

March 8, 2011

**Town of Knox
Regular Meeting**

PRESENT: Supervisor Hammond
Councilwoman Gage
Councilman Stevens
Councilman Viscio
Councilwoman Nagengast

ALSO: Town Clerk Swain
Highway Superintendent Salisbury
Town Attorney Dorfman

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

RESOLUTION #42 - APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

RESOLVED that the minutes of the February 2011 meeting be approved.

RESOLUTION #43 - APPROVAL OF MONTHLY REPORTS

On motion of Councilwoman Gage, seconded by Councilwoman Nagengast, the following resolution was ADOPTED AYES 5 NAYS 0

RESOLVED that the Reports of the Supervisor and Town Clerk for the Month of February 2011 be approved.

RESOLUTION #44 - PAYMENT OF BILLS

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

RESOLVED that the Bills be paid on General Abstract #3 of the General Fund, covering claims #59-74 and of the Highway Fund, covering claims #43-58 for the year 2011.

Supervisor Hammond announced the vacancy on the town justice court created by the resignation of Justice Quay. Supervisor Hammond reported that the course for new justices “Preparing for the Bench” will be held in early April.

Bonnie Donati of 2729 Berne Altamont Road, submitted a biography to all board members to review for the possible appointment of town justice. Ms. Donati reported on her legal background and the past two elections, she ran for Town Justice. Ms. Donati reported she would forego the compensation of the Town Justice position if appointed.

Pauline Williman spoke in support of the appointment of Bonnie Donati to serve as town justice. Pauline mentioned the close race run by Bonnie during the last two elections and for the qualifications Bonnie holds.

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Bob Price commented, whoever the board appoints, schooling is a requirement that the Town will pay for regardless of the outcome in this November's election.

Councilman Stevens would like to take time to review both candidates and then make a decision. He asked if Mr. Corigliano has a resume to share with the board.

Councilwoman Gage stated she thought the board would determine the protocol for the vacant position at this month's meeting. She suggests a special board meeting to review both candidates and make an informed decision.

RESOLUTION #45 – APPOINT JAMES CORIGLIANO TO FILL VACANT POSITION OF TOWN JUSTICE

On motion of Supervisor Hammond, seconded by Councilwoman Nagengast, the following resolution was ADOPTED AYES 3 NAYS 2 (Stevens & Gage)

RESOLVED to appoint James Corigliano to Town Justice to fill vacancy for the unexpired portion of term left by Justice Quay.

RESOLUTION #46 – APPOINT CHARLES BURGESS TO FILL VACANCY ON CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

RESOLVED to appoint Charles Burgess to the Conservation Advisory Committee to fill vacancy by Earl Barcomb Jr.

Councilman Stevens commented that all vacant positions should be posted on the Town's website.

Supervisor Hammond and Bob Price met with the American Red Cross to discuss the possibility of holding a blood drive at the Town Hall. A tentative date has been set for Saturday, June 18th from 9:00am until 1:00pm.

Supervisor Hammond, **Councilman Viscio and Bob Price** met with Glen Lupien from Audio Visual Sales and Service, Inc., who provided the town with a quote for an Optoma DLP Projector for the meeting room. Councilman Viscio questioned the audio system and to cut down on the cost, he volunteered to install this system.

Councilwoman Gage reported some security issues within the Town Hall. She had let herself in the building and was able to go downstairs and back up using the elevator and entering through the double doors, before the town clerk was aware she was in the building. Supervisor Hammond will contact Albany Protective Services for some direction in this matter.

RESOLUTION # 47 – AUTHORIZE SUPERVISOR TO PURCHASE PROJECTOR FROM AUDIO VISUAL SALES AND SERVICE, INC

On motion of Councilwoman Gage, seconded by Councilwoman Nagengast, the following resolution was ADOPTED AYES 5 NAYS 0

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RESOLVED to authorize the purchase of an Optoma DLP projector from Audio Visual Sales and Service, Inc.

Discussion regarding the elevator service contact was postponed until April's meeting.

RESOLUTION #48 – AUTHORIZE TOWN CLERK TO INSERT THE MISSION STATEMENT FROM THE CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE INTO THE TOWN BOARD MINUTES

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

RESOLVED to insert the Mission Statement from the CAC into the Town Board Meeting Minutes.

Town of Knox Conservation Advisory Council
Statement on the consideration of commercial wind energy facilities
February 2011

The mission of the Conservation Advisory Council of the Town of Knox is to provide information, expertise, advisement and guidance to the Town of Knox Board on matters pertaining to the protection, conservation, preservation, restoration and enhancement of natural and cultural resources within the Town.

The Conservation Advisory Council would like to underscore the importance of the goals listed in the Town's Comprehensive Plan, especially the preservation of the Town's rural character, the encouragement of the continued existence of open and agricultural lands and agriculture, the protection of the aesthetic, cultural and historic character of the Town, and the encouragement of economic vitality consistent with the Town's rural character.

After much research, discussion and consultation with representatives from the Town Board and Planning Board, the Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) offers the following points of consideration regarding the potential environmental impacts of commercial wind energy production within the Town.

- i. The CAC generally supports the responsible planning for and production of renewable energy resources including wind energy. We believe that renewable energy resources are important to the environmental well being of our Town and nation.
- ii. The placement of wind turbines on existing and active agricultural land could be potentially beneficial to the preservation of agricultural lands. The financial benefits to the farmer/landowner, in combination with the discouragement of residential development, could offer long-term protection of existing farmland within the Town.
- iii. Industrial-scale wind energy facilities, however, and their impact on the natural and scenic resources and aesthetic character of the Town, must be carefully considered.
- iv. Potential impacts of concern in relation to wind farms include direct and indirect impacts to bats and migrating birds and their habitat. Additionally, care must be taken to ensure the protection of scenic vistas, watershed areas, and other environmentally sensitive areas, such as those within the land conservation districts of the Town.
- v. If a commercial wind energy facility is to be permitted, the Town Planning Board should prepare a complete environmental impact assessment for each facility, and the

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decommissioning of such facilities should be planned and pre-funded by the owner or developer of the facility.

It is the conclusion of the CAC that many of the health and environmental concerns surrounding industrial-scale wind energy facilities may be mitigated through careful planning and site selection. What cannot be mitigated, however, is the perceived visual impact on the landscape of the Town. Therefore, it is up to the governing bodies to take into careful consideration the goals set forth in the Town's Comprehensive Plan, the current will of the residents, and the potential benefits and impacts of commercial wind energy facilities in the Town of Knox.

RESOLUTION # 49 – APPROVE KOUNTRY KNOLLS TRAILER PARK APPLICATION

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

RESOLVED to approve Kountry Knolls Trailer Park application complete with the Health Inspection Report and fees.

Supervisor Hammond received a letter from Tami Hanley, President, Berne-Knox-Westerlo PTA, pledging financial support of the Berne-Knox-Westerlo Marching Band. As a taxing entity the town should not participate in the financial support. A few board members said that they would donate personally.

Councilwoman Gage commented that the PTA and its money raising does not reflect in any way the school budget which is made up of taxpayer funds and therefore does not fall into the category of a town spending its taxpayer money to fund the school budget.

RESOLUTION # 50 – AUTHORIZE DONATION OF \$200 TO THE BKW PTA TO ASSIST IN THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE MARCHING BAND

On motion of Councilwoman Nagengast, seconded by Councilwoman Gage, the following resolution was ADOPTED AYES 2 NAYS 3(Hammond, Viscio, Stevens)

RESOLVED to donate \$200 to the BKW PTA to assist in the financial support for the Marching Band, the resolution was DEFEATED.

Councilman Stevens presented a letter to Attorney Dorfman requesting a 25% reduction in his pay from the town for the purpose of purchasing an AED for the Town Hall. Attorney Dorfman reported that the town board has no obligation to purchase an AED, the money would go into the general fund. At anytime Councilman Stevens can go back to regular salary. Councilwoman Gage requested to do the same.

RESOLUTION # 51 – AUTHORIZE SUPERVISOR TO COMPENSATE JUSTICE JEAN GAGNON FOR ACTING AS SINGLE JUSTICE

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

RESOLVED to compensate Justice Gagnon for filling vacancy left by Justice Linda Quay from January until April.

On motion of Councilman Viscio, seconded by Councilman Stevens, the meeting was adjourned at 9:18p.m. Carried unanimously.

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Respectfully Submitted,
March 14, 2011

Kimberly D. Swain