



Knox Town Board Minutes

February 14, 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:

Arlan Wright came before the Board with a follow-up presentation regarding his Eagle Scout project. Arlan presented his revised plan for a possible monument at the Knox Town Hall or Knox Park to honor all Town of Knox Veterans. He provided the Board with different cost options with different plaques and sizes and one idea including pavers. The Board had a few more questions regarding the # of names that could fit on the plaque, how to make it weather proof and where would the location of the monument be. The Board likes the idea of the project and will approve the concept. Arlan has some possible fund raising ideas/possibilities to look into further, but the Board has agreed to make a donation of \$2000.00 at this time in order for Arlan to get started on the project.

RESOLUTION 037-2023 A motion was made by Councilman Saddlemire seconded by Councilwoman Springer to approve the Eagle Scout project concept of Arlan Wright and to contribute an amount not to exceed \$2000.00 to the project. This motion carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: to approve the Eagle Scout project concept of Arlan Wright and to contribute an amount not to exceed \$2000.00 to the project.

RESOLUTION 038-2023 A motion was made by Supervisor Pokorny seconded by Councilman Pritchard to suspend the public meeting and convene the public hearing to consider the proposal of Local Law 1 of 2023 for the Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance Workers Property Tax Exemption. This motion carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: to suspend the public meeting and convene the public hearing to consider the proposal of Local Law 1 of 2023 for the Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance Workers Property Tax Exemption.

There were a few questions/clarifications from the Board regarding different levels training (active vs non-active members), minimal year qualifications, 20 year members receiving the exemption after leaving the department and widow/widower receiving exemption after the death of spouse/member. Justin Maxwell, Town Assessor stated he believed this was a no-brainer for the Town especially considering the amount of training the volunteers go through.

RESOLUTION 039-2023 A motion was made by Councilman Cyr seconded by Councilwoman Springer to adjourn the public hearing to consider the proposal of Local Law 1 and reconvene the Board meeting. This motion carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: to adjourn the public hearing to consider the proposal of Local Law 1 and reconvene the Board meeting.

RESOLUTION 040-2023 A motion was made by Councilwoman Springer seconded by Councilman Cyr to accept and approve Local Law 1 of 2023 for the Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance Workers Property Tax Exemption as written and presented. This motion carried unanimously 4-0, Councilman Saddlemire abstained.

RESOLVED: to accept and approve Local Law 1 of 2023 for the Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance Workers Property Tax Exemption as written and presented.

The law reads as follows:

Local Law 2023-1 Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance Workers Exemption

Be it enacted by the town board of the Town of Knox as follows:

A Property Tax Exemption for Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance Workers.

Pursuant to Section 466-a of the Real Property Tax Law

Section 1.

“Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance Workers Exemption”

is hereby enacted pursuant to Real Property Tax Law Section 466-a, to read as follows:

Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance Workers Exemption Grant of exemption.

An exemption of 10 % of assessed value of property owned by an enrolled member as set forth below, or such enrolled member and their spouse, is hereby granted from taxation with respect to the real property taxes of the Town of Knox, NY as long as eligibility requirements are met.

Eligibility requirements. Such exemption shall be granted to an enrolled member of an incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department, or incorporated voluntary ambulance service provided that:

- A. The property is owned by the volunteer firefighter or volunteer ambulance worker;
- B. The property is the primary residence of the volunteer firefighter or volunteer ambulance worker;
- C. The property is used exclusively for residential purposes;

D. The volunteer firefighter or volunteer ambulance worker resides in the Town of Knox NY and the Town of Knox NY is served by such incorporated volunteer fire company or fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service;

E. The volunteer firefighter or volunteer ambulance worker is certified by the authority having jurisdiction as an enrolled member of such an incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department, or incorporated voluntary ambulance service; and

F. The volunteer firefighter or volunteer ambulance worker meets the minimum service requirement established by Town of Knox NY, which is hereby established as two years.

Application.

A volunteer firefighter or volunteer ambulance worker must annually, on or before the applicable taxable status date, file an application for such property tax exemption with the assessor responsible for preparing the assessment roll for the Town of Knox NY, on a form as prescribed by the New York State Commissioner of Taxation and Finance. The Town of Knox NY must maintain written guidelines, available upon request, as to the requirements of an enrolled volunteer member relating to this exemption.

Certification.

The Knox Fire Department must annually file with the assessor, prior to the applicable taxable status date, a list of the active volunteer members who are certified to meet the minimum service requirement. Such list must provide, as of the applicable taxable status date, the number of years of service served by each such enrolled member and such enrolled member's address of residence.

No diminution of benefits.

An applicant who is receiving any benefit pursuant to Article 4 of the Real Property Tax Law as of the effective date of this article shall not have any of those benefits diminished because of this article.

Grant of lifetime exemption.

Any eligible enrolled member who accrues more than 20 years of active volunteer service (as certified by the authority having jurisdiction) shall be granted the 10% exemption as authorized by this article for the remainder of his or her life as long as his or her primary residence is located within the Town of Knox NY.

Un-remarried spouse of enrolled member killed in the line of duty.

The un-remarried surviving spouse of a deceased enrolled member killed in the line of duty, as certified by the authority having jurisdiction, is qualified to continue to receive an exemption, as long as the deceased volunteer had been an enrolled member for at least five years and had been receiving the exemption at the time of his or her death.

Un-remarried spouse of deceased enrolled member.

The un-remarried surviving spouse of a deceased enrolled member, as certified by the authority having jurisdiction, is qualified to continue to receive an exemption, as long as the deceased volunteer had been an enrolled member for at least 20 years and the deceased volunteer and un-remarried spouse had been receiving the exemption at the time of his or her death.

Section 2.

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, section or part of this Local Law is declared by a Court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to said clause, sentence, paragraph, section or part of this Local Law.

Section 3.

This Local Law shall take effect immediately upon filing in the office of the Secretary of State in accordance with Municipal Home Rule Law Section 27.

Supervisor Pokorny - Aye ___ No ___ Abstain

Councilman Cyr - Aye ___ No ___ Abstain

Councilwoman Springer - Aye ___ No ___ Abstain

Councilman Pritchard – Aye ___ No ___ Abstain

Councilman Saddlemire - ___ Aye ___ No Abstain

RESOLUTION 041-2023 A motion was made by Councilman Cyr seconded by Councilman Pritchard to accept the minutes as presented from the January 10, 2023 meeting as well as the January 20, 2023 meeting. This motion carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: to accept the minutes as presented from the January 10, 2023 meeting as well as the January 20, 2023 meeting.

Public Comment

There were a few highway employees in attendance, when asked, stated they were present because of their interest in the town and to hear the highway report.

Chad Saddlemire was unable to attend tonight's meeting to discuss the use of the ball field and pavilion. He will attend the March meeting.

Old Business

The Street Road Solar project with Sun Common has been assigned to project manager Vicky Weaver who will coordinate the schedule, will take care of permits and work with NYSERDA. Councilman Saddlemire asked if the Building Inspector had been updated. Councilman Cyr and Supervisor Pokorny stated that Vicky will be in touch with him.

The household hazardous waste day grant continues to move forward with Amy Pokorny working on completing a questionnaire and is close to being done.

The AUD continues to be worked on. Supervisor Pokorny and the bookkeeper have worked on it together and will continue to do so to get the AUD's completed.

Highway Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Schanz would like to purchase two new pieces of equipment. He would like to purchase a Bobcat mini excavator with 3 buckets and a pounder attachment and a Dynapac Roller. Both pieces of equipment are budgeted for and on State contract.

Superintendent Schanz reports all of the lights at the highway garage have now been changed over to LED lights. With the help of Tim Fredericks, all replacement LED's have been ordered and all old bulbs have now been replaced, reducing the electricity bill by approximately half.

RESOLUTION 042-2023 A motion was made by Councilman Saddlemire seconded by Councilwoman Springer to approve the purchase of an E42 R2 Series Bobcat Compact Excavator with 12", 24" and 36" bucket attachments and a post driver attachment with case drain kit in the amount of \$91,293.96 from Robert H. Finke & Sons Inc. This motion carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: to approve the purchase of an E42 R2 Series Bobcat Compact Excavator with 12", 24" and 36" bucket attachments and a post driver attachment with case drain kit in the amount of \$91,293.96 from Robert H. Finke & Sons Inc.

RESOLUTION 043-2023 A motion was made by Councilman Pritchard seconded by Councilwoman Springer to approve the purchase of a 2022 Dynapac Diesel Vib 47" Roller/Lhp, model # CC1200VI in the amount of \$42,827.00 from Anderson Equipment Company. This motion carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: to approve the purchase of a 2022 Dynapac Diesel Vib 47" Roller/Lhp, model # CC1200VI in the amount of \$42,827.00 from Anderson Equipment Company.

There was a brief discussion regarding the new County Garage being built. The new facility will be approximately 15,000 square feet. Not many other details are known at this time.

New Business

RESOLUTION 044-2023 A motion was made by Supervisor Pokorny seconded by Councilman Cyr to approve Laura Murphy as the newest member of the Broadband Committee, replacing Jim Corigliano who has stepped down. This motion carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: to approve Laura Murphy as the newest member of the Broadband Committee, replacing Jim Corigliano who has stepped down.

The Supervisor did the audit of the Court records by himself this year, but does not have the paperwork necessary yet to mail to the Comptroller. Councilwoman Springer asked if typically two board members do the audit, the response was yes, and next year it will go back to that, for "checks and balances" throughout the process.

RESOLUTION 045-2023 A motion was made by Supervisor Pokorny seconded by Councilman Pritchard to approve a \$150.00 donation to the Kiwanis Club for the Memorial Day parade. This motion carried unanimously.

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

Sexual Harassment training will need to be done this year. There is a webinar option for people to utilize if available during the time the course is offered. Supervisor Pokorny will share the information with everyone soon.

RESOLUTION 046-2023 A motion was made by Councilman Cyr seconded by Councilman Saddlemire to designate the Planning Board as the lead agency for the SEQRA review of the Reservoir Road Solar project located at 200 Reservoir Road. This motion carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: to designate the Planning Board as the lead agency for the SEQRA review of the Reservoir Road Solar project located at 200 Reservoir Road.

Councilwoman Springer complemented the Planning Board on their thoroughness. The Councilwoman attends the meetings as the Board liaison, and is impressed with the work the Planning Board does.

There was a discussion regarding the need for an RFP regarding the transfer station as well as the design the Board would like to see for the transfer station. Points of the discussion include:

- RFP
- How to redesign it while keeping it functional for residents
- Continue talks with Richard Grant regarding a new meter and need for a transformer, the connection of the new boxes
- Possible hiring of engineer and/or architect
- Check into the cost of town-wide pickup (Councilwoman Springer is working on this)

Tony Miller voiced his concern about town-wide pick up pushing out a local vendor and to keep local vendors in mind when/if bidding takes place. This comment led to further conversation about repairing and replacing what we have currently (new walls, drainage, new hopper, new building etc.) vs a brand new re-design as well as knowing the current cost of what it takes to run the transfer station per year to do a cost comparison with town-wide pickup.

RESOLUTION 047-2023 A motion was made by Councilwoman Springer seconded by Councilman Pritchard to approve the trailer permit for Kountry Knolls based on all satisfying all requirements by the DOH and submitting the proper documentation and payment. This motion carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: to approve the trailer permit for Kountry Knolls based on all satisfying all requirements by the DOH and submitting the proper documentation and payment.

RESOLUTION 048-2023 A motion was made by Supervisor Pokorny seconded by Councilman Cyr to pay North Shore Solutions in the amount of \$16.25 for email set-up. This motion carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: to pay North Shore Solutions in the amount of \$16.25 for email set-up.

RESOLUTION 049-2023 A motion was made by Supervisor Pokorny seconded by Councilman Pritchard to pay Sierra Processing in the amount of \$395.95. This motion carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: to pay Sierra Processing in the amount of \$395.95.

There was a discussion regarding RingSquared and some missing payments as bills were not received via email or US mail. The Supervisor asked the Clerk to research the missing bills and found four out of 8 had been paid. The Supervisor paid the remaining bills and did not put them through Board approval as he felt an urgency to pay the company. The Board has made a resolution accepting the Supervisor's decision.

RESOLUTION 050-2023 A motion was made by Councilman Saddlemire seconded by Councilman Cyr to accept the decision made by the supervisor to pay outstanding invoices to RingSquared in the amount of \$3,166.?? This motion carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: to accept the decision made by the supervisor to pay outstanding invoices to RingSquared in the amount of \$3,166.??

RESOLUTION 051-2023 A motion was made by Councilwoman Springer seconded by Councilman Cyr to pay PayChex in the amount of \$814.45. This motion carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: to pay PayChex in the amount of \$814.45.

RESOLUTION 052-2023 - 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 053-2023 - A motion was made by Councilman Saddlemire seconded by Councilwoman Springer to accept the Supervisor's spreadsheet of accounts report as presented. This motion carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: to accept the spreadsheet of accounts report as presented.

RESOLUTION 054-2023 - A motion was made by Councilman Cyr seconded by Councilwoman Springer to authorize the Supervisor to pay the bills from Abstract #002 including voucher #'s 7-26 in the General Account, totaling \$10,445.84 and voucher #'s 27-42 in the Highway Fund, totaling \$11,186.04. This motion carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: to authorize the Supervisor to pay the bills from Abstract #002 including voucher #'s 7-26 in the General Account, totaling \$10,445.84 and voucher #'s 27-42 in the Highway Fund, totaling \$11,186.04.

RESOLUTION 055-2023 - A motion was made by Supervisor Pokorny seconded by Councilman Pritchard to authorize the Supervisor to pay the bills from Abstract #014 including voucher #'s 407-410 in the General Account, totaling \$1,804.99 and nothing in the Highway Fund. This motion carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: to authorize the Supervisor to pay the bills from Abstract #014 including voucher #'s 407-410 in the General Account, totaling \$1,804.99 and nothing in the Highway Fund.

St. Pauly's textile submitted a statement for 2022. The collection box at the transfer station collected over 12,000 lbs of clothing, and was distributed to 2200+ people throughout the world and yielded the town \$480.78.

The Clerk informed the Board that she had received the yearly Boundary and Annexation Survey from the census borough that she will send back, providing the Board agrees that no boundary changes have been made this year. The Board is in agreement.

The town needs to submit driving abstracts for all town employees and elected officials who will be driving town vehicles. It is required every year by the insurance company. The Clerk will collect the signature pages and copies of licenses from everyone and submit them.

RESOLUTION 056-2022- A motion was made by Councilman Saddlemire seconded by Councilwoman Springer to adjourn the meeting. This motion carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: to adjourn the meeting

Respectfully submitted,

Traci Schanz

Traci Schanz
Knox Town Clerk