

TOWN OF NEWLAND  
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING  
MARCH 7, 2017  
6:00 PM

PRESENT:

MAYOR: Valerie Jaynes  
ALDERMAN: Donetta McKinney, Kenny Caraway, Roxanna Roberson  
ATTORNEY: Joe Seegers  
GUESTS: Clara Dickson, Dena Morris, Evelyn Minton, Wade King, Buddy  
Williamson, Frances Banner, Stephanie Paglen, Dennis Quakenboss, Sam  
Ray, Tim Gardner, Matt Debnam  
STAFF: Lise Meinhardt, Keith Hoilman, Ben Townsend,

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. The Mayor then led the audience in pledge to the American flag.

Donetta made a motion to approve the minutes for the regular meeting and the special meeting. Kenny seconded the motion. All agreed by a show of hands.

Claude Buchanan was next on the agenda. Keith explained to the board he was not able to attend that night because of a funeral and will be placed on April's agenda.

The Mayor then discussed the policy for public comments.

The Mayor then recognized Buddy Williamson. Donetta asked Buddy to explain what he wanted to do. Buddy stated he wanted to be in the town. Joe Seegers explained there was no survey to indicate whether it was in or out of the city limits. Buddy agreed he was in town limits. Lise told the board that the taxes were paid this week and after much discussion the board decided he was in the city limits. Kenny stated ok, we are good to go.

The Mayor then recognized Stephanie Paglen. Stephanie explained to the board she has been working on the website and would like to add silent scrolling ads on a big TV near clerk's office. It would advertise jobs, and events. She explained how she makes money selling the ads. She would provide the equipment but town would be responsible for any liability with the device. It would have up to five free ads per month for the town. Mrs. Paglen asked if the screen is only issue can we approve tonight? The Council told her to get with Keith for final approval.

The Mayor then asked for Public Comments.

Frances Banner was recognized. She stated she sent board members a Facebook message. She stated she was here to promote Ben Townsend for consideration for the police chief job. She stated how citizens liked him and they were concerned and wanted a good police chief. She stated Mr. Townsend

has the experience to be a good police chief. She stated Ben has given the town excellent service. Mrs. Banner then asked about the photographer, who wanted to place his pictures in town hall, if he had insurance and who would be liable if something happened to the pictures. She stated the town needed to be concerned about the liability. Donetta then explained the photographer has coverage and wants pictures to pertain to the area.

Clara Dickson was recognized. She stated she agrees with Frances. Ben has been here 12 years and is a good officer. She states the former officer was highly recognized and she wanted Ben to have the job.

Wade King was recognized. He agreed with the others. Ben would be the best choice. People respect Ben and the Town of Newland. Ben would have the decision to choose officers. Wade explained it was only fair for people who were waiting in line. He stated to look at what they've accomplished, and should be given their fair share.

Dennis Quakenboss was recognized. He stated he was police chaplain for Avery. He stated he can't speak more highly of Ben. Jason was good and Ben would be good to step in his place.

Nancy Morrison was recognized. She stated she didn't live in Newland. She is publisher of the Avery Journal and the Ben had been good to work with and appreciated all he has done over the years.

The Mayor then asked for reports.

Keith Hoilman was recognized. He stated the James was back from surgery, and everything was going good. He has been working on the website and had talked to Avery Parks and Recreation to combine the Easter egg hunt. He stated that Jason Brown turned in his notice and that March 10 was Karen Garlands last day. He also stated that Tammy Gardner would take the class to be a notary. He also stated he pre-applied for the 100,000 grant for the parks and recreation grant. Keith also reminded everyone about the work session for Thursday to discuss upcoming events.

Ben Townsend was recognized. He stated how it was business as usual and sad to have Jason leaving. He just found out Nathaniel Calvert (Bubba) resigned also. Donetta asked about business and house checks, Ben explained how they stop, check and talk to residence, not always up to the door. Donetta asked about a bicycle Newland Police Department had, in which Ben explained Banner Elk PD borrowed from Newland and returned it.

Lise Meinhardt was recognized. Everything on QS1. She gave the financial report. No questions for Lise. She explained to the board since taxes had not been paid previously that year that she had to pay penalties. Donetta thanked Lise for all she had done and was glad she was here and she is what we needed to get budget straightened out.

The mayor asked for old business in which everything seems resolved now.

The mayor asked for new business. Donetta explained how she hated to see a historical building torn down. Kenny explained how the cost of destroying, maybe asbestos in the building and then paving. He stated he had talked to commissioners who voted no and said it would cost several thousand just for each parking space. He expressed concern for the people who would have to relocate. No date of demolition yet. It will also take away Towns tax base.

Kenny then made a motion to go into closed session for personal and possible litigation. Donetta seconded. All agreed by a show of hands.

When returning from closed session Donetta made a motion to approve vacation separation leave pay to Jason Brown and Karen Garland. Roxie seconded the motion. All agreed by a show of hands except Kenny Caraway who voted no. Jason had 492 hours paying him \$11,672 at \$23.71 an hour and Karen had 418 hours paying her \$5273.00 at \$12.60 an hour.

Donetta made a motion to adjourn. Roxie seconded the motion. All agreed by a show of hands. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

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Mayor, Valerie Jaynes

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Town Clerk, Tammy Gardner