

TOWN OF NEWLAND  
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING  
OCTOBER 3, 2017  
6:00 PM

PRESENT:

MAYOR: Valerie Jaynes  
ALDERMAN: Thomas Jackson, Roxanne Roberson, Dave Calvert, Kenny Caraway  
GUESTS: Dena Morris, Clara Dickson, Steve York, Shannon and Greg Seiz, Matt  
Debnam, Tim Gardner  
STAFF: Lise Meinhardt, Keith Hoilman, Byron Clawson, Crystal Hicks, Tammy  
Gardner, Michael Fields, Matthew Lambert

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

Dave made a motion to approve the proposed agenda. Kenny seconded the motion. All agreed by a show of hands.

Dave made a motion to approve the September minutes. Kenny seconded the motion. All agreed by a show of hands.

The Mayor then asked for public comments and stated to stay in the three-minute zone.

Dena Morris was recognized. She stated she would like something done about the speeding on Watauga street. She stated that people walk on that road and the traffic flow in the morning and evenings are dangerous to anyone walking on the road. The board thanked her and asked Byron Clawson if he was aware of this. Mr. Clawson explained to the board he was aware, and they were looking into ways to help with this situation.

Clara Dickson was recognized. She thanked the maintenance department for spraying the grass on her street.

The Mayor then asked for Department Reports.

Crystal Hicks gave the Tag Office report. There were no questions for Crystal.

Lise Meinhardt gave the financial report. She explained to the board that she has been finishing the audit and it should be ready for review in the next week. There were no questions for Lise.

Byron Clawson gave the police report. Mr. Clawson stated he had been clearing out evidence. He also stated that he was getting ready for the audit for training standards. Mr. Clawson then explained to the board that it was time to order new uniforms for the department and asked if they could go to the blue uniforms since they are cheaper and would save some money plus look different than the County

Officers. The board agreed with Mr. Clawson and told him they trusted his decisions. There were no questions for Byron.

Keith Hoilman gave the Public Works report and the Administrative report. He stated that he and James had attended a re-certification training on Wednesday, September 27<sup>th</sup> in Banner Elk. Keith then stated they would be decorating for fall in the next couple of weeks. He explained how the GNA will not be taking lead on the Halloween festival this year. The Homecoming parade will be Friday, October 13<sup>th</sup> at 4:00. Keith stated he had been reviewing and working on the Town's personnel policy. There were no questions for Keith.

The Mayor then asked for old business. There was no old business.

The Mayor then asked for new business.

Steve York explained to the board how they would still be doing the scarecrow and wreath contest, but the GNA does not have the resources to do the Halloween costume contest and asked the town if they could help. Dave mentioned that a few of the businesses might like to help with this event.

Dave explained how he was the new long-range planning committee chair. After reviewing the current policy, he thought it was out of date and needed to be reviewed. He stated he would like to propose a moratorium with a 60-day status until the planning and regulation of development could be updated. Kenny stated that we need to move forward because a lot of the ordinances have changed over the last twenty years. He stated the Town needed everyone's input on ways the Town can grow. Kenny stated we want to know where we will be the next five years. Dave stated that we represent Avery County since we are the county seat. Dave stated that he would like to have the Town's input on ways to help the Town grow. There was much discussion on this and the date. Thomas agreed and stated we need to go head and get it set up. Dave then made a motion to have a public hearing on the 19<sup>th</sup> of October at 7:00 pm. Kenny seconded the motion. All agreed by a show of hands.

Keith gave all the Board members and the Mayor, Alderman Donetta McKinney's letter of resignation. Keith read the letter to everyone. Kenny stated how he hates this and appreciated all that Donetta has done for the Town. Kenny made a motion to accept Donetta's resignation. Valerie stated she believed things should stay the way they are until after the election since its just next month. Thomas stated he thought the board should wait also and asked about the policy on vacancies. Dave read the policy for filling a vacancy aloud to the audience. Kenny stated since it's not 90 days as policy states that it would be best to go ahead and appoint someone for that seat. Thomas explained how he was appointed and not elected for his seat. Dave asked Thomas how that process went. Thomas explained how he was approached and did an interview with three others and was picked from that. He explained he had nothing against Mr. Seiz he just felt that they should do the same as when he was appointed and just wants to do everything right. The board understands Thomas' feelings but Dave recommended Greg Seiz to be appointed now. He stated he was at the meetings and has good ideas for the Town. Dave also stated that people were told tales that he was going to run for Mayor when all he did was ask Valerie if she was going to run, which caused confusion so Mr. Seiz ran for alderman instead of Mayor. Kenny also recommended Mr. Seiz. Kenny stated Mr. Seiz was a good business man and thought he was concerned about things of the town. Thomas stated he did not disagree with it, but thought the Town should wait and go through the process of doing the right thing always. Roxie stated she had heard Mr. Seiz was a good business man. Valerie and Thomas both agreed they should wait until after the election. Dave said he understood but feels like this should be taken care of tonight. Kenny made a motion to appoint Greg Seiz. Thomas reminded them they had a motion on the table first of Donetta's

resignation. Kenny then asked about the motion to accept Donetta's resignation. The Mayor asked for a second. Dave seconded the motion. The Mayor then asked for a show of hands. All agreed by a show of hands. Kenny made a motion to appoint Greg Seiz. The Mayor asked for a second. Dave seconded the motion. The Mayor then asked for a show of hands. Roxie, Kenny and Dave raised their hands in agreement. Thomas did not vote.

Greg Seiz was appointed and sworn in by the clerk.

Greg made a motion to adjourn. Thomas seconded the motion. All agreed by a show of hands. The meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.

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Mayor, Valerie Jaynes

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Town Clerk, Tammy Gardner