

**TOWN OF NEWLAND
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING**

MAY 4, 2021

6:00 PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PROPOSED AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

PUBLIC COMMENTS

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

OLD BUSINESS

(POLICY CHANGE ON TAXES)

(CELL TOWER LEASE BUYOUT OPTIONS)

NEW BUSINESS

(ADMINISTRATOR SEARCH COMMITTEE)

**TOWN OF NEWLAND
EMERGENCY MEETING**

APRIL 22, 2021

5:30 PM

PRESENT:

MAYOR: Valerie Jaynes

ATTORNEY: Joe Seegers

ALDERMAN: Kenny Caraway, James C. Johnson, Lauren Turbyfill, Dave Calvert, Christie Hughes

STAFF: Lise Meinhardt, Chief Byron Clawson, Colby Benfield, Tammy Gardner

The Mayor Pro Temp called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

Dave made a motion to go into closed session. Christie seconded the motion. All agreed by a show of hands and stating I.

Upon returning to open session no decision was made.

James made a motion to go into closed session. Christie seconded the motion. All agreed by a show of hands and stating I.

Lauren made a motion to accept the decision Lise Meinhardt makes in the handling of the tag office. Kenny seconded the motion. All agreed by a show of hands and stating I.

James made a motion to adjourn. Christie seconded the motion. All agreed by a show of hands and stating I.

Mayor, Valerie Jaynes

Clerk, Tammy Gardner

TOWN OF NEWLAND
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
APRIL 6, 2021
6:00 PM

PRESENT:

MAYOR: Valerie Jaynes

ATTORNEY: Joe Seegers (absent)

ALDERMAN: Kenny Caraway, James C. Johnson, Lauren Turbyfill, Dave Calvert, Christie Hughes

GUESTS: Vanessa Angrisani, Richard Trivette,

STAFF: Lise Meinhardt, Chief Byron Clawson, Colby Benfield, Tammy Gardner

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

James made a motion to approve the proposed agenda. Lauren seconded the motion. All agreed by a show of hands and stating I. Motion carried.

Lauren made a motion to approve the Public Hearing minutes. Christie seconded the motion. All agreed by a show of hands and stating I. Motion carried.

James made a motion to approve the Emergency Meeting minutes. Lauren seconded the motion. All agreed by a show of hands and stating I. Motion carried.

James made a motion to approve the February minutes. Lauren seconded the motion. All agreed by a show of hands and stating I. Motion carried.

In Public Comments:

The Mayor read the rules of public comments to the audience.

Vanessa Lawson Angrisani spoke to the board about a street light that shines through her window at night and is very bright. Ms. Angrisani asked if maybe it could be fixed where it was not pointing in her window. Ms. Angrisani also asked the board about a road or driveway behind her house. She stated it has a lot of traffic and wanted to know if the Town maintained it. Colby stated he was always told the town did not maintain it. James stated he would look into it. James stated that a while back that light was put there because a lot of homeless people were in the park. Colby stated he would see if Mountain Electric could turn the light away from her window. The Board thanked Ms. Angrisani for coming to the meeting.

Richard Trivette spoke to the board about having a fundraiser in Newland for the DAV. Mr. Trivette stated it would be on Memorial Day from 8 till 2 pm. The board agreed and thanked Mr. Trivette for coming to the meeting.

Lise Meinhardt gave the finance report. Lise stated she had closed out March and would be working on the budget. Lise stated she posted the ad for Maintenance Worker on Indeed and already had 3 applications. Lise stated it would run for 30 days free. Lauren asked the board if they could go ahead and plan a date for interviews.

Chief Byron Clawson gave the police report. Chief Clawson stated there is currently an investigation of a felony child-abuse case. D.S.S. was notified. There were no questions for the Chief.

Colby Benfield gave the public works report. Colby stated we are under contract with Water Quality. Colby stated things in town were going good. Colby stated they were doing road maintenance now getting ready for paving in the next couple of weeks. Colby stated they were doing maintenance on the park and cleaning it up. Colby stated he had some quotes for the building on Sokassa Road. Christie asked about the bathrooms. Colby stated he had 2 contractors look at it so far. Colby explained to the board how he would like to do the bathrooms. The board agreed.

In New Business:

Kenny stated there should be a policy change on people paying their taxes, Kenny stated that after two years it should be turned over to the town attorney. Kenny stated that late fees and expenses should be added onto their bill for them to pay. Kenny stated that there are some who will not even attempt to pay. Kenny stated that some make payments and try when others will not even try. Kenny stated the board would have to change the policy for the attorney to go farther to collect. James asked if the board needed to update the policy to include this. Kenny stated yes if after two years they have not paid then the attorney needs to add on expenses and attorney fees to tax bill. James stated he agreed but asked who writes the policy? Dave stated he thought Joe did some for the county but was not completely sure but felt Joe could do it. James felt that was good but would like to have the policy to view before they vote on it. Kenny stated to ask Joe. Christie stated to save money and not ask Joe. Dave asked James if he could see what County does. James stated they would find out.

Kenny spoke to the board about the tag office expenses. Kenny stated that the tag office runs in a deficient. Lise stated it runs in deficient about 20,000 a year. Kenny stated the County pays for having the tag office but the town pays insurance and other things Kenny stated if it's not being matched the board needs to talk to the county to match it. James stated that the girls could cross train and that would help to cover the expense, and to ask the County to help with the extra expenses. James stated it was a public service to the county. James stated the big picture is if they come for tags and license they will probably stop and eat and buy in Town. Dave agreed it was good for the Town.

The Mayor presented the new updated Charter for the High Country County Council of Governments to the board.

Kenny made a motion to approve the Resolution for Updated Charter for the HCCOG. Christie seconded the motion. All agreed by a show of hands and stating I. Motion carried.

Lise asked to amend the budget for expenses to move funds of 12,500 from general account to the police department account.

James made a motion for the approval to amend the budget and to move 12,500 from one account to the other account. Dave seconded the motion. All agreed by a show of hands and stating I. Motion carried.

Lise asked the board for approval of the 2021 audit contract. Lise stated it was the 3rd year of this contract with Cindy Randolph.

Kenny made a motion to approve the 2021 Audit Contract. Christie seconded the motion. All agreed by a show of hands and stating I. Motion carried.

The board discussed a raise for Colby Benfield. After discussion the board changed his title to supervisor. James made a motion to raise the public works supervisor salary to 37,440 and the clerk/tax collector to 33,520. Lauren seconded the motion. All agreed by a show of hands and stating I. Motion carried.

Lise presented a lease proposal from Crown Castle Towers for the board to look over.

Christie stated she would like to give the maintenance boys some extra time off as a one time bonus for working through covid because of the circumstances.

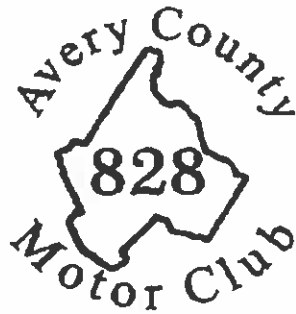
Christie made a motion to put Lise Meinhardt in as interim Administrator position. After discussion, James seconded the motion. Dave and Lauren agreed. Kenny voted no. Motion carried.

Lauren asked about doing a Spring Fling on April 25th or May 1st.

James made a motion to adjourn. Dave seconded the motion. All agreed by a show of hands and stating I. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Mayor, Valerie Jaynes

Clerk, Tammy Gardner



Avery County Sheriff Cadets

Avery High JROTC

Providing Concessions by

Donation

Cruise In' The Square 2021

April 30

May 28

June 25

July 30

August 27

September 24

Oct-Trunk or Treat **TBA**

Anything with Wheels or Motors Welcome

Newland Town Square 5-9

Bryon Towler 828-200-5936

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