



Knox Town Board Minutes

March 8, 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
- Not present on this date: Highway Superintendent Schanz

Public Comment:

B. McAulliffe – read a prepared statement regarding executive session conduct, open meetings law, previous employees at the transfer station, possible slander regarding the previous employees of the transfer station

Supervisor Pokorny- stated he anticipated that a response would be required for tonight and he read his prepared statement, submitting it to the clerk to be included in the minutes:

The events that have led up to this moment are regrettable and unfortunate. It goes back to a feud between the transfer station and the town garage regarding management and transportation of the garbage. No participant is entirely innocent of the events that followed, but clearly it would have been better if an atmosphere of fairness and clear thinking had prevailed. The result of the stressful situation was that three men who had worked at the transfer station for many years were not reappointed in the reorganizational meeting of 2018. New workers were appointed, and the men who lost their jobs were left behind. There have been justifications made for this action, but the only real explanation I have found is that the participants, both management and labor, just weren't getting along. One justification has been that there was some mishandling of money or property, but I have looked at all the evidence, some of which is private, by virtue of personnel files. I can say unequivocally that there is no evidence of this. Also I would like to point out that the subsequent legal proceedings where these men were awarded damages from the town, did not find any evidence of wrong doing. Also I have known these men for years, as have many people in Knox. In my experience it is inconceivable that these men are guilty of anything which would justify their dismissal. So, in conclusion, this is a sad and unfortunate event, and we should apologize to the men involved and to their families who have suffered so much stress.

Laura – stated she agreed with Supervisor and there should be a record that the allegations were unfounded

Tim – stated one of the men mentioned was a veteran and believed this was a travesty

RESOLUTION 054-2022 - A motion was made by Councilman Pritchard seconded by Councilman Cyr to approve the minutes from January 25, 2022, as presented. This motion carried unanimously 4:1 with Supervisor Pokorny stated he did not receive the emailed minutes.

RESOLVED: to approve the minutes from January 25, 2022, as presented

RESOLUTION 055-2022 - A motion was made by Councilman Cyr seconded by Councilman Pritchard to approve the minutes from February 8, 2022, as presented. This motion carried unanimously 4:1 with Supervisor Pokorny stated he did not receive the emailed minutes.

RESOLVED: to approve the minutes from February 8, 2022, as presented

Community Presentations

Bicentennial Celebration

Dennis Barber was unable to attend, Amy Pokorny reported in his absence. New events have been added for the Bicentennial, including a history day on July 31, an Anti-Rent Wars play and a period-appropriate luncheon.

Highway Superintendent Report: Superintendent Schanz was not in attendance, but Councilman Cyr stated he submitted the bid for three truck the previous day.

There was a reminder given for everyone to complete the Sexual Harassment training.

Dierdra Keating introduced herself, stating she was interested in being on the Ethics committee.

RESOLUTION 056-2022 - A motion was made by Supervisor Pokorny seconded by Councilwoman Springer to appoint Dierdra Keating to the Ethics Committee. This motion carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: to appoint Dierdra Keating to the Ethics Committee.

Eric Marzack, Amy Pokorny, Brigette McAuliffe and Sean McAuliffie expressed interest in being on the CAC.

RESOLUTION 057-2022 - A motion was made by Supervisor Pokorny seconded by Councilman Pritchard to decrease the number of CAC members from 7 to 5. This motion carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: to decrease the number of CAC members from 7 to 5.

RESOLUTION 058-2022 - A motion was made by Supervisor Pokorny seconded by Councilman Pritchard to appoint the following people to the CAC; Eric Marzack, Amy Pokorny, Brigette McAuliffe and Sean McAuliffie. This motion carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: to appoint Eric Marczack, Amy Pokorny, Brigette McAuliffe and Sean McAuliffe to the CAC.

There was a brief discussion regarding the repair/replacement of the stairs on the Historical Society Building. The Council would like to talk to Ray about still doing the job since it was offered to him prior to being hired in the maintenance position.

The discussion continued regarding the porch on the same building. Councilman Cyr suggests that the Historical Society begin looking into grants or other ways to raise money to repair the building rather than continuously ask the town. The Council will look into quotes as well as speak to the carpentry program at BOCES.

There was a discussion regarding the use of the upper parking lot for a BBQ chicken fundraiser for BKW softball with Chad Saddlemire on May 6th, The Board agreed that as long as residents can access the mailboxes, it shouldn't be a problem.

RESOLUTION 059-2022 - A motion was made by Councilman Saddlemire seconded by Councilwoman Springer to approve the use of the upper Town Hall parking lot for a BKW softball fundraiser on May 6th. This motion passed unanimously.

RESOLVED: to approve the use of the parking lot for a fundraiser for BKW girls softball

There was a discussion regarding the health insurance plan for the Town. The plan representative will meet with the guys at the Highway garage to discuss the different plan options.

There was a discussion regarding another newsletter to be printed and sent out in April. Council Pritchard asked where the funds would come from. Councilman Cyr asked how long this one would be and how it could be shortened. Councilman Saddlemire is concerned that most of it would be repetitive. A suggestion was made to shorten it and call it a bulletin to decrease the cost. It was decided that this will be discussed again at the April meeting.

A discussion was held regarding the internet at the highway garage. It was suggested that Hudson Valley wireless should be contacted and look into what seems to be a weak signal at the highway garage.

Another discussion took place regarding the Memorial Day parade and the sponsorship of it by the Kiwanis Club. The Kiwanis Club is asking for \$150.00 donation to help support the parade.

RESOLUTION 060-2022 - A motion was made by Supervisor Pokorny seconded by Councilwoman Springer to approve a \$150.00 donation to the Kiwanis Club for the Memorial Day parade. This motion passed unanimously.

RESOLVED: to approve a \$150.00 donation to the Kiwanis Club for the Memorial Day parade.

Tom Wolfe spoke with the Board regarding an alternant member for the Planning Board. The town attorney will address the current law as it is written and see if changes need to be made. Tom believes we should start advertising now in order to find someone as soon as possible. This person should attend meetings and stay up to speed on the information.

RESOLUTION 061-2022 - A motion was made by Supervisor Pokorny seconded by Councilwoman Springer to advertise for an alternate planning board member. This motion passed unanimously.

RESOLVED: to advertise for an alternate planning board member.

There was a discussion regarding the possibility of having an economic development committee. Councilman Saddlemire suggested furthering the discussion regarding the need for this, the guidelines, # of members. The Supervisor will contact the town attorney to gather more information.

A brief discussion was held regarding the sound proofing panels that have been installed and the need to purchase more to make it better.

The skylight panels in the highway garage are leaking. Ray was able to fix it. Ray is checking to see if they still make the panels and if we can purchase more for the highway garage.

A discussion was held regarding the changing of 2 year terms to 4 year terms. No decisions will be made lightly or quickly. Supervisor Pokorny will speak with the town attorney to look into the process of possibly changing terms.

RESOLUTION 062-2022 - A motion was made by Councilman Saddlemire seconded by Councilman Cyr to authorize the Supervisor to pay the bills as presented Abstract #003, voucher #'s 39-60 and #77, 78 in the amount of \$13,319.08 in the General Fund, and voucher #'s 61- 76 in the amount of \$20,242.38 in the Highway Fund. This motion passed unanimously.

RESOLVED: to authorize the Supervisor to pay the bills as presented; Abstract #003, voucher #'s 39-60 and #77, 78 in the amount of \$13,319.08 in the General Fund, and voucher #'s 61- 76 in the amount of \$20,242.38 in the Highway Fund.

RESOLUTION 063-2022 - A motion was made by Councilman Saddlemire seconded by Councilman Cyr to accept the Clerk's report as presented. This motion passed unanimously.

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

RESOLUTION 064-2022 A motion was made by Councilman Saddlemirer 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