



# Knox Town Board Minutes

*April 18, 2023*

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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 Saddlemire
- Councilwoman Springer
- Councilman Pritchard
- Town Clerk Schanz
- Highway Superintendent Schanz

## Presentations:

The Robotic Team, System Override, consisting of several students from several different schools, (Schalmont, St. Thomas, BKW, and home school) provided a presentation for the Board. The Team explained they are sponsored by Schoharie Mohawk Initiative for Science and Technology, and if it were not for the use of the Town Hall, would not have had anywhere to meet or practice. The team explained the competitions that they have participated in, how they built, designed, made changes and accommodations to the robot and provided a demonstration of how the robot works. The Team won two awards throughout the season, the Innovate Award (for the design of the claw on the robot) and the Think Award (for the documentation of the process of their robot design). The Team also placed 3<sup>rd</sup>, twice, for the Inspire Award. This Team can consist of 15 kids, grades 7-12 and is open to anyone. The Team asked if they could keep their trophies at the Town Hall, and the Board is more than happy to see this happen.

A representative from Verizon, Chris Diaz, called in to explain the GPS Solutions system. The system benefits worker safety (accidents, response time), constituent relations (to address residential complaints), health of vehicles (maintenance, record history, towing), monetary improvement of feet of vehicles (tracking data for usage and making improvements on spending). This is a black box solution that is installed in each vehicle that can be self-installed without impact on the warranty. Verizon partners with Allstate for towing. Cameras are also available with the system. The cost starts at \$15.95/per vehicle/per month and can go up to \$45/per vehicle/per month.

Councilwoman Springer states she is against the camera facing the driver, however knows first hand how helpful these systems and cameras can be in the event of an accident, saving drivers from unwanted/unfounded charges.

Tom Wolfe has submitted his resignation from the Planning Board. The Board accepts his resignation with thanks and gratitude for his many years of service to the community. Tom leaves big shoes to fill.

**RESOLUTION 069-2023** A motion was made by Councilwoman Springer seconded by Councilman Pritchard to accept the resignation of Chair, Tom Wolfe from the Planning Board. This motion carried unanimously.

**RESOLVED:** to accept the resignation of Chair, Tom Wolfe from the Planning Board.

**RESOLUTION 070-2023** A motion was made by Supervisor Pokorny seconded by Councilwoman Springer to appoint Planning Board member, Deb Nelson as the Chair of the Planning Board until December 31, 2023. This motion carried unanimously.

**RESOLVED:** to appoint Planning Board member, Deb Nelson as the Chair of the Planning Board until December 31, 2023.

Councilwoman Springer states the Planning Board would like the Town Board to consider a one year moratorium on solar projects. Projects and applications already in progress will not be affected by the moratorium, it would only be new applications for a year. Deb Nelson states this passed through the Planning Board 4:1.

**RESOLUTION 071-2023** A motion was made by Councilwoman Springer seconded by Councilman Cyr to approve a one year moratorium on Solar projects within the Town. This motion carried unanimously.

**RESOLVED:** to approve a one year moratorium on Solar projects within the Town.

**RESOLUTION 072-2023** A motion was made by Councilman Cyr seconded by Supervisor Pokorny to accept the resignation of Kyle Wieler from the transfer station. This motion carried unanimously.

**RESOLVED:** to accept the resignation of Kyle Wieler from the transfer station.

**RESOLUTION 073-2023** A motion was made by Councilman Cyr seconded by Councilman Pritchard to accept the resignation with thanks and appreciation, of Valarie Ackroyd, ZBA secretary. This motion carried unanimously.

**RESOLVED:** to accept the resignation with thanks and appreciation, of Valarie Ackroyd, ZBA secretary.

There was brief discussion regarding the hiring of a new employee at the transfer station. The applicant for the position has been interviewed, completed paperwork and agreed to the SOP's in place. He has spent time with Superintendent Schanz driving the truck and the councilmen who conducted the interview are satisfied that this person can fill the role. Councilman Cyr thanked Superintendent Schanz for filling in while looking for a new hire, as well as repairing the truck.

Tony Miller asked what the plan was for when the person in this position took time off and how that would be covered. Councilman Cyr stated he thought maybe a per diem position, or keeping the ad posted for a driver and see how things go. Ray Wieler is interested in getting his CDL but is unsure how long it would take and what the costs involved would be.

**RESOLUTION 074-2023** A motion was made by Councilman Cyr seconded by Councilman Saddlemire to approve the hiring of John Papa with a start date of 4/20/23 to fill the position of transfer station driver/hauler. This motion carried unanimously.

**RESOLVED:** to approve the hiring of John Papa with a start date of 4/20/23 to fill the position of transfer station driver/hauler.

Another applicant has applied to work at the transfer station, the application will be kept on file.

The Supervisor stated an employee was injured while working at the transfer station several months ago and required medical attention. The employee was treated in Cobleskill. The Supervisor has received a bill for just under \$500.00 and believes it would be better to pay the bill outright rather than claim it under Workers Compensation. At the time of the incident the employee filled out the Workers Comp paperwork. After a brief discussion, all Board members agreed that a Workers Compensation claim must be filed. Supervisor Pokorny will take care of it.

There was a brief discussion regarding the publication of a newsletter for approximately \$1.00 per copy to each household. Councilman Saddlemire asked that the article regarding the transfer station be changed as far as the details of the plans. The Board does not have a definite plan for the transfer station and thought the article was too specific. Amy Pokorny will re-write the article and email it to the Board to make sure it is acceptable before printing.

**RESOLUTION 075-2023** A motion was made by Councilwoman Springer seconded by Councilman Pritchard, that upon approval of the changes to the transfer station article, approve the completion and mailing of a newsletter for approximately \$1,100.00. This motion carried unanimously.

**RESOLVED:** upon approval of the changes to the transfer station article, approve the completion and mailing of a newsletter for approximately \$1,100.00.

There was a discussion regarding a new key fab system for the town hall. This has been an ongoing discussion due to concerns of the security of the building and various options to secure it. The Clerk received a quote for a key fab system for \$9,515.00 and presented it to the Board. This system would track which key fobs are being used to enter the building, eliminate the use/need for hard keys and have a video door cam at the back door and allow remote access rather than someone coming to the town hall in person to unlock the doors for residents to use the bathrooms/building while at the pavilion or other event in the park area. Due to budget concerns, the Clerk spoke with the bookkeeper prior to the meeting to discuss where the funds could come from. Line item A1620.41 has approximately \$400,000.00 and could cover the cost of this new system.

**RESOLUTION 076-2023** A motion was made by Councilwoman Springer seconded by Councilman Pritchard, to approve the new key fab system for the cost of \$9,515.00 to be taken from line item A1620.41. This motion carried unanimously with a 4:1 vote, with Councilman Saddlemire voting NAY.

**RESOLVED:** to approve the new key fab system for the cost of \$9,515.00 to be taken from line item A1620.41.

Building and Zoning Administrator, Dan Sherman, asked that the current camera system be put on his monitor. When he alone in the building, it would be nice to see who was coming in and out, as his office is downstairs and has no way of knowing who is in the building without the monitor working in his office.

Councilman Cyr was going to present a resolution regarding the construction at the pavilion kitchen, regarding plans/drawings and building permit, but after speaking with the Building and Zoning Administrator, Dan Sherman, he has decided not to, that this resolution would not do any good. BZA Sherman explained that this project is not grandfathered under any building code. He explained that this is a public project for public use and it must be designed for ADA purposes. Mr. Sherman stated there is no permit for the pavilion kitchen, for demo of the old building or construction of the new building, that this has been going on for a year and nothing has been provided to him. Now an application has been submitted, but a permit cannot be issued without the ADA compliant drawings for the entire building. Mr. Sherman offered to help call engineers on Councilman Cyr's behalf and will let him know what he gets for quotes. He stated house drawings are approximately \$800-\$1000.00. Mr. Sherman states he's sorry it came to this point with having to have the power to the building turned off, but no one was providing any information to him, no permit had been issued and he had no choice. Mr. Sherman will continue to work with Councilman Cyr and will put the power shut off on hold for now. The Board is appreciative of Mr. Sherman's help and would like to see this project done soon as things will be in full swing soon at the pavilion, park and ball fields.

**RESOLUTION 077-2023** A motion was made by Councilman Saddlemire seconded by Councilman Pritchard, to approve up to \$1,500.00 for drawings/plans for the pavilion kitchen. This motion carried unanimously.

**RESOLVED:** to approve up to \$1,500.00 for drawings/plans for the pavilion kitchen.

Supervisor Pokorny states the poles are being put up at the solar project and wires should be run by tomorrow.

Supervisor Pokorny stated he has had two people reach out regarding the assessor's position. One wanted more money and the other has not sent in an application.

**RESOLUTION 078-2023** A motion was made by Councilman Saddlemire seconded by Councilman Pritchard, to approve the CDPHP annual contract. This motion carried unanimously.

**RESOLVED:** to approve the CDPHP annual contract.

Superintendent Schanz reports that the new roller has been delivered. Less money than what was budgeted for the roller was spent, so he would like to purchase a small trailer (12', 5 ton, 2020 leftover, tandem axle) for \$7,811.00.

Superintendent Schanz states the roof on the old barn at the Highway garage is coming off. It needs to be repaired or replaced. He would like the Board to come and look at it so they can see how bad it truly is.

Superintendent Schanz asked about having Juneteenth off. He inquired about it last year as it is a federal holiday, and he and his crew had to work. He would like to see it implemented this year.

**RESOLUTION 079-2023** A motion was made by Councilwoman Springer seconded by Supervisor Pokorny to purchase the 12' trailer as described by Superintendent Schanz. This motion carried unanimously.

**RESOLVED:** to purchase the 12' trailer as described by Superintendent Schanz.

**RESOLUTION 080-2023** A motion was made by Supervisor Pokorny seconded by Councilman Saddlemire to recognize Juneteenth as a federal holiday for town employees. This motion carried unanimously with a 3:1:1 vote, Councilwoman Springer ABSTAINED, Councilman Pritchard voted NAY.

**RESOLVED:** to recognize Juneteenth as a federal holiday for town employees.

**RESOLUTION 081-2023** A motion was made by Councilwoman Springer seconded by Supervisor Pokorny to approve the minutes from the March 2023 meeting as presented. This motion carried unanimously.

**RESOLVED:** to approve the minutes from the March 2023 meeting as presented.

Councilwoman Springer provided the Board with the Pucker Street Fair budget. The committee has raised \$880.00 already.

**RESOLUTION 082-2023** A motion was made by Councilman Pritchard seconded by Supervisor Pokorny to approve \$7,000.00 for the Pucker Street Fair budget to come out of the celebrations line. This motion carried unanimously.

**RESOLVED:** to approve \$7,000.00 for the Pucker Street Fair budget to come out of the celebrations line.

BZA Dan Sherman returned to the meeting to provide septic tank drawings from the park to offer to the transfer station engineer as they were already approved for the pavilion bathroom by ACHD. He informed the Board that hot water will be required at the transfer station bathroom, so to keep it in mind. He suggested a small electric one or an on demand tank.

As he does every year, Councilman Cyr asked the Board to reimburse the Legion for the purchase of flags for Veteran's graves for Memorial Day.

**RESOLUTION 083-2023** A motion was made by Supervisor Pokorny seconded by Councilman Pritchard to reimburse the Legion for the purchase of the flags for Veterans' graves for Memorial Day in the amount of \$205.02. This motion carried unanimously with a 4:0 vote with Councilman Cyr ABSTAINING.

**RESOLVED:** to reimburse the Legion for the purchase of the flags for Veterans' graves for Memorial Day in the amount of \$205.02

Councilman Cyr stated residents stopped in at his shop with a request to reduce the speed limit on Church Road. Councilman Cyr presented this request to the Board on the behalf of the residents. Supervisor Pokorny will reach out to the necessary agencies to submit the request.

**RESOLUTION 084-2023** A motion was made by Supervisor Pokorny seconded by Councilman Saddlemire to pay Richard Grant \$2,315.00 for electrical work done at the transfer station. This motion carried unanimously.

**RESOLVED:** to pay Richard Grant \$2,315.00 for electrical work done at the transfer station.

There was a discussion regarding the cardboard container at the transfer station that is falling apart and is no longer safe to transport. It is a 40 yard box, with a replacement cost of \$10,500.00. Supervisor Pokorny stated the funds would come from the "COVID money". During the discussion, it was decided that the Supervisor will shop around to see if he can get a better price.

Dan Sherman stated he does now have the permit for the Street Road project, but wanted to make sure the Board knew that this project (through Sun Common) was not included in the moratorium.

Dan Sherman also stated he did call an engineer when he stepped out of the meeting, and he will continue to call another one tomorrow.

There was a brief discussion regarding the accident this past winter that occurred between two different town employees. One employee is asking for reimbursement of \$551.52. The town plow driver was deemed to be not at fault. The Board suggested running this by our town attorney before making any decisions. The Supervisor will contact the attorney regarding this situation.

The Clerk presented the Board with a card from Kathy Stempel at the Berne Library as well as conveyed her request to be put on next month's agenda.

There is a bill from CalStripe for several logos that had been made for various vehicles, and the Board needs to decide which line item to designate each logo to in order to pay this bill. The Supervisor thought A5010.4 would be appropriate. The Clerk stated she would check with the bookkeeper to make sure this is ok.

**RESOLUTION 085-2023** - A motion was made by Councilman Saddlemire seconded by Supervisor Pokorny to pay CalStripe from line item A5010.4 pending bookkeeper approval. This motion carried unanimously.

**RESOLVED:** to pay Cal Stripe from line item A5010.4 pending bookkeeper approval.

**RESOLUTION 086-2023** - A motion was made by Councilman Saddlemire seconded by Councilman Cyr to accept the Clerk's report as presented. This motion carried unanimously.

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

**RESOLUTION 087-2023** - A motion was made by Councilman Saddlemire seconded by Councilwoman Springer to authorize the Supervisor to pay the bills from Abstract #004 including voucher #'s 69-90 and 101, 102 in the General Account, totaling \$17,829.74 and voucher #'s 91-100 in the Highway Fund, totaling \$8,749.21. This motion carried unanimously.

**RESOLVED:** to authorize the Supervisor to pay the bills from Abstract #004 including voucher #'s 69-90 and 101, 102 in the General Account, totaling \$17,829.74 and voucher #'s 91-100 in the Highway Fund, totaling \$8,749.21.

**RESOLUTION 088-2023** - A motion was made by Councilman Cyr seconded by Councilman Pritchard to adjourn the meeting. This motion carried unanimously.

**RESOLVED:** adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

*Traci Schanz*

Traci Schanz  
Knox Town Clerk