

TOWN OF NEWLAND
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
MARCH 6, 2018
6:00 PM

PRESENT:

MAYOR: Valerie Jaynes
ATTORNEY: Joe Seegers
ALDERMAN: Kenny Caraway, James C. Johnson, Lauren Turbyfill, Joleta Wise, Greg Seiz
GUESTS: Jimmie Daniels, Judy Johnson, Regina Hoilman, Tiffany Moon, David
Masonoff, Sam Ray, Clara Dickson, Steve York, Tim Gardner, Dominic
Parker
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 the pledge to the American flag.

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

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

The Mayor asked for public comments. The Mayor announced the rules for public comments.

Clara Dickson asked the board if they have completed their homework, in which she asked the board members previously to check online for new businesses. The board responded with yes and no's.

Jimmie Daniels presented a presentation to the board of things Jake Owens had accomplished to remember him with. Jimmie spoke of how much Jake loved the town and wanted to keep it beautiful. Jimmie asked for a memorial in honor of Jake to be named Jake Owens Memorial Garden. Jimmie stated Jake's dream was the Spiritual Garden he created for people to come sit and pray, and beside of the memorial of her granddaughter Abby. Jimmie stated she would like to use the scripture from Matthew, Chapter 25 verse 40. Kenny stated it would be an honor to do that for Jake. Joleta stated that through private donations she thought that could possibly be done. Jimmie stated she wanted to preserve history and for the board to come to the Avery County Museum and she would give them a tour.

Judy Johnson asked the board about high water bills and if there could be a discount for senior citizens or widowed women in the town that are set on a low-income budget. She explained to the board when the bill is higher it is a shock and they have to rearrange their budget in order to pay the extra. Judy stated she usually pays \$47.60 a month but when it goes to the other bracket like this month it is \$60.90 a month. Judy asked the board if there was a way to just pay for the gallons used and not be put in a different bracket. The board thanked her for her time and stated they would discuss it.

Regina Hoilman from the Avery County Humane Society explained to the board the functions of the center, what can be done and what cannot be done. She gave prices for the services they supply and explained the use of traps that are provided to the community. Regina explained how they are a non-profit company on a \$750,000 budget. Regina stated they have only 1 full time employee but 20 employees are on the roster.

Tiffany Moon explained to the board that she has lived 8 years in Newland and would like to see a change. Tiffany explained to the board that the community has more crime now and would like to start a community watch like the Town had years ago. The board agreed to look at the proper information to re-start the Community Watch Program in Town. Byron stated he would look into it also.

Keith Hoilman gave the administrative report and water works report. Keith stated they did a water tap for Yellow Mountain Enterprises which cost \$2000.00. Keith also stated he felt they would not need to purchase more salt for the rest of the winter. Keith stated Officer Lambert resigned. Keith explained to the board about talking with Karen Kiehna about grant needs, and also with Debbie Sexton. Keith stated he was working with Phillip Barrier to open the DMV driver's license office 5 days a week. Keith stated he has also been working with Kate Gavanus to promote High Country Mountain Heritage trout water trails. Keith stated he would like to have a March workshop on the 24th if that was alright with the board. The board agreed and stated they would like to have it from 8:00 am to 12:00. Keith stated he would be on vacation March 9th through the 17th but would be available by phone or email.

Chief Byron Clawson gave the police report. Byron stated he had attended The Advisory Committee meeting at Mayland Community College on February 8th, where they discussed training needs. Byron stated he had requested several classes that Newland Police Department needed that are free to all area law officers. Byron stated all the notable calls for the month and stated he was investigating an alleged second-degree rape involving a 17-year-old victim. Byron stated the investigation was on going and he was working with Child Advocacy Center in Foscoe. Byron then introduced Dominic Parker to the board and stated he would like to hire Mr. Parker and that Mr. Parker understood the rules of hire. Joleta made a motion to hire Dominic Parker full time. James seconded the motion. All agreed by a show of hands and stating I.

Lise gave the financial report. She stated everything was on track.

Crystal gave the tag office report. Crystal attended a training class for the tag office in North Wilksboro on February 20th. Crystal also stated they had completed 2 passports this week.

In old business.

Greg asked Byron about the bicycle in the police office. Byron stated he would like guidance on how to handle the bike, whether to sell it on surplus or what the board would like for him to do with it. Greg stated to let it go.

In new business

Keith explained to the board that Shelby from serve-line could not be present today. Keith went over the options for insurance on water/sewer. Greg Seiz made a motion to adopt proposal made on 12-28-17 for residential insurance \$4.00 a month and commercial insurance \$6.00 a month and multi-unit is \$11.00 a month. No one seconded the motion it failed to pass. Lauren made a motion to have the

insurance but have a 1-year probation period. Greg seconded the motion. Kenny, James, and Joleta opposed. Motion failed. Board stated they would discuss it in the March workshop.

Lise explained to the board that there are 2 choices in the pay period change that was discussed by the board. Option 1- Keep it like it is from Saturday to Friday or option 2- Thursday to Wednesday. Payday will still be on Fridays. James made a motion to change the pay dates from Thursday to Wednesday. Greg seconded the motion. All agreed by a show of hands and stating I. Motion passed.

Keith showed the board three different resolutions from which the board had previously agreed on for employee policies. James made a motion to adopt the resolution for sick leave balances. Greg seconded the motion. All agreed by a show of hands and stating I. Joleta made a motion to adopt the resolution for vacation leave to accrue after six months of employment and sick leave to accrue after ninety days for full time employment to be effective starting March 7, 2018. James seconded the motion. All agreed by a show of hands and stating I. Motion passed.

The Mayor opened sealed letters with audit bids. Young, Miller, and Gillespie of Spruce Pine \$21,500. Misty Watson of Boone, \$14,000. Cynthia Randolph of West Jefferson, \$12,000. Wilson Reyes and Associates of Charlotte 14,000. Lise explained to the board they have several months to review the bids before this year's audit.

Kenny made a motion to adjourn. Joleta seconded the motion. All agreed by a show of hands and stating I. Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

Mayor, Valerie Jaynes

Clerk, Tammy Gardner

