



# Knox Town Board Minutes

Budget Workshop

*October 4, 2022*

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**The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Supervisor Pokorny, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.**

Present on this date:

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

Not present on this date:

- Highway Superintendent Schanz
- Councilman Saddlemire

## **Community Presentations:**

Helderberg Ambulance: Presenters Neil and Rosemary explained that the challenge for the Squad next year will be bridging the gap between the retirees and the new recruits. They are hoping to supplement with scholarships to EMT's that are already in the paramedic program at SUNY Cobleskill. This is the majority of the \$14,500.00 increase they are looking for as well as the increase in fuel costs. Revenue recovery is never something they can count on as it depends on the number of transports completed, and this is not predicable as it depends on if the patient needs and/or wants to be transported. The squad covers the largest square mile area in the state of NY.

Gary Kleppel, Chair of the Agricultural Advisory Committee, addressed the Board with his proposed budget request for the Committee for 2023. Much of the budget focuses on retaining and attracting young farmers to the community. The budget is for 3 projects; a video (to upgrade a currently used educational video to professional grade), wagons (banners, and advertising for FFA and 4H) for the Memorial Day parade, and to follow up with the second part of a transition workshop that began just before the COVID pandemic.

**RESOLUTION 127-2022** - A motion was made by Councilman Cyr seconded by Councilman Pritchard to approve the minutes from the September 13, 2022 meeting, as presented. This motion carried unanimously 4:0.

**RESOLVED:** to approve the minutes from the September 13, 2022 meeting, as presented.

Per Supervisor Pokorny's request the minutes from the September 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting will be corrected to remove the comment about Crossgates Mall, and to correct the amount of money Guilderland EMS (not Altamont). The minutes will be revised, sent to the Board and presented for approval at the next meeting.

Supervisor Pokorny reports that resident Beth O'Herin has written a letter to him to state her concerns with the safety of the intersection at Beebe Road and Route 146. After a brief discussion, it was decided that Supervisor Pokorny will place a call to the state highway department and discuss the concerns with them.

There was a discussion regarding the use of the building by the robotics club. They would like to meet on Mondays when, unfortunately, no one else is in the building and the Clerk cannot always make it to the town hall to let the club in. After a brief discussion, it was decided by the Board to give the Club Advisor a key to the outside door, to enter through the front door, down to the lower level to open the lower door and let the club in. This way, all doors will lock behind them and the building will remain secure.

As a follow-up discussion, Councilwoman Springer asked how many people have access to the building. After a brief discussion regarding the current software, possible cost of upgrading the system, safety of the building and those who use it, it was decided that an upgrade is needed, and costs/options will be looked into.

**RESOLUTION 128-2022** - A motion was made by Supervisor Pokorny seconded by Councilman Pritchard to approve the use of a building key for the robotics club advisor. This motion carried unanimously 4:0.

**RESOLVED:** to approve the use of a building key for the robotics club advisor.

The Clerk addressed the Board regarding an issue with a resident falling into her car several months ago and leaving a dent in the door. She did not wish to name the resident, but after speaking with the resident who denies the damage, (which is on video) she spoke with the town attorney and the representative for the town's insurance. The town attorney advised her to speak to the Board and offered three options to help determine a solution to necessary repairs; file a claim with the town insurance, file a claim with her own insurance and ask the town for reimbursement for her deductible, or file a claim with the resident's insurance. It was decided the Clerk would claim it on her own insurance and ask the Board to reimburse her for her deductible of \$500.00.

**RESOLUTION 129-2022** - A motion was made by Councilman Cyr seconded by Councilman Pritchard to approve the reimbursement to the Clerk in the amount of \$500.00 for her deductible. This motion carried unanimously 4:0.

**RESOLVED:** to approve the reimbursement to the Clerk in the amount of \$500.00 for her deductible.

**RESOLUTION 130-2022** - A motion was made by Councilman Cyr seconded by Councilwoman Springer to sponsor a Christmas Tree with HFCO in the amount of \$50.00. This motion carried unanimously 4:0.

**RESOLVED:** to sponsor a Christmas Tree with HFCO in the amount of \$50.00.

There was a brief discussion regarding the needed repairs for transfer station, and the ordering of the self-compacting boxes. Councilman Cyr has not yet heard back from the representative. Councilman Cyr asked for clarification regarding the purchase of the boxes with the use of COVID ARP money. Supervisor Pokorny stated the attorney said the zero-turn tractor is definitely acceptable but is waiting on further response from the attorney regarding the purchase of the boxes. Councilman Cyr asked if the attorney or comptroller's office could provide the Board with something in writing stating the purchase of the boxes and job trailer are acceptable uses of the ARP funds. Councilman Saddlemire was supposed to report back to the Board regarding the mower purchase, but due to his absence, this will be discussed at the next meeting.

The Board discussed the purchase of a job trailer, old or new, to place at the transfer station while repairs and remodeling take place. Councilman Cyr continues to look into the trailers and will report back to the Board at the next meeting.

Supervisor Pokorny explained to the Board what he did to adjust the personnel service areas of the budget, multiplying each line items by 1.09 to increase those lines by 9%. He discussed each line and let the Board know which items he increased.

There was a discussion regarding the position of the dog control officer position. Should it stay as a salary position or go to hourly was the question on hand. The Board has asked Supervisor Pokorny to reach out to the Town of Berne to discuss the shared kennel agreement.

After a discussion regarding the payment of ZBA and PB secretaries, Supervisor Pokorny will be looking into how the secretaries should be paid and what the amount is.

The Board will wait to review the highway funds when the Superintendent is present. There are questions regarding the trading in of a truck, money for more equipment. There are questions regarding plow responsibilities for our building maintenance employee versus highway employees.

**RESOLUTION 131-2022-** 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