

**Town of Knox
Regular Meeting
September 9, 2014**

PRESENT: Supervisor Hammond
Councilwoman Pokorny
Councilman Viscio
Councilman Decker
Councilman Barber

ALSO: Town Attorney Dorfman
Town Clerk Murphy
Highway Superintendent Salisbury

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Supervisor Hammond opened the floor Eric Kuck, Knox Conservation Advisory Council member, to discuss the CAC report regarding hydro-fracking.

Eric thanked the board for the opportunity to address the board and gave a brief overview of some of the issues and concerns that the CAC has in regards to the potential threats posed to ground water contamination and storage and transport of noxious chemicals on town roadways that would arise in the event that hydr fracturing was allowed. Explaining that the viability of natural gas extraction within our town's borders doesn't appear to be of imminent concern, the potential harm coupled with the recent passage of law allowing for local municipalities to pass their own legislation governing such activities makes this perfect time to consider Knox position on this.

Councilman Viscio added that several of our neighboring towns have already begun this process and mentioned that the Town of Berne currently has a moratorium on this topic and the Town of Wright is going through a similar process at this time. Councilman Viscio added that the karst topography of our area poses additional risks because harmful chemicals can be easily transmitted through surface conduits.

Supervisor Hammond explained that this process can lead to negative effects and should even be looked at on a larger scaled perhaps from a regional approach. Supervisor Hammond recommended that the Planning Board put together a similar report for the board, taking heed of CAC recommendations, seeking a review and recommendation from the Planning Board as well.

RESOLUTION #91-2014 – RECOMMEND THAT THE KNOX PLANNING BOARD REVIEW THE CAC RECOMMENDATION ON HYDROFRACKING AND MAKE FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS RELATIVE TO THIS PROCESS.

On motion of Councilwoman Pokorny, seconded by Councilman Decker, the following

resolution was ADOPTED AYES 5 NAYS 0

RESOLVED to recommend that the Knox Planning Board review the CAC recommendation on Hydrofracking and make any further recommendations relative to this process.

Town Attorney John Dorfman addressed the board to suggest a successful approach to this should be to get recommendation from Planning Board then have a public hearing before making a determination, however the NYS report on hydrofracking has not been released yet and suggested that a review of this report should be done before any final recommendations are made.

Supervisor Hammond introduced Jennifer Geckler to the Town Board and announced that she has accepted the advertised position of Minutes Recorder for the Planning Board. The previous person who was chosen could not accept the position at this time.

RESOLUTION #92-2014 – APPOINT JENNIFER GECKLER AS PART-TIME MINUTES RECORDER TO THE PLANNING BOARD

On motion of Councilman Barber, seconded by, Councilman Viscio, the following resolution was ADOPTED AYES 5 NAYS 0

RESOLVED to appoint Jennifer Geckler as part-time Minutes Recorder to the Planning Board.

RESOLUTION #93-2014 – APPOINT PAMELA KLEPPEL TO FILL ADVERTISED VACANCY ON ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE OPEN TERM

On motion of Councilwoman Pokorny, seconded by, Councilman Decker, the following resolution was ADOPTED AYES 5 NAYS 0

RESOLVED to appoint Pamela Kleppel to fill the advertised vacancy on the Zoning Board of Appeals for the remainder of the open term (December 31, 2017).

Supervisor Hammond discussed the next step for implementing a solar project to reduce the town's electrical cost. The initiative is no cost to the town. Step 1 - would be to have an engineering survey completed; Step 2 - would be to have meeting with solar contractors to discuss implementation process.

Councilman Viscio suggested that an RFP was needed for this project, even though it is at no cost to the town, to ensure that the most qualified and competitive contractor is chosen.

Motion was made by Councilman Viscio to authorize Supervisor to contact NYSERDA for help on developing an RFP along with assistance from Town Attorney for review at next meeting.

RESOLUTION #94-2014 – AUTHORIZE SUPERVISOR TO CONTACT NYSEDA FOR HELP DEVELOPING RFP FOR SOLAR PROJECT

On motion of Councilman Viscio, seconded by, Councilwoman Pokorny, the following resolution was ADOPTED AYES 5 NAYS 0

RESOLVED to authorize Supervisor to contact NYSERDA for help developing RFP for solar project.

Councilwoman Pokorny reviewed the status of the Comprehensive Plan reporting that 228 responses were received and have all been keyed into SurveyMonkey and is now ready to be analyzed. Councilwoman Pokorny announced that she would like to schedule another workshop for Tuesday, September 30, 2014 at 7pm and will advertise as such in the Altamont Enterprise.

Supervisor Hammond set the 2015 budget workshop dates as Tuesday, September 23, 2014 and Tuesday, October 7, 2014, both at 7pm and will be advertised as such in the Altamont Enterprise.

Town Attorney John Dorfman reviewed the progress of the Employee Handbook stating that the draft copy was being put together with a table of contents and should have copies to the board for review within a few days. After their review further discussion will be needed in Executive Session.

Supervisor Hammond presented the board with a check for \$26,799.00, from the Flood Mitigation Grant for Dutch Settlement Road, received from the NYS DEC for storm damage from three years.

Bob Price, Planning Board Chairman, presented the idea of adding a “Welcome to Knox” sign on Knox Cave Road, similar to the sign on the Town of Berne side.

Councilman Viscio mentioned that he had worked on this topic over a year ago with several local groups without much success and had planned to bring this same topic up during the upcoming budget discussions to have welcome signs as well as other “beautification” ideas added to the town.

Highway Superintendent Gary Salisbury presented the idea of auctioning the old town truck that is no longer being used. Gary mentioned that this process was successful in the past using “Auctions International” and suggested doing the same for the old truck along with wings, plow and sander. Gary also suggested scrapping the old 2Ton Roller which he stated was unusable and unsafe to put out to auction. Supervisor Hammond mentioned that the old truck is still on the insurance policy and cannot be removed until the truck is removed from town property.

RESOLUTION #95-2014 – AUTHORIZE HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT TO ADVERTISE IN AUCTION AND TRADE JOURNALS TO RECOUP FUNDS FROM THE OLD TOWN TRUCK

On motion of Councilman Barber, seconded by, Councilman Decker, the following resolution was ADOPTED AYES 5 NAYS 0

RESOLVED to authorize Highways Superintendent to advertise in auction and trade

journals to recoup funds from the old town truck.

John Eberfeld asked the board if they have decided on the location for the picture display system so that he can put an accurate proposal for supplies together.

The board agreed to go with the professional display system that would allow for more flexibility in how and what is hung. Location will have to be looked into because of tile on wall by elevator, perhaps older section of town hall would be better for hanging. Once location is decided then the proper measurements can be taken for the display system.

RESOLUTION #96-2014 - PAYMENT OF BILLS

On motion of Councilman Decker, seconded by Councilman Viscio, the following resolution was ADOPTED AYES 5 NAYS 0

RESOLVED that the Bills be paid on General Abstract #09 of the General Fund, covering claims #315-324 in the amount of \$7,268.51 and of the Highway Fund, covering claims #325-334 in the amount of \$15,262.61 for the year 2014.

RESOLUTION # 97-2014 - APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of Councilman Viscio, seconded by Councilwoman Pokorny, the following resolution was ADOPTED AYES 5 NAYS 0

RESOLVED that the minutes of the August 12, 2014 meeting be approved.

RESOLUTION # 98-2014 - APPROVAL OF MONTHLY REPORTS

On motion of Councilman Viscio, seconded by Councilman Decker, the following resolution was ADOPTED AYES 5 NAYS 0

RESOLVED that the Reports of the Town Clerk and the Town Supervisor for the Month of August 2014 be approved.

Relative to the Primary Election being held that night the bill for food for the election inspectors was handed in late. Supervisor Hammond asked for a resolution to pay the bill so that it didn't have to be held for another month.

RESOLUTION #99-2014 – AUTHORIZE TOWN SUPERVISOR TO PAY TOWNSHIP TAVERN \$132.25 FOR FOOD FOR ELECTION INSPECTORS FROM ELECTION EXPENSE ACCOUNT

On motion of Councilman Viscio, seconded by, Councilwoman Pokorny, the following resolution was ADOPTED AYES 5 NAYS 0

RESOLVED to authorize Town Supervisor to pay Township Tavern \$132.25 for food for Election Inspectors from election expense account.

Supervisor Hammond presented the board with a check of \$710.50 from NYMIR through Amsure Insurance. These funds are being returned to the town because of interest earned on funds in the original capital program. Supervisor Hammond will deposit check into the general fund.

With no further business, on a motion of Councilwoman Pokorny, seconded by Councilman Decker, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00p.m. Carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
September 24, 2014

Tara Murphy