailer from Trailer LLC in Greenville for \$7,895.00. This motion carried unanimously 4:1, with Councilwoman Springer voting NAY.

RESOLVED: to approve the purchase of a trailer from Trailer LLC in Greenville for \$7,895.00.

There was a discussion regarding the Hazardous Waste Day. July 23, 2022 was the date provided by the County. The discussion involved the placement of Transfer Station stickers and possibly updating vehicles as they come through on this day. Supervisor Pokorny will contact the Supervisor from Berne to see if he would like to do a joint event. Amy Pokorny stated that there needed to be a resolution made in order to have a contract with MXI and it should include the rates in order to be reimbursed through the grant. The question was raised by Councilman Saddlemire if this event had been budgeted for. It was decided that more information was needed before a resolution or commitment could be made for this event.

There was a discussion regarding the back stairway repairs on the Historical Building. Supervisor Pokorny would like Ray and his son to work on the stairs since it was something that was agreed to a while back, before Ray was a town employee. Councilman Cyr is waiting for a quote to repair the porch on the Historical Building. Suggestions were made to "patch" the porch for now, or to sit under the trees if the weather is nice, rather than on the porch, and limit the use of the porch for now. Councilman Cyr

suggested the Historical Society attempt to raise money as they are a non-for-profit organization and could help contribute to the cost of the repairs.

RESOLUTION 069-2022 - A motion was made by Councilman Saddlemire seconded by Councilman Cyr to apply plywood to the Historical Building porch as a patch if necessary. This motion carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: to apply plywood to the Historical Building porch as a patch if necessary.

All employees met with a Sterling and Marshall representative to discuss the renewal of health insurance. The cost increases by 6% for the same plan.

RESOLUTION 070-2022 - A motion was made by Supervisor Pokorny seconded by Councilman Saddlemire to renew the CDPHP Insurance plan as it was presented to the employees and Supervisor. This motion carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: to renew the CDPHP Insurance plan as it was presented to the employees and Supervisor.

There was further discussion regarding a May newsletter. Some Board members voiced concerns about the cost of the letter at the last meeting. An estimate from Guilderland Printing for an 8-page letter would be approximately \$800. Supervisor Pokorny said we have extra money in the maintenance line item that was not for specific use that could be used to pay for the newsletter. A draft will be created and presented at the next meeting where the board will make a decision to print or not.

Superintendent Schanz would like an IT person to look at the router at the highway garage to see where the problem with the internet lies.

A discussion continued from the last meeting regarding the repair of the skylights. Calls have been made to get estimates, but the companies have not yet returned phone calls.

Supervisor Pokorny spoke with the town Attorney regarding the changing of terms for elected officials. It would have to be done 150 days prior to a town election.

Supervisor Pokorny stated the County will assist with putting up the road signs for farmer safety.

New Business:

Supervisor Pokorny presented the possibility of joining with the Hudson Mohawk Humane Society to take dogs that the town has had for a week. There is a fee of \$100 when transferring the dog over, but questions were raised about additional fees and the surrounding process.

RESOLUTION 071-2022 - A motion was made by Councilwoman Springer seconded by Councilman Pritchard to accept the contract with the Mohawk Hudson Humane Society, as presented. This motion carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: to accept the contract with the Mohawk Hudson Humane Society, as presented.

Supervisor Pokorny began a conversation regarding Transfer Station staffing when Councilwoman Springer asked if she could read a statement she had prepared. Councilwoman Springer submitted her statement to the Clerk to be included in the minutes:

Over 3 years ago, the sitting Board decided by a majority vote of that Board to not reappoint 3 employees to the Town Transfer Station.

According to the Open Meeting laws in NY there are 8 reasons why a Board would meet in Executive Session. #6 on the list covers the reason the Board met in Executive Session.

Over 2 years ago, I began my term serving as a Council Woman. As a new Board member, I was a part of the Executive Sessions when this matter was discussed.

Any matter discussed in executive session and/or any decisions made after an executive session, involving information discussed during executive session is privileged. The vote is public. The discussion is privileged.

The Town Board, at that time and the former Transfer Station employees reached a settlement that both parties agreed upon. That should have ended it.

This past January, the 5-member Board changed again.

Each of these 3 Boards made decisions, by the majority vote. I will not apologize for, nor attempt to explain away decisions made by any prior Board. When someone is not a sitting Board member, they are not allowed the privilege of executive session and because of that simple fact, they cannot make an informed decision. After the last Board meeting and the statement read by Russ, I felt I wanted to address this issue.

Now, to continue:

Before I was an Elected Member of this Board, my son Jeremy Springer was hired as a TS employee. Two weeks ago, Sat 4/2, my son sent the board a letter of resignation, giving the Town 2 weeks' notice, giving the Town time to find his replacement, and expecting to end his time employed on Thurs. the 14th. On Tues. The 5th at 8 am he received a text saying he can consider the past Sat., 4/2 his last day and to turn in his keys during Town Office hours.

This text was sent, and that decision was made without any attempt to contact Jeremy to discuss anything. Only after I called Russ was there any attempt made to call Jeremy and speak with him. This was not a decision made by the Board, nor with the full Boards knowledge and I believe it was very unprofessional.

Moving forward, I want to say two things:

First, as an elected official, it is my responsibility to serve this town by the rule of law, not the court of public opinion. I would hope my fellow Board members feel the same.

Second, I want to add, it is with regret, I accept Jeremy's resignation from the TS. Jeremy put his focus on the good and decent members of our community and doing the best job he could despite the few residents that resented him simply for being there.

In closing, with all that has gone on concerning the TS and the condition and needs of the TS itself, I believe it is time we form a committee to see if it financially feasible going to a Town wide pick-up.

**Thank-You,
Councilwoman Springer**

Supervisor Pokorny continued the discussion regarding Transfer Station employees, stating he believed we need help at the Transfer Station, and it would benefit from having some maturity, background and stability, recommending Dick Dexter as a good addition to the staff at the Transfer Station and proposed that Dick Dexter be made the Supervisor of the Transfer Station. The Supervisor believes his maturity would be a good thing for the current employees. The Supervisor stated he had talked with Dick Dexter regarding this and assured the Board that he was interested. The Supervisor stated he spoke to some of

the people who work at the transfer station in an informal way and believes Mr. Dexter would be welcomed there.

The Supervisor made a motion to appoint Dick Dexter to the Supervisor position at the Transfer Station.

Councilman Cyr stated he had five applications for the transfer station and the Supervisor stated he had one also. Supervisor Pokorny read a letter from the County of Albany, Department of Civil Service, going back to 2019 that stated in their opinion, the employment of Richard Dexter and Joseph Adriance was terminated in violation of the recent amendment to the NY civil service law section 75. The Supervisor reminded the Board that there was a motion on the floor and would like to have a second. The motion was not seconded; therefore no resolution was made.

Further discussion ensued regarding hiring of employees. Councilmen Cyr and Saddlemire will interview the applicants and expedite the process. Supervisor Pokorny expressed his concerns for only having one person working at the Transfer Station, especially at night, and he believes too many things could go wrong throughout the day for one person to be there alone.

Councilman Cyr stated the transfer station truck had gone in for repairs and the Town of Berne was able to help out and haul for us. Our truck is now back and running fine. Councilman Cyr also stated there are issues with the co-mingle container. He has looked into prices for new co-mingle, self-compacting/self-contained box. This type of container would cost approximately \$29k from WasteQuip and a replacement container without a lid would cost \$8k. Councilman Cyr will look into the annual costs of running the transfer station along with the depreciation costs of the trucks and equipment that factor into the costs. The Board would like to see quotes from other companies and possibly have a representative come to a meeting.

Supervisor Pokorny would like to see the Zoning ordinance updated, but not really sure what the best way is to go about it. Possibly an addendum would work.

Supervisor Pokorny stated there is a grant that could possibly pay for sidewalks. Concerns were raised about the responsibility of the homeowner and town for maintaining the sidewalks.

A conversation took place regarding the organizing of files between the ZBA, PB and BZA, and having access for everyone. The question was raised if there would be a possible grant available. Supervisor Pokorny will speak with all 3 departments to see how information is being shared currently.

There was a discussion regarding the reinforcement of the block walls under the transfer station, as the are beginning to cave in. There is a plan to make an H-frame to help stabilize the walls. It was suggested that John Prastio take a look at it and see what he believes should be done and hold off on purchasing any other materials for the time being.

Supervisor Pokorny would like to try and sell the hockey rink but would like specific information about it. Several Board members offered information about what they knew about it. Clerk Schanz offered to reach out to Vas to try and gather some information about the rink.

Supervisor Pokorny stated he is having a meeting with the lawyer who represents the solar company looking to put in the solar project on Thompson Lake Road and the school superintendent to discuss a PILOT agreement on 4/27/22 at 1:00 pm via Zoom. Councilmen Saddlemire and Cyr will also try to join.

AFLAC will be coming to the town for a meeting with the employees to discuss the options they have for choosing a plan. A date and time will be chosen in the near future.

There was a discussion about building a lean-to structure on the side of the park building to store equipment.

RESOLUTION 072-2022 - A motion was made by Councilman Cyr seconded by Supervisor Pokorny to purchase of materials, as presented by Ray Weiler to build a lean-to on the park building. This motion carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: to purchase the materials as presented to build a lean-to on the park building.

RESOLUTION 073-2022 - A motion was made by Supervisor Pokorny seconded by Councilman Pritchard to accept Jeremy Springer's resignation and thank him for his service to the town. This motion carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: to accept Jeremy Springer's resignation.

RESOLUTION 074-2022 - A motion was made by Supervisor Pokorny seconded by Councilman Saddlemire to authorize the Supervisor to pay the bills as presented Abstract #004, voucher #'s 79-101 in the amount of \$14,885.58 in the General Fund, and voucher #'s 102- 114 in the amount of \$39,879.37 in the Highway Fund. This motion passed unanimously.

RESOLVED: to authorize the Supervisor to pay the bills as presented; Abstract #004, voucher #'s 79-101 in the amount of \$14,885.58 in the General Fund, and voucher #'s 102- 114 in the amount of \$39,879.37 in the Highway Fund.

RESOLUTION 075-2022 - A motion was made by Councilman Pritchard seconded by Supervisor Pokorny to accept the Clerk's report as presented. This motion passed unanimously.

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

RESOLUTION 076-2022 A motion was made by Councilman Pritchard seconded by Councilman Cyr to adjourn the meeting. This motion carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: to adjourn the meeting

Respectfully submitted,

Traci Schanz

Traci Schanz
Knox Town Clerk