

TOWN OF NEWLAND  
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING  
MAY 2, 2017  
6:00 PM

PRESENT:

MAYOR: Valerie Jaynes  
ALDERMAN: Donetta McKinney, Roxanna Roberson, Dave Calvert, Kenny Caraway  
ATTORNEY: Joe Seegers  
GUESTS: Tense Banks, Sam Ray, Clara Dickson, Matt Debnam, Steve York, Greg Seiz  
STAFF: Lise Meinhardt, Keith Hoilman, Byron Clawson, Crystal Hicks, Tammy Gardner

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 April meeting. Dave seconded the motion. All agreed by a show of hands.

Tense Banks was recognized. Tense explained to the board about the 100-year anniversary of the caboose at Newland Museum. It will be held June 3. They will have Cheerwine and Moonpies also since its their 100-year anniversary also. Tense and the Town discussed having a festival of the caboose and museum together. She told the board they had received the costumes from the Oz on the Beech Mountain and had them and many other things on display. The Avery Museum's hours are 10-3 Monday through Friday and 11-3 on Saturday. Tense stated they were working on a display to put in the Town Hall. Tense stated the Town could buy a brick for \$50.00 In Honor or In Memory to be placed at the museum.

The Mayor then asked for public comments. The Mayor then stated the rules for public comments. There were no public comments.

The Mayor then asked for department reports. Crystal Hicks gave the tag office report. There were no questions for Crystal. The board praised all the good work Crystal and Whitney had been doing. They stated they had heard many good things about them.

Lise Meinhardt gave the Financial report. There were no questions for Lise.

Byron Clawson gave the police report. Byron told the board they had had some vandalism and was keeping a close watch to try to find out who was doing it. Byron stated that officer Fields completed basic taser training at Mayland Community College, and is now certified to use the equipment. Byron stated that next month he will do basic radar. Byron then told the board he had decided on two officers Daniel Denton and Payton Lowerly and asked the board if he could go ahead and hire them. The board replied that they trusted his opinion and would let him make those decisions. Kenny made a motion to hire the two officers. Donetta seconded the motion. All agreed by a show of hands.

Tammy Gardner clerk, asked for a tax release in the amount of \$453.99 to the Avery County Quik Shop, they had already paid the amount under the Quik Shop. It was mistakenly added twice. Donetta made a motion to release the taxes in the amount of \$453.99. Dave seconded the motion. All agreed by a show of hands. There were no questions for Tammy.

Keith gave the public works and administrative report. He told the board he would like to schedule a Spring Clean-up day in May. They all agreed on May 22-26 and May 27 for volunteer pick up trash day. Donetta asked about building bathrooms onto the stage. Keith told her it's a flood area and would have to be built on stilts. The board agrees before they do anything, they would have to have a written promise from the owner of the land. Keith then explained to the board about needing to place a new meter and the cost would be around \$1000.00. Keith also told the board that the tag office would need to be closed May 4, 2017 because Crystal had a doctor's appointment and Whitney has not received her notary yet. Keith and the board set up a workshop date of Thursday, May 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:00. Keith stated he had mailed a letter to the passport agency and received a call back stating they would let him know something.

The Mayor then asked for old business. There was no old business.

The Mayor asked for new business. Dave asked for the board to propose putting liquor by the drink on the November 2017 ballot to help with business in Newland and to bring new businesses in. Donetta made a motion to put it on the ballot. Dave seconded the motion. The motion did not pass. The Mayor asked for discussion. Kenny said he believed they needed to discuss it more. There was much discussion about it so the board decided to table it until the next meeting to decide.

Dave made a motion to go into closed session for personnel. Kenny seconded the motion. All agreed by a show of hands.

After returning from closed session, the mayor announced no decisions were made. Kenny made a motion to eliminate Assistant Public Works Director's position once Keith received a letter from Workman's Comp. Roxanna seconded the motion. All agreed by a show of hands. Kenny made a motion to increase the pay of the clerk and the tag office at \$2:00 an hour. Dave seconded the motion. All agreed by a show of hands.

Dave made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Roxie seconded the motion. All agreed by a show of hands. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

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Mayor, Valerie Jaynes

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Town Clerk, Tammy Gardner