

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

PRESENT:

MAYOR: Valerie Jaynes
ATTORNEY: Joe Seegers
ALDERMAN: James C. Johnson, Lauren Turbyfill, Greg Seiz
GUESTS: David Hill, Dave Calvert, Clara Dickson, David Masonoff, Carl Blankenship, Casey Turbyfill
STAFF: Keith Hoilman, Chief 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 accept the proposed agenda. Greg seconded the motion. All agreed by a show of hands and stating I.

Greg made a motion to accept the September minutes. Lauren seconded the motion. All agreed by a show of hands and stating I.

The Mayor then asked for public comments.

David Masonoff asked about the nuisance properties. David also stated the website needed to be updated. The board agreed and thanked David for bringing it to their attention.

Dave Calvert presented the board with information about making Newland a Historical township and asked the board for permission to check into this. After discussion the board gave Dave permission.

Clara Dickson complimented the board on cleaning up the town. Clara stated she thought the board should look into the property owned by Martha Guy. Clara stated it was for sale and it would be a pretty place to fix up and put a fountain in. The board agreed with Clara and thanked her.

David Hill presented the board with his findings from the pay plan study. Mr. Hill spoke of three different options the board could take in deciding a better pay scale. Lauren asked if Mr. Hill was privy to our finances of the town doing this study. Lauren stated we are strapped for this. She stated just sitting here thinking about one going to radar school and having to pay for a fill in and that costing money. We have to do this and that, just to give them money and we do not have any money for that. David stated he just presents it, not telling the town what to do. Lauren stated it was hard to imagine paying out people that much more. Greg stated the cheapest one was like 35,000.00 into the budget and the thing he liked the most was the employees were asked and gave the information to Mr. Hill. After much discussion the board thanked David for his proposal.

Crystal Hicks gave the tag office report. Greg asked Crystal if she could do a spreadsheet. Lauren asked if Crystal should really have to be here and not have to give a report since they get it and read it therefore she can stay home with her family. Lauren stated how sad for her to have to be here when she could be home with her family. Lauren asked Crystal if there was a reason she had to be here. Keith stated a previous board requested her be there. The board stated that Crystal could choose which she wanted to do.

Chief Byron Clawson gave the police report. Chief Clawson stated the police department transitioned "Police-Pak" program. Chief Clawson stated that Officer Baynard attended "Intox" school and is now certified to run test utilizing the Intox EC/ir. All Officers have completed mandatory in-service training. Chief Clawson stated that all businesses will be given a form to fill out for contact numbers in case the owner needed to be notified of a problem.

Keith gave the Administrator and public works report. Keith stated he had been working with Rural Water and they have a report of cost comparisons in which he emailed to the board members. Keith stated that he and James Clark attended re-certification class. Keith stated treat-street was a success and many compliments had been given on it. Keith stated they have fixed most of the lights and he ordered salt for the winter. Keith stated he had a couple of estimates on painting the Town Hall building, James stated he would like for Keith to advertise in the paper and do the bid process that maybe someone from even Charlotte or other areas might have a lower cost and save money. Keith stated he had talked with Tommy Burleson and he would help with the house on Summer Haven. Keith stated the new phone system is up and running great. Also, the new furnace is in and working great. Keith stated that Connor Ritchie resigned on September 25th and Lise Meinhardt agreed to come back in that position part time. James questioned why the board was not polled and that Lise needed to be voted in by the board because it's an appointed position. Greg made a motion to rehire Lise Meinhardt as town Finance Officer. Lauren seconded the motion. James stated he wanted to wait until closed session. Joe told him he could not discuss that in closed session. James stated he was all right with it right now. Lauren stated it was gone about in the wrong way. She said it was the board who makes the decisions. Keith stated Connor left and we had to do something right away. Keith stated he sent them an email. Lauren stated she got the email, but she never said she agreed with it. Lauren stated it was done the wrong way and should not have happened. James said next time to poll the board. Keith stated he got no response from them. James asked Keith if he was happy with Lise, in which Keith replied yes and I have always been happy with her. Lauren stated she was just by the book. After discussion all agreed by a show of hands and stating I. Keith stated James Clark would be out having knee replacement and Keith would be covering for him while he's out on sick leave. January 12th date was set for the next workshop at 8:00 am. The Christmas parade will be December 7th at 5:30 pm.

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

After returning to open session, it was announced no decision had been made.

In new business:

The board started the discussion for employee's yearend bonus. Keith stated it had been budgeted at 3% on bonus. Greg asked what was last years? Keith replied \$500 across the board. James stated the county does longevity. James stated in the future you may want to look at it that way since he looks at the town differently in money. Keith stated that people have car and house payments, and this really helps and it has already been budgeted for. James stated people like it the week of Thanksgiving. James

asked Byron if he received a bonus in Banner Elk? Byron replied no that once they got a turkey coupon. Greg stated that since it was budgeted for then they should do it that way and if they wanted to change it to budget it deferentially next year. Greg stated that since it was in the budget and Christmas bonus is usually considered good will, that you could not spend a better dollar than for the employees. James stated he agreed but was looking at long term. Greg made a motion to do the finance officers proposal at the 3% scale as is. Motion failed for lack of a second. Greg stated that what was done cannot be undone and can have effects on the future. James stated that he wanted to give the employees something just not sure the amount. Lauren stated you do not go into a career in life thinking you should get a Christmas bonus. James also stated last year we did not give part time employees a Christmas bonus and Keith stated we did. Keith stated he would give up his bonus for the employees. James made a motion to give \$500.00 across the board. Valerie stated she agreed with Greg and said it was already put in the budget and she felt the employees should get their bonus. Greg asked Lauren and Jamie to at least meet him half way and give closer to the scale provided by the finance officer. James stated he would like to give the employees something and abstained and pulled his motion. After much discussion, motion tabled. Motion failed. After much discussion, Greg made a motion to pay employees yearend bonuses based on years of service tier that Lauren suggested. James seconded the motion. All agreed by a show of hands and stating I.

Greg made a motion to adjourn. James seconded the motion. All agreed by a show of hands and stating I. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Valerie Jaynes, Mayor

Tammy Gardner, Clerk