



Knox Town Board Minutes

September 12, 2018

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The meeting was called to order at 7:08 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Present on this date:

- Supervisor Lefkaditis
- Councilman Barber
- Councilman Barcomb
- Councilman Pritchard
- Councilman Saddlemire
- Superintendent of Highways Gary Salisbury
- Town Attorney Javid Afzali
- Town Clerk Traci Schanz

The meeting began with liaison reports. Supervisor Lefkaditis, Councilman Pritchard and his wife Rose along with Councilman Barber attended the ribbon cutting for the Foxenkill Tavern. Councilman Barber presented the Tavern with a plaque of the original Foxenkill from the 1900's as well as the 1960's. Councilman Barcomb attended the CAC meeting. He stated Dee Woessner has been researching a grant regarding the notification to residents of changes that may occur at the transfer station. Supervisor Lefkaditis attended the Planning Board meeting where they are focusing on home occupations.

Supervisor Lefkaditis reported that the Flu Clinic scheduled for September 22nd is cancelled due to lack of interest.

Councilman Barber has been working on Town Signs and reports that he has a design with the town logo and "Welcome to Knox" split on left and right sides. Approximately 9 signs are needed. Each end of route 146, each end of Bozenkill Road, one sign on route 443 by Foxenkill, one at the end of route 156, each end of Knox cave Road, and one in Thatcher Park. Each sign would cost approximately \$50.00. Signs will be a green background and white letters. Councilman Barcomb asked that "Right to Farm" be added to each sign.

RESOLUTION 165-2018 – A motion was made by Supervisor Lefkaditis and seconded by Councilman Barcomb authorizing Councilman Barber to purchase 9 Town signs, not to exceed \$500.00. The motion carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: to authorize Councilman Barber to purchase 9 signs, not to exceed \$500.00.

Councilman Pritchard and his wife Rose attended the ceremony for the dedication of a book shelf to the Berne Town Library built by Kiernan Hanley for his Eagle Scout project.

Councilman Barber announced the Quilt and Fancywork show date and time on Sunday 9/16/18 from 10am-4pm.

The playground has been started. Supervisor Lefkaditis thanked Superintendent Salisbury, the highway crew, Councilman Barber, Rose Pritchard and Clerk Schanz for their help in unloading trucks and placing items into the POD for storage. Councilman Saddlemire and Bob Stevens were also thanked for their consultant efforts and decision making for the playground. Supervisor Lefkaditis reminded everyone that the community build is this coming weekend, if people were available to help it would be much appreciated.

Councilman Barcomb announced there is a self-driving tour "Discover the Hilltowns" on Sunday, September 15th. Information can be found at www.hilltowns.org and maps can be found on site and on line. Amy Pakorny left maps for people to pick up at the Town Hall.

RESOLUTION 166-2018 – A motion was made by Councilman Barcomb, seconded by Supervisor Lefkaditis, to approve the minutes from the 8/14/2018 meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: to approve the minutes from the 8/14/2018 meeting as presented.

The Highway Superintendent did not have any new items to report on. He states they are helping other town work on roads as he and his crew did most of their work early in the season and other towns now need help. They have been trying to keep up with pot holes and completing a lot of mechanical work at the highway garage.

A discussion was held regarding the Transfer Station SOPs. Supervisor Lefkaditis suggested that the Board reach out one more time to the transfer station workers to arrange a meeting. Councilman Barber offered to arrange this meeting, and Councilman Saddlemire offered to go with him. Once the appointment is made, if the transfer station workers choose to meet, the SOPs will be discussed with the workers.

Mr. Hemstead asked a question regarding the disposal of tree limbs at the transfer station and if these were acceptable to be placed into the dumpster. He stated someone was dumping tree limbs into the dumpster during the day. Supervisor Lefkaditis asked that this issue be discussed when the Board members meet with the transfer station workers.

Councilman Barcomb asked what the town would be doing regarding the roof at the transfer station. After a brief discussion it was decided that prices would be looked into for the cost of shingles to replace the roof. The Board will make a decision on the matter once all information is gathered.

Supervisor Lefkadits stated the new shed is in place at the transfer station. Councilman Barcomb asked to have the maintenance worker put a coat of stain on the building to protect it.

A discussion was held regarding the proposed MRD at the intersection of routes 156&157. Supervisor Lefkaditis discussed a suggestion made by Attorney Afzali. The County feedback from the prior submission, seems that the County is not exactly sure what the Town wants to do. Attorney Afzali has

suggest that the SEQR be completed in its entirety before resubmitting it, to provide the County with a more accurate picture. Parts two and three of the SEQR will be completed at a Special Meeting in October.

The volunteer appreciation BBQ will be postponed until October 30th from 1-4pm to invite all who volunteer with the playground build this weekend.

Councilman Barcomb wanted to discuss the comprehensive plan since there has not been one done since 1992 and would like to know if the Board will continue to use it and talk about the options available and move forward with the changes and development of the Town. Supervisor Lefkaditis stated the two main concerns from the last discussion regarding the draft of the comprehensive plan were that it didn't follow the guild lines of what a plan should be and that many people felt it was one-sided as well as no supporting data. Councilman Barcomb questioned if the plan would be scrapped or continued. Supervisor Lefkaditis stated he thinks the plan should be started over or stick with what we have and does not see the need to change what is currently in place, other than it is dated. Councilman Saddlemire stated he would like to see the plan updated. He believes it should be reviewed section by section to see what needs to be updated and changed. Councilman Barcomb stated that due to environmental, agriculture and other changes over time, that only parts of the plan would need to be updated. Councilman Saddlemire would like to make sure items are still applicable in 2018. Councilman Saddlemire will contact Tom Wolfe and Ray Hand to see if they would be interested in being on a committee to discuss the comprehensive plan.

A discussion was held regarding fees for blight conditions for vacant properties. Councilman Barber will look up fees imposed by other nearby towns and report back to the Board at the next Board meeting.

A discussion was held regarding a town permit for commercial dumping along with fees. The Town currently has a law that states a person can apply for a commercial waste collection permit. There are a few problems with the law as it currently reads. The town does not have an application, does not have a fee established and the ownness is not applied to the clerk or the applicant to notify the town board. Councilman Pritchard states the entire statement should be removed and no commercial permits should be issued. Supervisor Lefkaditis stated currently there is a resident applying for a commercial permit and the town has no fee. Attorney Afzali stated the town is free to place a moratorium on commercial dumping until a resolution regarding commercial dumping is agreed upon.

RESOLUTION 167-2018 – A motion was made by Councilman Barcomb, seconded by Supervisor Lefkaditis to place a moratorium on commercial dumping for six months pending the Board's review of commercial dumping. The motion carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: to place a moratorium on commercial dumping for six months pending the Board's review of commercial dumping.

The clerk will contact the current resident applying for the permit and notify him of the six-month moratorium on commercial dumping.

Joe Burke from the Altamont Free Library spoke regarding the planning stages of the next three-year plan for the Library. He left a flyer with an on-line survey to gather feedback about Knox residents and the use of the library by the town residents.

The next discussion was regarding the cemetery on Quay road that the town is not receiving taxes for. Attorney Afzali recommended getting a title company to confirm/establish ownership. After further discussion, Councilman Barcomb suggested giving the information to the abutting property owners and letting them decide if they wanted to go further with the information provided.

A discussion was held regarding the possible selling of 3 acres within the business district on route 156. The Board does not wish to sell this property at this time.

The alleged encroachment on Mohawk Land Conservancy was discussed. When Supervisor Lefkaditis reached out to the Conservancy it was discovered that the town nor the Conservancy has a survey for this property. Supervisor Lefkaditis discussed splitting the cost of having the property surveyed and the Conservancy stated their budget was tight. Attorney Afzali stated he has reached out to DEC and is awaiting a response to schedule a meeting to discuss the issue.

The intersection of Knox Cave Road and Pleasant Valley Road was the next topic of discussion. There have been several car accidents in the past few weeks at this intersection. After much discussion regarding the safety of this intersection, Attorney Afzali recommended passing a resolution to put the county on notice of the dangers of this intersection. Attorney Afzali will draft a resolution and present it for consideration at the Special Meeting. Councilman Saddlemire presented an accident report from the Knox Fire Department regarding the number of accidents the KFD has responded to at this intersection. Supervisor Lefkaditis will contact Lisa at the county regarding the issue.

The Board discussed the hiring of a part time maintenance person. Supervisor Lefkaditis will pull up the salaries that have been paid so far and this topic will be discussed again at the next Board meeting.

Supervisor Lefkaditis stated the preliminary budget must be submitted to the clerk by September 30th. He will be meeting with the bookkeeper and superintendent to discuss the budget and then email it to the clerk who will forward it to the Board.

RESOLUTION 168-2018 – A motion was made by Councilman Saddlemire, seconded by Councilman Pritchard to approve the Supervisor and Clerk reports as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: to approve the Supervisor and Clerk reports as presented.

RESOLUTION 169-2018 – A motion was made by Councilman Saddlemire, seconded by Supervisor Lefkaditis to authorize the Supervisor to pay the bills from Abstract 9 for the general and highway account vouchers. This motion carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: to authorize the Supervisor to pay the bills from Abstract 9,2018.

Public Comment

Councilman Barber proposed that a sign be installed in the Town Park regarding the leash law. Small signs will be made and attached to the animal waste stations.

Rose Pritchard thanked Supervisor Lefkaditis and his wife Anna for making the Knox Youth Summer Camp successful for the kids. Supervisor Lefkaditis in turn thanked Mrs. Pritchard for her help with the program as well as the other great volunteers.

Amy Pakorny asked for an update on the energy grant. Councilman Saddlemire stated there is a new contact person, and several meetings are being rescheduled at this time.

Councilman Barber asked about connecting the Historical Society alarms to the Town Hall alarms. Supervisor Lefkaditis will contact the alarm company to ask about resolving this issue. He also asked if the first Saturday in November would be available for the HHA to use the Board room for an event.

Eric Marczak spoke regarding his concerns for our community, including contaminated water supplies, not letting the CAC dissolve and leaning on them for their expertise, pollution, and enforcement of building permits, and would like to look into these issues further in the future.

Doug Roether is trying to work out the communication barriers between the Zoning Board of Appeals, Planning Board and Building and Zoning Departments. There is agreement amongst the Boards that things should be filed by section, block and lot. The belief is that this software exists and Tom Wolfe and Dough Roether along with Makenzie Hemstead will continue to look into options for this purpose.

Joan Adriance asked the status of the Board email. This is in the final testing stages and will be posted to the website soon.

RESOLUTION 170-2018 - A motion was made by Councilman Barcomb, seconded by Supervisor Lefkaditis to adjourn into executive session to discuss personnel matters, not to reconvene for public session and was unanimously approved.

RESOLVED: to adjourn into executive session to discuss personnel matters, not to reconvene for public session.

Respectfully Submitted,

Traci Schanz
Knox Town Clerk
September 25, 2018