

**Town of Knox
Budget Workshop Meeting
October 4, 2017**

PRESENT:

Supervisor Lefkaditis
Councilman Barber
Councilman Barcomb
Councilman Hanley
Councilwoman Pokorny
Highway Superintendent Salisbury

The meeting was called to order at the Knox Town Hall at about 6:45 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

RESOLUTION #147-2017 – AUTHORIZE THE BUILDING AND ZONING ADMINISTRATOR TO PROCEED WITH THE PERMITTING PROCESS FOR MATTHEW SCHANZ AS HE HAS COMPLIED WITH THE TRAILER ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF KNOX.

On motion of Supervisor Lefkaditis, seconded by Councilman Barber, the following resolution was carried unanimously:

RESOLVED to authorize the Building and Zoning Administrator to proceed with the permitting process for Matthew Schanz as he has complied with the trailer ordinance of the Town of Knox.

Discussion of providing stop gap health insurance coverage for individual retirees, considering the potential for loss of experienced employees to other employers who offer that benefit: Councilman Hanley offered to research benefit options offered by other towns and their associated costs. The Board is not ready to make a decision, but agreed to establish a placeholder in the budget and prepare various calculations for further discussion in the future. A possibility would be to offer coverage for employees at 58 years of age with 30 years of service.

The budget discussion was interrupted when Councilman Barcomb suggested prioritizing library funding and employee wages over the Pucker Street Fair and was unable to continue making his point because Supervisor Lefkaditis repeatedly shouted over him as he was speaking. Supervisor Lefkaditis did not want to give the Berne Library additional funds this year, indicating that the previous Board did a great job keeping a tight belt and that we shouldn't deviate too much from their historical increases. Supervisor Lefkaditis wanted to allocate \$4,500 to Celebrations, although he said the fireworks do not cost the town a penny. Councilman Barcomb pointed out that the Town Board approved a payment for fireworks this year and Supervisor Lefkaditis said he forgot to invoice the people who had said they would pay for the fireworks. Councilman Barcomb asked Supervisor Lefkaditis several times if he was going to let him respond, and after further interruptions Councilman Barcomb asked again if he would let him finish. After more attempts to make his statement were cut off, Councilman Barcomb said he was not able to get two (expletive) words in. Councilman Hanley said he was out, and he and Councilman Barcomb left the meeting.

Discussion shifted to employee wages and transfer station issues:

With landfill hours decreasing and tipping fees increasing, the Board may need to consider ways to limit the waste stream.

- Residents could be encouraged to rent dumpsters for major cleaning projects as well as for demolition debris.
- New permit stickers are helping to limit trash coming in from outside Knox.
- One way traffic flow will need to be established as part of a transfer station redesign.
- Councilman Barber suggested a study be done to gather more information and determine how many vehicles come to the transfer station over a period of time (e.g. types of vehicles, number of trips per day for each vehicle, etc.) This could be a student internship opportunity.

The trash compactor is showing signs of wear, and will need to be replaced. Supervisor Lefkaditis said Westerlo puts all trash into one compactor with a cutter that can process items as large as couches.

The concrete tire stops are in disrepair; paint has worn off and some are broken, with protruding rebar that is a trip hazard. New ones are available online for about \$35 or \$40.

Supervisor Lefkaditis said he wants to get credit or debit cards to allow purchase of incidental supplies online or from other sources that may not accept vouchers.

Councilwoman Pokorny agreed to serve as acting Clerk.

The meeting adjourned at about 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
October 9, 2017
Amy Pokorny