

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

JULY 8TH, 2020 6:00 P.M.

KENTLAND TOWN HALL

Attending: David Michael Rowe, President, Debby Shufflebarger and James Sammons, Council Members, Patrick Ryan, Town Attorney and Judy King, Clerk/Treasurer

The meeting opened by saying the Pledge of Allegiance

Ken Smith from Municipal Civil Corp presented documents on Nipsco and drainage report for the Newton County Surveyor to be signed for the new fire house. Ken is also working with TJ for cost estimates on next year's Community Crossing grant.

Dave Jordan from Jordan Manufacturing was in person to update on the employment of the factory for his yearly abatement. Originally when the building opened they thought employment would be around 5 to 10 but they are currently employing 110 to 166 full time. A motion was made by James Sammons to approve the Tax Abatement and seconded by Mike Rowe.

Ray Chambers updated the progress from the flooding and the 211 link. 250 applications have been received but some are duplicates. They need 25 homes with damage and right now it stands at 60 to 70. They will also need pictures of the damaged homes. SBA loans will be available and if denied by SBA then they will be looking at Disaster Relief. Ray also said that the bleach will not kill mold but a chemical called Shockwave should be used. Although this product is hard to find right now due the COVID 19.

BUILDING COMMISSIONER

Matt Wittenborn reported on the following:

6 Permits Issued

Several Inspections

Generated \$625.00 for the month

PARK BOARD

No one was present

TOWN MANAGER

TJ Firkins reported on the following:

Drywall should be finished at Depot this week.

Paving has been completed.

Has a meeting with Commonwealth Engineers on the 15th of July for the water study on the Southside.

Boulders have been removed on U.S. 24 for cleanup but will be put back.

Dumpsters around town will be removed on Monday.

Bridges will be cleaned up next week.

Starting next week, trash will start at 5:30 in the morning for the guys to pick up.

TOWN MARSHAL

Julian Elson reported on the following:

More calls than normal during the flood

FIRE CHIEF

Matt Wittenborn reported on the following:

56 calls for the month

20 medical

3 fire

50 to 80 rescues during the flood

SerPro is tearing out the damage at the Fire House. The estimated cost will be around \$5,000.00

1 fire truck is being repaired do to the flooding. It will take about 3 weeks for the repairs to be complete and insurance should cover the cost.

The Fire Department will be helping in the installation of a ramp for a homeowner.

Two new firemen have been added to the roster. Brandon Serna and Damon Ward.

Fire meetings will be held at the Town Hall until the damage and cleanup has been taken care of at the Fire House.

AVIATION

Chuck Classen reported on the following:

Fuel sales are good and a higher volume has been sold from this year and last.

The Airport came through the flood with no damage.

ATTORNEY

Pat Ryan reported on the following:

Pat had the contract renewal and addendum for Vast Creative. It will run from 07/01/2020 to 07/01/2021. The contract is for \$130,000.00 for the year. A motion was made by James Sammons to renew the contract and seconded by Debby Shufflebarger.

Amended Ordinance #71 to install stop signs at the northwest corner and southeast corner of Second Street and Dunlap Street was presented. Judy King, Clerk, will have this published in the Newton County Enterprise. A motion was made by James Sammons and seconded by Mike Rowe to approve Amended Ordinance #71.

John Fredrickson stopped Pat and wanted to compliment the Town for the efficient job they did on the clean up after the flood.

The property at 306 East Owen will be the next clean up property that Pat will be working on.

Pat sent a letter to the owner of 306 West Seymour to clean up his property and the work has been started for cleanup.

An amended salary ordinance will need to be done for the compensation that the Board is wanting to put in place. Mike Rowe stated that just Public Works employees are to receive payment of an additional 40 hours at time and half in addition to their normal hours worked along with the overtime that they were paid for. A motion was made by James Sammons and seconded by Mike Rowe to approve additional compensation.

A COVID Policy was inquired by the Board and Pat suggested that they abide by the Newton County Policy who is abiding by the Federal Government Policy. A motion was made by James Sammons and seconded by Debby Shufflebarger to abide by the County Policy.

CLERK

Judy King reported on the following:

The property owner at 211 East Graham is asking that his water be waived do to the meter removal. Town Manager, TJ Firkins, contacted Terry Hafstrom to see if the meter was removed by him and also spoke with Rick Purdy and neither had ever removed the meter. So the water fee is due and will not be waived.

The property at 314 East Iroquois Drive is becoming unsightly again and the property owner is also bringing back items from the flood that have been thrown out by homeowners. A large collection is occurring on the property. TJ Firkins is to go down and speak with him to get the property cleaned up.

PRIVELEDGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. and Mrs. Ron Norris were present to ask if they could get a break from the extra watering of new trees on their property. Judy King reported that the sprinkler credit will take care of the extra cost for the next two months.

Steve Ohlund owns property at 103 and 105 West Carroll Street. He asked several years ago if the Town could fix the storm drain in his area. He was told by previous Town Managers that they would not tear up the road for just his area. Mr. Ohlund would like someone to look at this. Mr. Ohlund also informed the Board that years ago his area was deemed a Flood Zone and someone took them out of it and he would like to know who would do this. He had flood damage to both properties and will be working to repair one of them but will have to demolish the second.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINES

Upon motion by James Sammons and seconded by Debby Shufflebarger the minutes from Special Meeting held June 10th, 2020 were approved.

Upon motion by James Sammons and seconded by Debby Shufflebarger the minutes from Regular Meeting held June 10th, 2020 were approved.

Upon motion by Mike Rowe and seconded by James Sammons the claims were approved.

Upon motion by Mike Rowe and seconded by Debby Shufflebarger the financial statement was approved.

Tim Myers with Newton County Economic Development brought some extra forms for the COVID 19 Relief Fund. He has only had 23 people from Jefferson Township apply for this. He would like word of mouth to get out on this that it is available and he will leave extra forms at the Town Hall.

The Board will be receiving an invitation for 112 East State Street opening. The new building has 6 offices and will be rented from \$175 to \$275 per month with one exception of rent on the largest space at \$400.00. This rental fee for all spaces is all inclusive.

Being no further business, upon motion by James Sammons and seconded by Debby Shufflebarger, the meeting was adjourned.

David Michael Rowe, President

Debby Shufflebarger, Member

James Sammons, Member
Treasurer

Attest:

Judy M. King, Clerk/