



# Knox Town Board Minutes

April 20, 2021

## *Meeting of the Town Board*

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

### Present on this date:

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

### Public Comment:

B.McAuliffe – would like an update for the 2020 financial filings for the town; what is the timeline for filing; has an extension been filed or are we out of compliance with local finance law; why doesn't the Dept. of State have any local laws filed for 2020; why are the minutes on the website still labeled as DRAFT; does Knox have residency requirements for Town Officials; stated it seems there are a lot of resignations on the agenda lately

### Presentation:

Dennis Barber was supposed to come to present ideas for a Bi-Centennial celebration. Councilman Saddlemire received a phone call from Mr. Barber stating they were just starting to organize a committee and he will reach back out to Mr. Barber to see what he needs. Mr. Barber will be added to the May agenda.

### Minute Approvals:

**RESOLUTION 052-2021** - A motion was made by Councilman Cyr seconded by Councilman Pritchard to approve the March 9, 2021 minutes. This motion carried unanimously.

**RESOLVED:** to approve the March 9, 2021 minutes.

**Highway Report:**

Superintendent Schanz and the Supervisor will meet to continue the discussion from last month regarding the possible purchase of two new pick-up trucks.

**Old Business:**

Memorial Day Update – Councilman Cyr has reached out to the VFW, and they are all set with rifles, the riders will be here to do the flag line and the boy scouts will do the flag. The ceremony will begin at noon. Mr. Champion has ordered a new wreath, and Reverend Francis will be here as well. Mr. Brembley will be the guest speaker. Councilman Cyr will reach out to Keegan Bailey to play taps if he is home from school. Mr. Champion said there will be a short parade with military vehicles and the drum core from the fire department.

**New Business:**

**RIC Solar Vote** - Supervisor Lefkaditis clarified the decision made by the ACPB regarding the solar project on Old Stage Road. The ACPB suggested not to proceed with the solar project. Due to the rejection, the Knox Planning Board required a supra-majority or 5 “yes” votes. All seven members appeared the night of the vote. One member had to leave and did not vote. The vote was 4:2. This was a valid vote, but it did not pass.

Supervisor Lefkaditis stated he has not yet heard back from the school district on the PILOT proposal.

**Grievance Day** – the tax assessor would like to move grievance day to Tuesday, June 1, 2021. Justin Maxwell is the assessor for several towns and would like to adjust our day. The Board is agreeable to this.

**RESOLUTION 053-2021** - A motion was made by Supervisor Lefkaditis seconded by Councilwoman Springer, authorizing the Town of Knox and the Town Tax Assessor to hold grievance day on Tuesday, June 1, 2021 versus the traditional 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday in May. This motion carried unanimously.

**RESOLVED**: to hold grievance day on Tuesday, June 1, 2021 versus the traditional 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday in May.

**HVW Rent payment** – HVW sent the town a check for \$6,120.00 for the rent on the cell phone tower. This money was not supposed to come to the town, but rather go to the site managers, and then the site managers cut the town a check for our 53%. The Supervisor will be sending them a check back in the amount of \$2876.40. From now on HVW will pay the site managers.

**Stimulus Money** – The Town is set to receive \$292,552.00 in stimulus money. The Supervisor believes half of the money was supposed to be received within 60 days after the President signed the document, and he has not heard anything. The State and County have not provided any updates. Supervisor Lyons would be open minded to have a discussion about combining funds for both towns.

**Personnel:**

**RESOLUTION 054-2021** - A motion was made by Councilman Cyr seconded by Supervisor Lefkaditis to accept the resignation of Mackenzie Hempstead from the ZBA effective 4/8/21. This motion carried unanimously.

**RESOLVED**: to accept the resignation of Mackenzie Hempstead from the ZBA effective 4/8/21.

Councilman Cyr would like to thank Mackenzie for all of her years of service as the ZBA secretary and then as a member. The Supervisor is sorry to see her go and thanks her for her knowledge and time with the town.

**RESOLUTION 055-2021** - A motion was made by Councilman Pritchard seconded by Councilman Cyr to accept the resignation of Beth Jones from the position of Youth Coordinator effective 3/15/2021. This motion carried unanimously.

**RESOLVED**: to accept the resignation of Beth Jones from the position of Youth Coordinator effective 3/15/2021.

**Member Comment:**

Dennis Barber arrived to speak with the Board regarding the 200-year anniversary of the Town of Knox, and as president of the Knox Historical Society, they would like to have some sort of celebration with the help and wishes of the town board. There are currently 4 members of the historical society and Lou Saddlemire on a committee. Mr. Barber will be contacting Bob Stevens and Sandra Quay to ask them to be part of the committee as well. Preliminary discussions include a celebration around the fair, fireworks, a parade, a car show, a time capsule and research around the businesses, churches, fire house, etc.

Mr. Barber mentioned that the building itself is in need of repairs. Councilman Cyr will reach out to the Sherriff to see if he has any work crews available. There was a discussion about the front and back porch and shutters, and to do an inspection to see what else it needs.

Councilman Cyr submitted a bill for flags for Memorial Day. He also wished to thank all of the volunteers that help out with the events we do.

**Finance:**

The Supervisor would like to give the authority to sign checks in his absence to the Deputy Supervisor. He would have the authority to sign checks in the general account, highway account, payroll/deductions, vouchers and disbursements and lighting.

**RESOLUTION 056-2021** - A motion was made by Councilman Saddlemire seconded by Councilman Pritchard to Authorize Deputy Supervisor to execute Cheques in the absence of the Town Supervisor for town funds deposited in the Bank of Greene County accounts ending in ....9638 (general), ....9646 (highway), ....9662 Payroll & Deductions, ....9654 (Vouchers & Disbursements, and ....9688 (Lighting) This motion carried unanimously.

**RESOLVED**: to Authorize Deputy Supervisor to execute Cheques in the absence of the Town Supervisor for town funds deposited in the Bank of Greene County accounts ending in ....9638 (general), ....9646 (highway), ....9662 Payroll & Deductions, ....9654 (Vouchers & Disbursements, and ....9688 (Lighting)

There was a discussion regarding the s Covid financial impact. In summary the town took a loss of approximately \$110,000.00. There is no way to know how things will go from here with the different strands, etc.

Another discussion took place regarding combining different positions within the town and how much the savings would be for the town. The total savings would be approximately \$72,000.00 less \$12,000.00 for a total of approximately \$63,000.00.

**RESOLUTION 057-2021** - A motion was made by Supervisor Lefkaditis seconded by Councilman Saddlemire that reads as follows:

**WHEREAS**, at a properly advertised and dually authorized meeting of the Knox Town Council held on April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 7:00pm at the Knox Town Hall a discussion took place amongst the Town Board members and residents regarding the economic impacts COVID 19 has had on the Town's revenue streams; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board held open discussions regarding how to best mitigate any revenue short falls; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board has determined the best course of action to address the fiscal challenges brought on by COVID 19 is a combination of appropriate staffing, reassignments, and deferred hiring practices.

**NOW, THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED**, that the Town of Knox effective immediately abolishes the position of Park Laborer; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Town of Knox shall defer the previously agreed upon hiring of a Full Time Transfer Station Employee; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Town of Knox effective immediately abolishes the position of Transfer Station Attendant.

Motion Made By: Supervisor Lefkaditis

Seconded By: Councilman Saddlemire

Councilman/Supervisor:  
Supervisor Lefkaditis

Vote:  
AYE

Certified By:

Councilman Cyr

AYE

*Traci Schanz*

Councilwoman Springer

AYE

Traci Schanz

Councilman Pritchard

AYE

Knox Town Clerk

Councilman Saddlemire

AYE

This motion carried unanimously.

**RESOLVED**: to effective immediately abolishes the position of Park Laborer, defer the previously agreed upon hiring of a Full Time Transfer Station Employee and effective immediately abolishes the position of Transfer Station Attendant.

Councilman Cyr and Councilman Saddlemire will work on the SOP's to incorporate the resolution above.

**RESOLUTION 058-2021** - A motion was made by Councilman Pritchard seconded by Councilwoman Springer to accept the Clerk and Supervisor reports as presented. This motion carried unanimously.

**RESOLVED**: to accept the Clerk and Supervisor reports as presented.

**RESOLUTION 059-2021** - A motion was made by Councilman Cyr seconded by Councilman Saddlemire to authorize the Supervisor to pay the bills. In abstract #004, in the general account, voucher #'s 60-83 and 106-107 in the amount of \$10,803.26, and in the highway account, voucher #'s 84-105 in the amount of \$14,680.60. This motion carried unanimously.

**RESOLVED:** to authorize the Supervisor to pay the bills.

**RESOLUTION 060-2021** - A motion was made by Councilman Cyr seconded by Councilwoman Springer to authorize the Supervisor to pay \$116.16 to American Legion Post 977 for flag reimbursement. This motion carried unanimously.

**RESOLVED:** to authorize the Supervisor to pay \$116.16 to American Legion Post 977 for flag reimbursement.

**RESOLUTION 061-2021** - A motion was made by Councilman Pritchard seconded by Councilwoman Springer to authorize the Supervisor to pay the quarterly legal bill to Monaco Cooper Lamb and Carr, PLLC in the amount of \$3,750.00. This motion carried unanimously.

**RESOLVED:** to authorize the Supervisor to pay the quarterly legal bill to Monaco Cooper Lamb and Carr, PLLC in the amount of \$3,750.00.

**RESOLUTION 062-2021** - A motion was made by Councilman Cyr seconded by Councilman Saddlemire to authorize the Supervisor to pay the bills. In abstract #003, in the general account, voucher #'s 32-42 in the amount of \$8,293.87, and in the highway account, voucher #'s 43-59 in the amount of \$28,766.58. This motion carried unanimously.

**RESOLVED:** to authorize the Supervisor to pay the bills.

**RESOLUTION 063-2021** - A motion was made by Councilman Saddlemire seconded by Councilman Pritchard to adjourn into executive session pursuant to POL Article 7 §105(1)d, not to reconvene into public session. This motion carried unanimously.

**RESOLVED:** to adjourn into executive session pursuant to POL Article 7 §105(1)d, not to reconvene into public session.

Respectfully submitted,

*Traci Schanz*

Traci Schanz  
Knox Town Clerk