

TOWN OF NEWLAND
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
JULY 5TH, 2022

Attending:

Mayor: Derek Roberts
Attorney: Gerald McKinney (Via Phone)
Alderman: Kenny Caraway, Gail Haller,
Christie Hughes, James C. Johnson
Guests: Nathan Gittner, Mike Shirley, Vanessa Angrisani, Lily Kincaid
Employees: Chief Byron Clawson, Captain Michael Fields, Public Works James Clark,
Finance Officer Jessica Buchanan, Town Clerk Jennifer Beam



The Mayor called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. The Mayor led the pledge and reminded of ethics awareness. Kenny made a motion to adopt the agenda. Gail seconded the motion. All agreed by show of hands and stating aye.

Mike Shirley asked for an update on the part for the wastewater plant. James Clark said the part will ship August 4th; Iron Mountain will be installing it as soon as the part comes in. Mayor asked when he first came to the board regarding his issue. Mr. Shirley said that his neighbor, Jason Yates came last year. James Clark said they are treating the odor issue with lime.

Ms. Vanessa Angrisani mentioned that her first issue is the street signs for West Mitchell Street and Wanteska Street have been missing for four years. James Clark said that the signs keep getting stolen. Secondly, Ms. Angrisani said the alley, Journal Street, is being used by semi-trucks, and accommodates large quantities of traffic when it is not maintained to do so. James Clark suggested that the alley is not a town street. The Mayor said that he would visit Mr. Lacey and find out who owns the road, and if the town does own it, then the board needs to address the situation. The third issue Ms. Angrisani mentioned was the lights at the park are too bright and face her house. Colby had made arrangements to change the direction of the lights, however that fell through. The Mayor said he would contact Mountain Electric to get the light fixed.

James made a motion to approve the minutes from the June meeting. Christie seconded the motion. All agreed by show of hands and stating aye.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

The owner of the house at the end of Shady Street mentioned that there are several large trucks and various traffic travelling down Shady Street. Her concern is that there are no four-way stop signs at that intersection. She is also worried about traffic speeding through her neighborhood.

The Mayor stated from what he understood from Mike Nelson traffic from the campground or coffee shop should not be coming through that neighborhood. The Mayor said that he would contact Mike to see what his plans are for that entrance. James Clark said the vehicles are supposed to enter and exit through the main gate. James also mentioned that there is one stop sign at the mentioned intersection. James Johnson said that truckers are "GPSing" the address for the campground and it sends them down Shady Street.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

The Mayor mentioned Mountain Top, the development across from the golf course and the issue with it is financing. Dudley Greene our representative, has 3.2 million dollars coming to the town for items involving water and sewage. This would help the town by paying off the waste treatment plant, as well as paying off the backhoe, replacing pipes in town and start piping out to Mountain Top. The Mayor asked if Mr. McKinney was representing Mountain Top. Mr. McKinney said that he cannot be representing Mountain Top as well as the town. Mr. McKinney has clarified that with the development owner.

The Mayor also mentioned that he has also spoken with HCCOG concerning grants for sidewalks and paving.

Gail counted 54 streetlights, not including the ones going to Shoemaker. The Mayor suggested just the main roads is where the town should replace the lights. James Clark said there are a couple of lights that the town does not need to replace. The Mayor said the board needs to nail it down and get ready to order. Christie said that the board had mentioned doing the main road through town and then later adding on throughout the rest of town.

The Mayor asked the clerk to speak with VPC and other contractors about the dog park. He would like for it to have a water feature, lights, toys, and obstacles.

James Clark said that he got bids on the concrete for the Sokassa building. James mentioned that they do not need a bathroom in that building because they cannot move the Scada software to that building without it costing a lot of money. Kenny said that if there are going to be employees working at this building the town would have to furnish a restroom. Christie asked if they planned to put pesticides, lime, and other chemicals in that building. James Clark said no because public works must keep that stuff locked up. James Johnson asked if public works is not planning to move into the building on Sokassa. Kenny, the Mayor, and James agreed that the public works department was going to be completely moved up there. Christie thought that the building was just for equipment. The Mayor stated it would have to have a bathroom and utilities and he would like for it to have an office. The Mayor said he thought the idea was to move the public works to the Sokassa building so that their equipment would not be around town hall. The Mayor suggested that someone needs to talk to Mountain Heritage about moving the Scada equipment. James mentioned that Scada is run by a company, and if they must come move it, it will be expensive for the town. The Mayor asked if there were any competing companies that might move the Scada for free if the town were to switch providers. The Mayor said Jeremy told him that the building

was meant for the department to be moved to the Sokassa building and the town will prepare to go in that direction. The Mayor suggested that public works call the companies who gave the town their quotes for the slab and have them requote with utilities.

REPORTS:

Jessica gave the finance report. She mentioned Tim Green stopped by and gave his first invoice; he has completed six months of revenue in twenty-eight hours. Jessica also mentioned the 2022 – 2023 budget is posted on the town's website.

The Mayor mentioned that Mr. Phillip Barrier, the county manager, asked why the town will not use the A.R.P. money for the grinder at the wastewater plant. Jessica said that those funds are already spoken for. The Mayor asked if Sandy was still coming in. Jessica said yes. James Johnson asked how long Sandy will be working. Jessica said she would like Sandy to come in for another month to help with reports.

Chief Clawson gave the police report. He mentioned eight MVA's, and the police department located a stolen vehicle from Sullivan County, Tennessee. Officer Tyler Stockton will begin working a shift on July 13th.

Mr. Gittner mentioned last week there were found drugs at the Inn and the Police Chief did a brilliant job addressing the situation.

James Johnson mentioned that the town needs to advertise for the Town Administrator position. The clerk asked him the correct process for hiring. James mentioned that the applicants would send in their resumes and the board would look over them and conduct interviews.

James Clark gave the public works report. The maintenance department employees have been weed eating, cutting limbs for the Independence Day Festival and servicing fire hydrants. Christie asked if the fire department does not service the hydrants. James answered no, they paint the hydrants, but they do not service them.

The Mayor asked the clerk if the town had gotten a response from the nuisance letter sent to Scott Rodes Auto Group. Jennifer responded no. The Mayor suggested that the public works department should go take care of the issue and bill the company for the labor involved in doing so. Kenny mentioned that the town has a policy for town nuisance letters, the town can send the maintenance employees to fix the problem, and then send a bill to the citizen for the job. If the citizen fails to pay the bill, it can be placed as a lien against the property.

James Clark mentioned the garbage bin for the town park, behind the Church of Jesus Christ is being used illegally. Kenny said the dumpster was put there for people using the Town Park and Riverwalk. Kenny continued to say that Puerto added a second dumpster beside the town's because they had no room on their property to put one. James Clark said that the Public Works employees had to pick up trash from around the bin because it had overflowed so badly. James Clark said the bin is being emptied twice a week. Kenny said there is a sign on the dumpster that

says for the town use only. James Clark said the amount of trash may have been because of the Independence Day celebrations at the park. Gail mentioned that the maintenance department did an excellent job helping with the festival. Kenny and James Clark agreed they have seen vehicles empty trash into that bin. The Mayor suggested the town move the dumpster away from the one used by Puerto and add an additional pick up throughout the week.

James Johnson asked if public works did any taps. James Clark said they did one for Mike Nelson and found sewer for him as well.

Mayor suggested that the town suspend the paid service for the website and allow Jennifer to maintain it and the social media. Kenny agreed because the clerk is on staff.

James Clark suggested that Mike Nelson needs a dumpster. The Mayor said that the Town should adopt an ordinance about covering dumpsters. Kenny said that the dumpsters could be included

James Clark mentioned that the town needs to start getting paving bids. Kenny said that the contractors would need a list of what needs to be paved. James Clark said he has a list, and he has marked what needs to be paved.

Christie said before her term is up, she would like to update the ordinances and personnel policies.

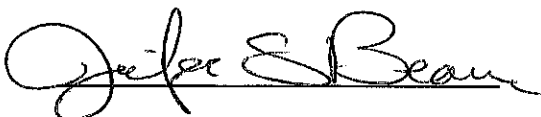
The Mayor asked if the town had a spare trailer, he would like for the Town of Newland to have a float for the parades.

Mr. Gittner offered assistance with social media. He stated that the town could use the Inn's material.

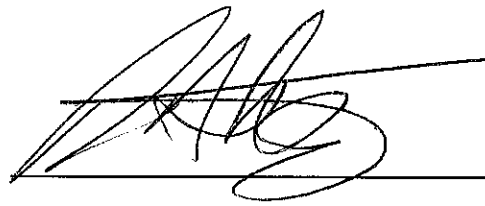
James Johnson said he would like the signs coming into town to look better and the trash to be picked up along those roads. James Clark said the signs have hosta's in the planters. The Mayor suggested annuals to be placed in the planters and he will speak with Mountain Electric about putting lights on the signs. James Clark said to have Mountain Electric put a plug in as well so that we could decorate during the holidays.

The Mayor asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Christie made a motion and Gail seconded the motion. All agreed by show of hands and stating aye.

MEETING ADJOURNED.



TOWN CLERK, JENNIFER BEAM



MAYOR, DEREK ROBERTS