

**TOWN OF NEWLAND
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING**

NOVEMBER 2, 2021

6:00 PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PROPOSED AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

PUBLIC COMMENTS

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

**OLD BUSINESS
(EMPLOYEE CHRISTMAS BONUS)**

NEW BUSINESS

TOWN OF NEWLAND
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
OCTOBER 5, 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: Alena Stair, Nancy Johnson, Derek Roberts, Marisa Mecke (Avery Journal)

STAFF: Jeremy Gerrish (phone) 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 accept the proposed agenda. Christie seconded the motion. All agreed by a show of hands and stating I.

James made a motion to accept the August minutes. Kenny seconded the motion. All agreed by a show of hands and stating I.

Kenny made a motion to accept the special meetings minutes. James seconded the motion. All agreed by a show of hands and stating I.

In Public Comments, Alena Stair spoke to the board about traffic on Shady Street since the camper site was put on the old US Textile property. Alena stated they were told access would come from the main highway, but it has been coming through Shady Street. She stated Tommy Burleson said it would be modeled like down by the river campground and she was concerned it would end up being a trailer park with permanent structures. Alena stated big trucks have come through at night and used the jake brake and kept them awake. Alena stated she wanted to know about policy or what could be done. James stated they would look into it but his understanding that traffic would come from the other entrance from the main highway. James asked the Chief to use extra patrol on Shady Street and no tractor-trailers. The board thanked her for coming.

Alena stated there was a rusty piece of metal sticking out at the park. Colby stated he would take care of it.

Chief Byron Clawson gave the police report. Chief Clawson went over all notable calls. Chief Clawson stated they wrote and executed two search warrants this month. Chief Clawson stated Officer Ahneman made it through field training and is working a shift. Officer Mace is still in field training and should be

done very soon. Christie stated she has received a lot of calls on speeders in town, mainly on the four lane. Chief Clawson stated he would have the officers watch out for them.

Colby Benfield gave the public works report. Colby stated they had worked on leaks this month and still had one at the hardware store but is waiting on parts and Iron Mountain is scheduled to help them. They had 2 hydrants break. Colby stated they did 4 water/sewer taps and two more to get before winter. Colby stated they had the building ordered and should be here in two weeks. Colby stated it costed 31,000.00 and hoped to get it up before winter. Colby stated he would like to sale the old dump truck which is a 1985 f800 Ford. James made a motion for the public works supervisor to sell the 1985 f800 ford dump truck on Gov deals for a starting price of \$4000.00. Kenny seconded the motion. All agreed by a show of hands and stating I. Motion carried.

Colby asked the board if they wanted to repair the old salt spreader for \$2400.00 or buy a new one for \$5800. The board told Colby to get the new one. Colby stated he thought \$6000.00 was placed in the budget for the spreader. Colby asked the board if there was anything that maybe he looked over on policy for the new camper lots on Shady Street, Colby stated now they have one water/sewer hookup and will need another. Colby stated he just wanted to make sure with policy he was doing things right. James stated it says in policy there can't be any permanent campers, and these will be pulling in and out. James stated he was excited about camper site, and he thought it was a good thing and would bring a lot of people to Newland. Kenny stated he agreed and had been over there looking and the plans for it to put shade trees in there. Kenny stated if the plans work out, he feels it would be a great asset for the town. Colby handed the board applications for the maintenance worker to the board to review. Colby stated he had looked over them but was afraid they would not take it based on the pay. Christie stated she would not be willing to offer anyone more than what they started Jarod out with and did not feel that was a factor in his leaving.

In old business:

Kenny stated that he understood there was going to be some carpet work done in the town hall, Kenny stated that any department head could spend up to \$500.00, over that it is to be agreed upon from the board. **Kenny stated the board did not agree on purchasing carpet for the Town hall. Kenny stated there was too much going on right now and should not do the carpet. James stated he was fine with postponing it until the new administrator could be here. Christie stated the carpet was not a priority and it just needed to be cancelled since no motion was ever made on it. James asked if a deposit has been placed, the mayor stated yes \$5200.00. The Mayor stated the estimate was placed before them at a special meeting and all seemed to agree. James stated it would need to be done at a regular meeting. The regular meeting was canceled for September, no quorum. James asked Colby when a good time would be for him to help with the carpet. James stated to let the Mayor check into a time for rescheduling. Shelby stated that a moving crew would come and move things out so the boys would not have to help with it. Shelby stated the quote they gave her had moving the furniture added in. Kenny asked Shelby if she got the quote. Shelby stated yes. Christie stated the point being that her and James discussed it, but it was not approved. The board agreed to let the new administrator handle it when he returns. The Mayor stated she would call the carpet company and put it on hold till the town administrator could handle it. Jeremy stated for her to send him the contact information and he would take care of it.**

In new business:

The Mayor asked about policy for covid. Lauren stated it should be like the county does. James stated that the rules for covid are the same as the county's rules. James told Colby to call health department and get a copy. Jeremy stated he called the county manager and health departments, and he should have some guidance in the next day or two.

Jeremy stated he was having a hard time getting things since no one realizes he works for the town and asked if the board could get that information out. Marisa Mecke of the Avery Journal stated they would do an article on him.

Kenny stated there was a resume in front of everyone for Nancy Johnson. James made a motion to go into closed session, no one agreed. Kenny made a motion to offer the position to Nancy Johnson for finance officer on a part time basis at \$22.00 an hour. Christie seconded the motion. Lauren asked if they went into closed session could Mrs. Johnson be in closed session also. The board stated she could. Christie stated there was a motion on the table. James stated to Kenny they need to go into closed session first that that he would get where he wanted, but first they had to take care of something. Motion tabled to go into closed session for personnel.

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

Upon returning from closed session the Mayor announced no decision was made.

Shelby Taylor announced she would be resigning as finance officer on October 31st to be able to put more time back into Taylors Taxes, since it would be starting her tax season. James asked Shelby if she would help Nancy with learning payroll. Shelby stated she would.

Christie made a motion to appoint Nancy Johnson as finance officer on a part time basis to work with Shelby Taylor a couple of times to learn payroll, then work with Jeremy on a schedule. Kenny seconded the motion. All agreed by a show of hands and stating I. Motion carried. Lauren stated she felt like there had been some major collusion, but all was good.

James made a motion to adjourn. Kenny seconded the motion. All agreed by a show of hands and stating I. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Mayor, Valerie Jaynes

Clerk, Tammy Gardner