

**Town of Knox
Regular Meeting
February 11, 2014**

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

ALSO: Town Attorney Dorfman
Town Clerk Murphy
Highway Superintendent Salisbury

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Supervisor Hammond opened the floor for public comment.

A number of town residents were present in support of local business in Knox and to present the board with a request to amend the town zoning laws to allow Hitmans Towing to legally operate in the town. The following residents spoke in favor of Hitmans Towing:

Dan Stewart	Tim Frances
Michelle Fusco	Todd Raymond
Bob Smith	Todd LeGrange
John Eberfeild	Chris Kryzek
Kim Swain	Pamela Fenoff
Mike Swain	Anna Wolfe
Donald Hempsted	Vasilios Lefkaditis

Pamela Fenoff and Anna Wolfe presented the board with a petition in support of Hitmans Towing and asked the board to amend the town zoning law to allow Hitmans Towing to continue to operate.

Vasilios Lefkaditis requested that the board call a public hearing on the topic before their next meeting.

Ed Ackroyd commented about the Planning Board proceedings during the Cell Tower building

in Knox in which he believed the Planning Board voted against it, while the Town Board voted in favor of it.

Supervisor Hammond responded that the town must first determine what we want to change and with these changes what the results will be. Referring to the Planning Boards decision he stated it is proper governing to follow and evaluate what comes back from the Planning Board and the board has an obligation to understand all effects before making a decision.

Councilwoman Pokorny explained that she has great respect for local business however we need a more thought out plan than a “blanket” response.

Councilman Decker added that in fact there was a vote to expand the business district which is a process that requires more time.

Supervisor Hammond explained that at the next Town Board meeting there would be an announcement made to address Business District #1, which is being designed to be a multi-use district with both residential and business use. The comprehensive plan addressed several potential locations for a business district.

Councilman Viscio concurred with other comments explaining that Planning Board appointments are staggered to prevent knee –jerk reaction and to keep elected board from making political moves. The Planning Board is a dually independent body which functions to serve the town with their expertise and to ignore their decision would be irresponsible.

In response to the inquiry requesting the Town Board to overturn the Planning Boards decision based on the level of circumstances, Councilman Viscio continued to explain that he has complete faith in the Planning Board to make the best recommendation to the board. He is glad residents came to voice their opinions however, cannot recommend dissolving the order of the town in this process by reversing the Planning Boards decision.

Supervisor Hammond asked Anna Wolfe to forward the discussed request in writing to be forwarded to the Planning Board for discussion and will request a report back to the Town Board by the March meeting.

With no further comments the board proceeded with regular business.

The board reviewed the Trailer Court Permit Application for Knoxville Park. The application was complete, included the Inspection Report from the NYS Health Department and application fee. Kountry Knolls sent in application with fee but didn't have the inspection report from the Health Department. Green Acres sent in the application with fee but did not include the inspection report. Clerk Murphy will send another letter to Green Acres requesting inspection report be sent right away.

RESOLUTION #32-2014 – TOWN BOARD TO ACCEPT THE TRAILER COURT APPLICATION FOR KNOXVILLE PARK

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

RESOLVED to accept the Trailer Court Application for 2014 for Knoxville Park.

Supervisor Hammond reported that all Real Property Taxes for the General Fund, Highway Fund, Lighting District, Knox Fire District and Berne Fire District have been collected and deposited and distributed to the Fire Districts.

Supervisor Hammond reported that the annual reports from the town Dog Warden, Historian and Registrar of Vital Statistics were in circulation for board review.

Councilwoman Pokorny requested that a Comprehensive Plan Workshop be held on Tuesday, February 25th at 7pm to discuss the public surveys. Notice will be posted in the paper and on the town website.

Councilman Viscio reviewed the results of advertisement for CAC vacancies and put forth a motion to appoint Eric Kuck, Toni Forti and Travis O'Donnell.

RESOLUTION #33-2014 –APPOINTMENT OF INDIVIDUALS TO CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

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

RESOLVED, that the following individuals be appointed to the Conservation Advisory Council.

Eric Kuck
Toni Forti
Travis O'Donnell

The American Red Cross is requesting permission to conduct a blood drive at town hall on March 29th, 2014.

Supervisor Hammond announced that the USPS will hold a public meeting on March 25th at 5:30pm at town hall for residents to attend. This will be advertised on the website and facebook page.

Supervisor Hammond, on behalf of the board, congratulated Emma Stevens and wished her a happy 102nd birthday.

Highway Superintendent Salisbury would like to replace highway truck #18 with a new 2015 International 7600 4x2 truck with plow and body through a piggy-back contract with Onondaga County at the amount of \$184,349.00.

Councilman Decker asked to review the actual prices vs. contract price.

Superintendent Salisbury explained that it is 45% off the truck and 15% off all options with an extended warranty package (60 months/200,000 miles).

Supervisor Hammond explained that there is currently \$229,025 in special reserve with \$55,000 from this year budgeted. Annual transfers of \$55,000 are made to the Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of upgrading equipment. The highway department will re-coop some money from the sale of truck #18 as well.

RESOLUTION #34-2014 - AUTHORIZE PURCHASE OF 2015 7600 4X2 TRUCK WITH PLOW AND BODY FOR \$184,349.00 SUBJECT TO PERMISSIVE REFERENDUM

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

RESOLVED to purchase 2015 7600 4x2 truck with plow and body for \$184,349.00 subject to permissive referendum (as follows).

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF KNOX, ALBANY COUNTY, STATE OF NEW YORK, AT A REGULAR MEETING THERETOFORE HELD ON THE 11TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2014, DULY ADOPTED PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 2, SECTION 6-C OF THE GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW, A RESOLUTION SUBJECT TO PERMISSIVE REFERENDUM, THE PURPOSE AND EFFECT OF WHICH IS TO ESTABLISH AUTHORITY FOR THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF KNOX TO PURCHASE A 2015 7600 4X2 TRUCK WITH PLOW AND BODY, AND TO PROVIDE FOR EXPENDITURE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$184,349.00 FOR THE FUNDS AVAILABLE IN THE HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT CAPITAL RESERVE FUND.

Councilman Barber reported on results from the Girl Scouts meeting related to the town park reading off the suggested list of ideas with photos of proposed equipment. They will be meeting again in the spring at the town park to go over their ideas.

Councilwoman Pokorny added that they will be brainstorming project ideas that they can turn receive a badge for.

Councilman Barber reported that the Winterfest went really well with great attendance this year. Councilman Viscio congratulated the Youth Council on a great event and noted that the success of the event really showed the vitality of the community.

Travis Stevens commented on the playground ideas which had been mentioned during the comprehensive plan meetings which included moving the tennis courts and putting a playground closer to the pavilion so parents could watch their kids easier.

Councilman Viscio commented that they are discussing ideas of putting younger kids equipment up by the pavilion.

Supervisor Hammond discussed that is Don Wagoner's 5 year employment anniversary as a town highway employee and as such is due a raise of \$0.50 per hour bringing his current hourly rate of \$15.46 up to \$15.96/hr.

RESOLUTION # 35-2014 - APPROVAL OF \$0.50 HOURLY RAISE FOR DON WAGONER BASED FOR 5 YEAR EMPLOYMENT ANNIVERSARY

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

RESOLVED that approval of \$0.50 hourly raise for Don Wagoner based on 5 year employment anniversary with the Town Highway Department.

Supervisor Hammond discussed a request to pass a resolution of support for the application for a grant under the Greenway Communities Grant Program for a project known as the Helderberg Brewshed Farm Brewery Incubator Business Plan Development. He recommended that the board go ahead with providing support to this joint grant stating that it seems harmonies with the town's Conservation Advisory Council and Comprehensive Plan. Supervisor Hammond read the proposed resolution as follows:

WHEREAS, the Town of Knox is applying to the Hudson River Valley Greenway in partnership with the Town of Rensselaerville for a grant under the Greenway Communities Grant Program for a project Helderberg Brewshed Farm Brewery Incubator Business Plan Development to be located in the Town of Rensselaerville.

WHEREAS, the grant application requires the applicant municipality to obtain the approval/endorsement of the governing body of the municipality or municipalities in which the project will be located;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the governing board of Knox hereby does approve and endorse the application for a grant under the Greenway Communities Grant Program, for a project known as Helderberg Brewshed Farm Brewery Incubator Business Plan Development and located within this community.

RESOLUTION # 36-2014 - APPROVAL OF SUPPORT FOR GREENWAY COMMUNITIES GRANT PROGRAM FOR HELDERBERG BREWSHED PROJECT

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

RESOLVED that approval of support for Greenway Communities Grant Program for Helderberg Brewshed Project.

Councilwoman Pokorny mentioned that the town now has a Facebook page available for the public to “like” and visit for updates on the town. She also noted that the Historical Society did a really nice job with the barn quilts. Councilwoman Pokorny announced that she is working on putting together a list of town organizations to be made available to town residents stating this would be a great resource for new families coming into the town.

Councilman Viscio commented that he is working with Clerk Murphy on the Time Warner Community Bulletin Board. It is being looked at by Time Warner, currently it is not working.

RESOLUTION # 37-2014 - APPROVAL OF MONTHLY REPORTS

On motion of Councilman Decker, seconded by Councilman Viscio, 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 January 2014 be approved.

RESOLUTION # 38-2014 - 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 January 7, 2014 meeting be approved.

RESOLUTION # 39-2014 - 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 #14 of the General Fund, covering claims #360-367 &370 in the amount of \$2,042.98 and of the Highway Fund, covering claims #368-369 &371 in the amount of \$2,721.83 for the year 2013 and on General Abstract #002 of the General Fund, covering claim #7-32 in the amount of \$10,604.66 and of the Highway Fund, covering claims #33-41 in the amount of \$11,675.73 for the year 2014.

Councilman Viscio briefly reported about looking into access to Thompson’s Lake for town residents possibly through the Empire Pass.

Travis Stevens asked if fishing access for town residents could be looking into as well.

Councilman Viscio, on behalf of the board, took a moment to personally thank the first responders who responded to the recent fire on Saddlemire Road and expressed how grateful the town is to have the kinds of volunteers we have.

With no further business, on a motion of Councilman Viscio, seconded by Councilwoman Pokorny, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50p.m. Carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
February 25, 2014

Tara L. Murphy