



# Knox Town Board Minutes

*August 9, 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

#### Public Comment:

**Amy Pokorny** – commented that the Bicentennial events of the past few weeks have gone well and reminded everyone there are still more events to come in the Fall.

**RESOLUTION 109-2022** - A motion was made by Councilman Cyr seconded by Councilman Pritchard to approve the minutes from the July 2022 meeting as presented. This motion carried unanimously.

**RESOLVED:** to approve the minutes from July 2022 as presented

#### Committee Presentations:

**Agricultural Advisory Committee:** Gary Kleppel updated the Board about the topics the AAC is currently working on. At this time, they are researching the abandonment clause, per the request of the Planning Board. There are several considerations to consider when it comes to abandonment including non-conforming use of farmland, animals, a five-year non-use period, a generational gap or rental of the land for farming even if it is not the original owner. The AAC will provide their research and suggestions to the Planning Board who will in turn discuss it with the Town Board. The Committee is also working on ways to prevent nuisances between neighbors by creating Knox GAP (Good Agricultural Processes). The AAC is hoping to provide their final report to the Planning Board by October 2022. Gary updated the Board on the farm signs that the County is working on putting up around town, as well as requested that 2 signs be posted on either end of Craven Road for safety purposes.

**RESOLUTION 110-2022** - A motion was made by Councilman Saddlemire seconded by Councilman Cyr to place 2 signs/posts at either end of Craven Road, not to exceed \$200.00. This motion carried unanimously.

**RESOLVED:** to place 2 signs/posts at either end of Craven Road, not to exceed \$200.00.

**Old Business:**

There was a brief discussion regarding the remaining \$1000.00 on the celebration line. Supervisor Pokorny stated the Bicentennial Committee has gone over budget and he would like to give \$800.00 to the committee. He stated he believes the overage comes from the purchase of trophies and t-shirts. Council members raised questions as to why they went over budget, what is the committee doing with the money they made on events, and concerns of accounting within their budget. Superintendent Schanz mentioned that Mr. Barber has asked him to purchase 4 signs (unrelated to the bicentennial) out of the highway budget to put in certain areas of the town. Questions were raised again by the Board about the cost and placement of the signs. The Supervisor was asked to check with the bookkeeper to make sure that the funds are available from the general fund, not the highway fund.

The Supervisor complimented the Bicentennial Committee for the efforts they put into the recent events and stated the events went well and seemed to be a success.

The Household Hazardous Waste Day was a success, with approximately 123 cars, 78 from Knox and 45 from Berne. The Supervisor stated it was nice to work with the Town of Berne and to have them help that day. He also thanked Clerk Schanz and Jimmy Schager for his help throughout the day. Eric Marczak was also there to help.

Councilman Cyr continues to work on the Solar Array project will schedule a walk-through with National Grid and the Solar company to discuss the poles and trenching.

There was a discussion between Supervisor Pokorny, Highway Superintendent Schanz and Transfer Station truck driver Kyle Wieler about a week ago about the redesign of the Transfer Station. Councilman Cyr had previously researched self-sustaining compactors, the possibility of filling in the area where the current compactor is, extending the parking lot, and had discussed the most reasonable, cost-effective plan for the redesign. Councilman Cyr reminded the Board to look into using the funds from the American Rescue Plan, as this project is an emergency due to the failing conditions of the equipment and decaying walls surrounding the current compactor. He is willing to pass this project and previous research to those who met and discussed it, as he is continuing to work on the other projects he is currently involved in such as the community kitchen at the park and the solar array. Councilman Cyr suggested having a meeting at the Transfer Station, with the Board, open to the public to discuss the options and thoughts that the Board may have for the design. Supervisor Pokorny will contact the Enterprise to publish the meeting date once it is set.

The park kitchen continues to make slow but steady progress. The electric is hooked up, but the water continues to be worked on. The building department requires certain codes to be followed, and it must be ADA compliant. The cost of materials is concerning as all items have increased since the pandemic.

There was a discussion regarding the future use of the pavilion, community kitchen, possibly charging a non-refundable fee or refundable based on the condition of the pavilion after it has been used. There

will be a future discussion regarding the use of the field and pavilion by local teams, fees and usage agreements for teams and residents.

Supervisor Pokorny spoke with the town attorney regarding the possible sale of the property at Colonial Drive. He believes the attorney has given consent to sell the property. Supervisor Pokorny called the resident and informed him of the sale price of \$15,000.00, in which the resident stated he wasn't in agreement with and would get back to the Supervisor.

Supervisor Pokorny continues to work on the PILOT agreement. He made the proposal of \$30,000.00 to RIC's attorney, for the HCA and The Town Host Community Agreement combined. The attorney for RIC said she will get back to the Supervisor and he has not yet heard anything.

Supervisor Pokorny stated the Board needs to work on budgeting soon. He believes the Board needs to consider raises and suggested 3% for several positions, appointed and elected.

There was a brief discussion regarding the extension/repair of the boardwalk at the Street Road entrance to the park. There were concerns raised over interfering with the snowmobile trail, accessibility, and ENCON requirements.

A resident spoke with Supervisor Pokorny about the conditions of Zimmer Road, and another resident asked about decreasing the speed limit on Zimmer Road.

Supervisor Pokorny stated that Sean McAuliffe has had difficulty attending meetings for the CAC, so he would like to withdraw, and the committee would like to appoint Peter Parkinson (correct last name?) in his place.

**RESOLUTION 111-2022** - A motion was made by Supervisor Pokorny seconded by Councilman Cyr to appoint Peter Parkinson to the CAC. This motion carried unanimously.

**RESOLVED:** to appoint Peter Parkinson to the CAC.

Supervisor Pokorny stated he received a letter from NYS regarding the laws about smoking in the park. He will call the state and work on the required signage.

New guidelines for CDL's were discussed amongst the Board and Highway Superintendent. The Superintendent will check into the process of signing up for the Federal program, and this way the town could have additional drivers with CDL's for help when someone is off, on vacation or during the winter.

There was a discussion regarding the current situation of the dog kennels, the responsibility of cleaning and feeding the dogs while they are on our property, under the shared agreement with Berne. Future discussions will be held about the use of the building, the necessity of having kennels, and the future of the shared agreement.

**RESOLUTION 112-2022** A motion was made by Supervisor Pokorny seconded by Councilman Pritchard to pay the voucher submitted for shirts for the Highway employees in the amount of \$735.25. This motion carried unanimously.

**RESOLVED:** to pay the voucher submitted for shirts for the Highway employees in the amount of \$735.25.

**RESOLUTION 113-2022** - A motion was made by Councilman Cyr seconded by Councilwoman Springer to authorize the Supervisor to pay the bills as presented Abstract #008, voucher #'s 219-238 and 248-249 in the amount of \$23,382.39 in the General Fund, and voucher #'s 239-247 in the amount of \$20,318.60 in the Highway Fund. This motion passed unanimously.

**RESOLVED:** to pay the bills as presented Abstract #008, voucher #'s 219-238 and 248-249 in the amount of \$23,382.39 in the General Fund, and voucher #'s 239-247 in the amount of \$20,318.60 in the Highway Fund.

**RESOLUTION 114-2022** - A motion was made by Councilman Saddlemire seconded by Councilman Cyr to accept the Clerk and Supervisor reports as presented. This motion carried unanimously.

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

**RESOLUTION 115-2022** A motion was made by Councilwoman Springer seconded by Councilman Pritchard to adjourn the meeting. This motion carried unanimously.

**RESOLVED:** to adjourn the meeting

Respectfully submitted,

*Traci Schanz*

Traci Schanz  
Knox Town Clerk