

WANATAH TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
July 6th, 2023
6:30 pm

PRESENT: Councilman Newburn, Councilman Cook, Councilman LaFoone, Councilman Mayo, Councilman Oehmen, Clerk/Treasurer Ebert & Attorney Shoffner.

ABSENT: None

GUESTS: Chuck Jonas, Chuck Mack, Brad Ebert, Dwayne Tate & Justin Kiel.

Call To Order:

President Newburn called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.
The Pledge of Allegiance was held.

Roll Call:

Councilman Newburn-Here, Councilman Oehmen-Here, Councilman Cook-Here, Councilman Mayo-Here, Councilman LaFoone-Here. A quorum is present.

Appointments Needed

- None

Correspondence

- None

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Motion by Councilman Mayo; Second by Councilman Cook to approve the minutes of June 1st, 2023 Regular Meeting. Vote was taken. All Ayes. Minutes were approved as presented.

Officer's Reports

- Plan Commission – No Report
- BZA – No Report
- Traffic Commission – No Report
- Park Board – President Newburn reported that they will meet next month.
- Animal Control – No Report.
- Building Commissioner – Clerk Treasurer Ebert reported 2 Fences, 1 Accessory Building, 3 Decks, and 3 Pools totaling \$205.00

Clerk's Office Reports

- Personnel Committee – Clerk Treasurer Ebert reported that we met to discuss the 2024 Salary Ordinance.
- Facilities Coordinator – No Report
- NIRPC – No Report.
- Other – Clerk Treasurer Ebert reported that we had received our June Settlement for the amount of \$241,271.00 and our Riverboat check in the amount of \$18,384.80.
 - She also reported that she attended the ILMCT Conference in Fort Wayne last week.

Public Works

- Chuck Mack reported the following:
 - Community Crossing Application submission around the end of August or early September and Due by December 1st. This was we can bid it in January of 2024. This will be used for anything road related
 - Commonwealth sent over the PER form. We are at the funding stage and Commonwealth stated that they would help us with that. Councilman Cook stated that we would probably not be able to afford it, but should get an additional tank.
 - ARP Expenditures-We have a remaining balance of \$125,644.66 dollars to spend. Asked the Council to consider using the money for any ADA Compliance items, something that the town could visually see. To also think about using it for a new Town vehicle since the three that they have are very old and need replaced and beyond repairable costing anywhere between \$80,000 to \$90,000 dollars. The Council asked Chuck to get some quotes so they could discuss it at our next meeting. Chuck felt his plate was very full due to the Casey's project, so Councilman LaFoone volunteered to help him. Clerk Treasurer Ebert reported that the ARP Resolution would need to be amended first before any purchase was made. Attorney Shoffner said he would take care of revising that resolution to fit the town's needs.
 - Casey's Update: They punctured our water main during the Memorial Day weekend. Chuck Mack hired D&M to fix those repairs that will cost the town anywhere from \$20,000 to \$30,000 dollars which will eventually be passed down and paid by LBC. Attorney Shoffner might have to get involved at some point if LBC disagrees. The highway sank about 11 inches which forced the state to get involved and to shut down ½ of the lane of highway 30 until the repairs were complete and the manhole was reset. We are not on bypass anymore, everything is complete with the exception of the restoration. He strongly feels that we should not accept the Utilities for quite some time until after the testing is complete, and should be discussed and agreed by the Town Council first before ever excepting them.

New Business

- Motion by Councilman LaFoone; Second by Councilman Cook to approve Ordinance 01-2023 Cass-Clinton Volunteer Fire Department implementing a program to charge non-residents for fire calls. Attorney Shoffner reminded Dwayne Tate that there would be further action that the Fire Department would have to take care before they could put this Ordinance in action. One example is that Cass and Clinton Township would have to pass a similar Ordinance
- Motion by Councilman Mayo; Second by Councilman Oehmen to approve Ordinance 02-2023- for the 2024 Salary Ordinance. Roll call was taken, all ayes.
- Motion by Councilman LaFoone; Second by Councilman Oehmen to approve the Boring application for Mediacom. Attorney Shoffner advised the council that this is untested in court.
- Councilman Mayo reported that he attended the ProPel Economic roundtable meeting on June 6th, 2023 for a gathering of information concerning the future of Highway #30. He found out that the Town of Wanatah was not accepted as a stake holder due to an oversight on their part. They will be sending out a representative to the Town and inviting us to all future Economic roundtable meetings. He is very concerned about the future of highway #30. Councilman Mayo strongly suggests that the Council get together and discuss the priorities of the town that we want to see maintained, updated, etc. To discuss with the surrounding communities, businesses, etc. on how this would affect them. Examples of concern would be the Fire Department and EMS would have longer response time if they had to drive 3 extra blocks due to dead-end roads. Councilman LaFoone was appointed as our Town representative for this project. Future dates for these online meetings would be the 13th, and the 17th-20th.

Unfinished Business

- None

Financial Report and Claims Approval

Motion by Councilman LaFoone; Second by Councilman Oehmen to approve the claims as presented. Vote was taken. All Ayes.

Any Other Business to come before the Council

- President Newburn reported to the council that it was brought to his attention that the Animal Control Officer has been unable to fulfill his duties and would like to replace him for 2024. He asked for any recommendations be brought to his attention.

Public Comment

- None

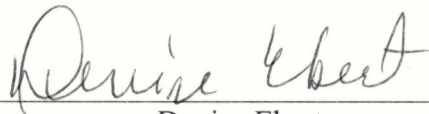
Adjournment

President Newburn asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion by Councilman LaFoone; Second by Councilman Cook. A vote was taken. All Ayes.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm

ATTEST:



Denise Ebert
Clerk-Treasurer

