

TOWN OF NEWLAND  
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING  
FEBRUARY 7, 2017  
6:15 PM

PRESENT:

MAYOR: Valerie Jaynes  
ALDERMAN: Donetta McKinney, Thomas Jackson, Dave Calvert, Kenny Caraway  
ATTORNEY: Joe Seegers  
GUESTS: Frances Banner, Sam Ray, Dena Morris, Clara Dickson, Jason Penland  
Matt Debnam  
STAFF: Keith Hoilman, Lise Meinhardt, Jason Brown, Ben Townsend, Tammy  
Gardner

The Mayor called the meeting together at 6:15 pm. The Mayor then led the audience in pledge to the American flag.

Donetta made a motion to approve the January minutes. Thomas seconded the motion. All agreed by a show of hands.

Buddy Williamson was next on the agenda. Donetta explained how he wanted to be annexed into the Town limits, but he didn't want to pay anything. Mr Seegers explained to the board how he had sent Mr Williamson 2 letters, and he was suppose to be at the meeting tonight. After some discussion Joe said it needed to be surveyed for city limits and they couldn't do anything without Buddy present. Mr Seegers said he would send another correspondence.

Jason Penland was recognized, he explained to the board that he was a well known local photographer and had been featured in magazines. He discussed where the photos had been taken and said he was featured on the Weather Channel, and had them at Stonewalls. He would like to hang his art work in the Town Hall. Donetta asked when he could start hanging it and he stated around April. The board all agrees to let him hang his art work in the Town Hall.

The Mayor asks for public comments. Frances Banner asks if the Town had an insurance bond on the missing money since the report showed the Town does not have a lot of money. The board explains they do but still waiting for investigation to finish. Clara Dickson asked what company held the bond insurance. Lise Meinhardt explained that CNA Surety was the company. Clara also stated about the water rates going up, in which Keith explained to the audience he was advised to go up 5% to adjust energy going up for the wells, wwtp, chemical costs and etc.

Jason Brown was recognized. He stated business as usual. The Mayor asked if he had seen any bad money around town, since there was an incident at Mountain Electric. Jason replied there had not been any reports of any in Newland. There was no questions for Jason.

Keith Hoilman was recognized. He stated water and sewer were going good and the Christmas lights were taken down. He stated that James would be out till February 20<sup>th</sup>, and that Danny Ray Cole would be his new part-time hire. Donetta stated that Keith had done a good job on the new website. Keith stated that him and Stephanie updated it and put new information on it. Donetta said she would like to link it to the Business Association. Keith then told the board about talking to Virginia Foxx and stated she would like to visit the Town Hall sometime. Keith then explains to the board of a possibility of running sewer/water to the old saw mill land, but he would know more on a later date. Keith then scheduled a work session with the board on Thursday, February 23 at 6:00 pm. Also mentioned about looking into and applying for a grant to help with the park. He stated that parks and recreation grant requires a 25% match. Minimum amount 10,000.00 and maximum amount is 100,000.00. Grant can be used for a wide variety of trails, parks and greenway projects, construction, renovation, facilities, land acquisitions and tools for construction. Governmental and non-profit are eligible to apply. Pre-applications are due by February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017. The board agrees to apply for the grant. Donetta told the audience the Town would like to do an Easter egg hunt and asked if the town members wanted to help.

Tammy Gardner was recognized. She asked for a tax release for Dayne Anderson in the amount of \$15.49. He is not in the Town Limits. She also told the board she had mailed out 2<sup>nd</sup> notice letters to everyone who hasn't paid their taxes yet. She stated we have collected 90.90% at this time. No questions for her.

Donetta made a motion to release the taxes in the amount of \$15.49. Thomas seconded the motion. All agreed by a show of hands.

Lise Meinhardt was recognized. She explained about getting July to balance and now working on August. She and the clerk worked together to get Tr2 ready for the state and she sent that in. She told the board how she had to go back and fix things in order to be able to get the w2s ready. Kenny then asked what that meant. She explained how things didn't balance and had to be re worked. Dave then asked her what? Help me understand. And to repeat that he understands she is saying, things were not done right in the past. She explained to the board where things were not done right to begin with the past year, she had to go back and redo things in order for the w2s to be right. Donetta stated, were they not done right? Lise explained no she had to fix everything from last year till now. Lise then stated she hoped they had QS1 where she can balance right by the next meeting.

Dave made a motion to go into closed session for personnel. Thomas seconded the motion. All approved by a show of hands.

After returning from closed session, Keith discussed hiring of Mark Osborne part-time to help while they are short handed. The Board agrees.

Dave made a motion to adjourn. Kenny seconded the motion. All agreed by a show of hands. Meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.

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MAYOR

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TOWN CLERK

