

TOWN OF NEWLAND  
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING  
MAY 1, 2018  
6:00 PM

PRESENT:

MAYOR: Valerie Jaynes  
ATTORNEY: Joe Seegers  
ALDERMAN: Kenny Caraway, James C. Johnson, Lauren Turbyfill, Joleta Wise,  
Greg Seiz  
GUESTS: Alsie Sturgill, Joe Sturgill, John Sturgill, Clara Dickson, Sam Ray,  
Tim Gardner  
STAFF: Keith Hoilman, Byron Clawson, Michael Fields, Crystal Hicks,  
Whitney Townsend, 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. Kenny seconded the motion. All agreed by a show of hands and stating I. Motion carried.

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

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

Sam Ray stated on behalf of all the people on Park Street, he wanted to thank the maintenance men for doing such a good job cleaning and picking up all the brush. He stated the people on Park Street really appreciated it.

Alcie Sturgill addressed the board with an issue she had about a water problem. Water is running into the lots of the trailers they rent out when it rains. She stated when it rains a lot they always have that problem because it stays up under the trailers. She stated her renters were complaining about black mold from it. Alcie stated that John knew how to fix it and asked if it was alright for him to speak. The board replied yes.

John Sturgill addressed the board stating he had been trying to help Alcie and Joe since Joe had been sick. John stated that the problem is water runs off the mountain and then into the culvert and the culvert gets stopped up and will not let the water run out. John stated the culverts needed to be cleaned out in order to keep the water from going under the trailers. John stated it was on Old Public Road. James stated he used to live down there and knew where he was talking about. James stated they his dad did ditching a lot when he was younger. John stated that weeds and stuff had grown up and the water could not get through. Joleta asked if the culvert was too small. John stated there just has not been maintenance on it in a long time. James asked if he thought it would help to widen the ditches. John stated maybe but the culvert needs cleaning out. Keith explained how the maintenance crew have

worked on it and even pulled an old wheel chair out of it. Keith explained to the board that they were aware of the problem but with the town short a maintenance employee they just had not been able to get to it yet. Keith stated he would have to use the backhoe and would try to get it by the next few weeks, if possible and the weather allows.

Crystal Hicks gave the tag office report. Crystal told the board they had done 35 passports in April. Lauren suggested they advertise it on facebook to get it more known.

Chief Byron Clawson gave the police department report. Chief Clawson stated he had sold the police bike on Govdeals for \$203.00. Chief Clawson stated that Officer Fields attended pepper spray class. Chief Clawson went over all notable calls. Greg Seiz asked about new hires. Chief Clawson stated he will be trying to recruit someone, if not then he will contact the League of Municipalities. There were no other questions for Chief Clawson.

Keith Hoilman gave the water and administrative report. Keith stated they had repaired a couple of leaks and had 2 more to go, he has to wait until Cardinal moves out. Keith stated the men had to change out some meters that had locked up. Keith stated there had been a passport inspection with only correcting a couple of things. Keith stated that fiber optics had been coming through so the men have been working to help that so they won't cut any water lines. Keith stated he had taken the resume for maintenance worker out of the paper and would interview the next week and hire someone for that position if it is alright with the board. Kenny asked Keith if he will be interviewing them, Lauren stated that under policy the board or some of the board should interview them. Kenny asked the board if they had interviewed any of the applicants for the police department. Lauren stated she did not know about that but would like to sit in on the interviews for this hire. James stated that there was only one hire for that job. Kenny stated he would not know what to ask and felt like the department heads should be able to hire whom they thought could do the job. Kenny stated he felt they should give Keith the freedom to hire like they did Byron. Kenny stated he believed that Keith should have that right to interview and hire who he feels is the best for the job without the board sitting in on the interviews. Kenny stated he believed it should be up to the department head to hire, if not it was setting a double standard and he felt the board should not do that. James asked if they were going by policy. Lauren looked up the policy in the policy book. Lauren stated that in the policy the board has the right to sit in on an interview and hire. Lauren stated it was just good for checks and balances to sit in and determine if the right decision was made so it would not be one-sided. Kenny stated he felt that the buck stops with the department heads and should be left up to Keith to hire. Kenny stated he felt Keith should interview and then come to the board with the one he recommends. Lauren stated she was not trying to change anyone's mind she just wanted to be there. James stated the board may see something from someone that maybe Keith would not see if they sit in on the interviews. Kenny asked what position he was interviewing, Keith replied maintenance worker 1. Joleta stated that Lauren had pointed it out and it did state it in the policy. Joleta stated that before it had been a courtesy to allow the department heads to hire. Joleta stated she completely agreed with Mr. Caraway that the department head knows the responsibility and what should be handled. Lauren read the policy to the board members. James stated they did not realize the policy before. The Mayor asked if everyone was good with letting Keith interview and hire. The Mayor stated the board allowed Byron to hire and felt they should do the same for Keith. After discussion the board told Keith to move forward and hire a maintenance worker. Keith stated he had met with Debbie Sexton about the grants. Keith stated he would be working on the budget. James stated he would like to do a workshop for the budget. A budget workshop was set for May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 5:30. Keith stated he was still researching a phone system. Keith stated he was still working to get DMV five days a week. Keith stated Debbie English had polished the floors, which is in the contract and did a great job. Keith stated that spring clean-up will be May 21- 25 and they need to schedule a volunteer

weekend clean-up. Keith then awarded Whitney Townsend and Byron Clawson a plaque for one-year anniversary of dedication and service. Lauren asked about doing Jake's memorial garden. Keith stated maybe Memorial Day. Lauren stated she wanted to make things clear that she had no ill intentions but when it says the board has the right to hire and fire, she would like to sit in the background like a fly on the wall while Keith interviews people, she would not say a word but confirm in her brain that yes that person to me, was the best. Joleta asked Lauren what she would like to happen? Joleta asked if she would like Keith to choose the top three people. Lauren stated it did not matter because obviously she was the only one who wanted to sit in on the interviews. Joleta explained to her that she understood and was asking because she felt it was important. James stated that when others even county jobs, had applied other people sat in on the interviews. James stated they had talked about this and cannot recall it ever being asked. Joleta stated that if Lauren felt it was important and should be brought before the board members because the board represented the community. Kenny stated that if Keith states this is who he recommends and then the board disagrees they would be going over his head as a department head. Lauren stated it would not be that way it would just confirm they were the best choice. Keith stated he just wanted to add something, when they talked about protecting him, Byron does the hiring and they were not worried about protecting him. James stated at that time none of them knew the policy. Keith stated it was a standard thing, that everyone should be on the same standard. Keith stated that was all he was asking for. Lauren stated that was all she was asking for, she stated it just protects Keith for them to sit in on the interviews. After discussion the board agrees.

#### Old Business: Auditor

After discussion of the different auditors and their prices, James stated he suggested to save money they should go with the lowest bid. Kenny stated that sometimes the lowest was not always the best since many things could affect that. He stated we used Misty last year and she did a good job and was aware of how things were. Joe Seegers stated that if you listened to the bids they stated not more than and they could charge that much so it did not mean that was the lowest bid. Kenny made a motion to stay with Misty Watson for another year. Joleta seconded the motion. Joleta stated under discussion she would like for Keith and Lise permission to open a contract for 3 years. James asked what was wrong with the lowest bid. James stated he told the town he was going to save money. Kenny stated that they did not know what it would entail, and that we already had someone who had the computer set up, did it last year and knew what to do, and felt she would be the best choice. Greg stated that he felt since Misty and Lise already had the working relationship between them it would be better than Lise having to hand off to a new auditor. Greg stated that another concern was that they did not know if Lise was going to stay, and that would mean training 2 new people and having extra expenses. Greg stated another thing was that Misty's bid was placed in the public, so everyone else was able to see that and based their bid on that. Greg stated that the town went from 21,000 to 14,000 last year which was a 33% savings last year. Greg stated he felt she absorbed a lot of cost to take a client on for a long-term relationship. Joleta stated that the 33% saving came from adding a computer system that could do line by line items, where before it was done by hand. Lauren and Greg agreed by a show of hands and stating I. James opposed. Motion carried 4 to 1.

#### New Business: Ethnicity for Local Elected Officials Training

James made a motion to do on-demand training for \$150.00. Greg seconded the motion. All agreed by a show of hands and stating I. Greg stated that he had had 3 people come and ask him about policy on ordinances about junk all around and have ordinances but have not been followed. He stated that he needed to tell the people something and wanted to do a workshop on this. Greg stated that Clara keeps

asking what are we doing to get growth in the town, and he feels like cleaning up is a big part of that. Greg states cleaning up and adding the Jake Owens memorial is something he would like to see. Greg states that the town needs to get its act together because there are other towns that will use the appeal to attract people to their town. Greg states this is a core piece that as a town, board and a community needs to be worked on. Kenny stated that is an ordinance that has to be agreed on where everyone is treated equally. Kenny stated that the board needs to get together and change the ordinances. Keith asked the board if it was alright to go ahead and hire a maintenance worker. James stated it was in the budget and the board agreed and told him to hire. Keith stated he was just making sure.

Kenny made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Greg seconded the motion. All agreed by a show of hands and stating I. Meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm

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Mayor, Valerie Jaynes

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Clerk, Tammy Gardner