

## **Minutes of the Town of Newbold Town Board Regular Town Board Meeting held on Thursday, January 28, 2021**

The Town of Newbold, Town Board, met on Thursday, January 28, 2021 at 6:30 p.m., for the Town Board Regular Monthly Meeting, held at the Newbold Town Hall, 4608 Apperson Drive, Rhinelander, Wisconsin, 54501, Oneida County, Wisconsin. The following were in attendance: Chairman, Dave Kroll, Supervisors, Bob Metropulos, Jim Staskiewicz, Mike McKenzie and Mike Suefloh, Kim Gauthier, Clerk and Jodie Hess, Treasurer were present. Chairman, Dave Kroll called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., led the audience in the pledge of allegiance and the Clerk verified the agenda was properly noticed to the public.

**Approval of prior town meeting minutes.** *A motion was made by Jim Staskiewicz and Mike Suefloh to approve the town board regular and finance meeting minutes of January 14, 2021, as presented. That motion carried on a voice vote of all aye.*

**County Board of Supervisors report** by Newbold Representatives. Mr. Winkler was absent and excused.

**Volunteer Fire Department activity** by Chief, Mark Fetzer. Reports received. Chief Fetzer reported five fire calls this past month and nine first responder calls.

**Monthly Report of Public Works Department** activity by Public Works Director, Mark Fetzer. Report received and noted there is very little snow this far. The road crew has been working on maintenance of equipment, brush mowing and replaced an oil pan on equipment this month. There is plenty of sand stockpiled as of this date.

**Monthly Outdoor Recreation Committee Report** by Committee Chairman, Pete Cody. Mr. Cody reported the committee met in October 2020 and today. Snowshoeing and hiking is reported at the recreation area on Ole Lake Road, the parking lot is in great shape, bathroom cleaning will continue in the spring. The committee recommends purchasing 125 tree seedlings for planting this spring. 2020 donations totaled \$2,547.82. *Motion by Bob Metropulos and Mike Suefloh to approve purchase of trees as recommended by the Outdoor Recreation Committee at NORA. That motion carried on all yes.*

**Monthly town building committee report** by Committee Chairman, Jim Staskiewicz. The committee met twice this month to prepare talking points and timeline of committee activity for the March presentations. The referendum question was finalized by the committee and town board. The question will be on the April 6<sup>th</sup> ballot, was distributed and published in the newspaper by the Clerk. The committee has recommended adjustments to the town hall plans in the area of the second conference meeting room, staff bathroom and removal of a flex office. The Clerk will connect with Assistant Fire Chief, Siefert on audiovisual needs for the presentation.

**Discussion and action on post card mailing regarding the Building Projects Referendum Presentation.** A sample post card about the presentation was distributed to the board with two presentations set on March 9, 2021 and March 16, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. The Clerk indicated a need for Oneida County to prepare labels for the town mailing with approximately 2,500 needed along with postage and post card printing. *A motion was made by Mike Suefloh and Mike McKenzie to approve the request for postcard printing, mailing, postage and labels as discussed. That motion carried on a voice vote of all yes.*

**Discussion and action on citizen request to consider adopting a town-wide Room Tax.** Mr. Dick Guidinger may be present to address the board. Chairman Kroll reported that Mr. Guidinger is unable to attend the meeting however asked the board to research and consider this option for the town. Currently the county zoning department requires a permit for short-term rentals and last year, Newbold had eleven permits issued. The permits come before the town prior to county approval. Chairman Kroll researched Three Lakes, Boulder Junction, St. Germain and Lake Tomahawk as examples. All towns currently have a room tax ranging from 4.5 and 5.5 percent of sales/rental which generates between \$90,000 and \$400,000 per year. Lake Tomahawk does not use a percentage, but an annual flat fee of \$500/year or \$250/year after the second year. The Town Board expressed interest in obtaining further information, but expressed concern on tracking and collection involved.

**Discussion and action on Oneida County Zoning requests, Plan Commission and citizen zoning requests and chairman's report.** Mr. Sueflohn noted there was no business to report by the commission. However, Mr. Don Johnson is resigning from the Plan Commission due to his health. Mr. Sueflohn commended Mr. Johnson's diligence and careful planning on behalf of the town for many years. His term expires April of 2022. The Town Chairman will post a notice on the vacancy and expressed gratitude for Mr. Johnson's service to the town.

**Discussion and action on bartender & operator's license applications.** The Clerk provided a copy of bartender applications for Roxanne Fortin and Susan Moeller. The application from Roxanne Fortin is for a renewal, however nothing was reported in the criminal background question area and Ms. Fortin has a criminal record of OWI, second offense from 2003 and pending OWI and drug possession charges that have not been determined as of this date. *A motion was made by Mike Sueflohn and Mike McKenzie to deny the bartender/operators application of Roxanne Fortin, as presented. That motion carried on a voice vote of all aye.*

Application for Susan E. Moeller was also reviewed by the board. There were no concerns, no criminal history found, and the fee was paid. The Clerk recommended approval pending receipt of proof of the responsible beverage server's course completion. *A motion was made by Jim Staskiewicz and Bob Metropulos to approve the bartender's license for Susan E. Moeller, pending proof of completing the Responsible Beverage Servers course. That motion carried on a voice vote of all aye.*

**Discussion and action on annual participation in the Wisconsin Towns Advocacy Council** at a membership rate of \$688. *A motion was made by Jim Staskiewicz and Mike McKenzie to approve the membership in the WTA Town Advocacy Council as presented. That motion carried on a voice vote of all aye.*

**Discussion and action on Election Chief Inspector and Poll Worker compensation.** Clerk, Kim Gauthier requested that the town board consider increasing the hourly compensation for election workers, as it had been several years since an increase was given for the positions. Mrs. Gauthier indicated currently, poll workers receive \$10 per hour and Chief Inspectors receive \$11.50 per hour. Chief Inspector responsibilities continue to increase and the workers experienced an unprecedented 2020 with five elections and the pandemic. *A motion was made by Mike Sueflohn and Bob Metropulos to increase the hourly rate of pay to \$15/ hour for Chief Inspectors and \$12/ hour for Poll Workers. That motion carried on a voice vote of all aye.*

**Approval and Payment of any bills and/or funds adjustments.** *A motion was made by Mr. Metropulos and Mr. Sueflohn to approve bills and disbursements as presented. That motion carried with on a voice vote, all ayes.*

The Treasurer and Clerk provided the board with a document of all 2020 year end transfers and ending year end fund balances.

**Administrative review and action**, if necessary, concerning general government, public safety, recycling, sanitation, culture, education, job assignments, project updates, transportation, budget items, fund transfers, and future agenda items.

Next town board meeting is February 11, 2021. The Clerk suggested the board discuss funding options ahead of the presentations on building project at the next board meeting. The Treasurer will provide the interest rate information again at that meeting.

Chairman Kroll informed the board that the Town has prevailed in the Anderson vs. Town of Newbold lawsuit at the Circuit Court level, State Court of Appeals and most recently at the Wisconsin Supreme Court level regarding Act 55, land divisions.

**Public comment and communication** period per Wisconsin statutes whereby the town board may receive input on any matter raised by the public.

Mrs. Cody request that the post card information about the March presentations be placed on the town website.

*The meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m., on a motion made by Mr. Sueflohn and Mr. Metropulos, with no objection.*

Respectfully submitted by

Kim Gauthier, Town Clerk