

WANATAH TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
December 5th, 2024
6:30 pm

PRESENT: Councilman Howell, President Newburn, Councilman Sutton, Vice President Mayo, Clerk/Treasurer Ebert & Attorney Shoffner.

ABSENT: Councilman Higgins

GUESTS: Kevin Ferrell, Angela Ferrell, Lowell Ott, Jeff Mitzner, Scott Sandstrom, Chuck Jonas, Greg Smoker, Debbie Smoker, Fred Matuszak, and Chuck Mack.

Call To Order:

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

Roll Call:

- Councilman Howell-Here, Councilman Higgins-Absent, President Newburn –Here, Councilman Sutton - Here, Vice President Mayo-Here, A quorum is present.

Appointments Needed

- None

Correspondence

- President Newburn welcomed Nathan Howell to the Town Council to replace Philip LaFoone's position.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

- Motion by Councilman Mayo; Second by Councilman Sutton to approve the minutes of the November 7th, 2024 Public Hearing for the Wastewater rates. Vote was taken. All Ayes. Minutes were approved as presented.
- Motion by Councilman Mayo; Second by Councilman Sutton to approve the minutes of the November 7th, 2024 Public Hearing for the Rezoning of Smokers property. Vote was taken. All Ayes. Minutes were approved as presented.
- Motion by Councilman Sutton; Second by Councilman Mayo to approve the minutes of the November 7th, 2024 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 on Monday December 9th, 2024.
- Animal Control – No Report.
- Building Commissioner –Fred Matuszak reported 3 Contractor registrations and 1 Electrical Upgrade for the total amount of \$280.00 He also reported that he removed an illegal sign that was put on Casey's property due to the fact that the company never paid for a Sign permit.

Clerk's Office Reports

- Personnel Committee –No Report
- Facilities Coordinator – No Report
- NIRPC –Clerk Treasurer reported that she attended the Leadership and Full Commissions meeting on November 7th, 2024 of that day. She also reported that she was asked by Wendy Mis to be the Secretary to the Executive Board with NIRPC. She accepted.
- Other –Clerk Treasurer had given the Councilman a packet of all the estimates she had received for the REMC repair project. She informed the Council that a decision needed to be made before the meeting was over. Motion by Councilman Mayo; Second by Councilman Sutton to approve Tonn & Blank to proceed with the REMC repair project.

Public Works

- Chuck Mack asked for the Council to approve James Mandon to move forward and apply for the 2025 Community Crossings Grant. Motion by Councilman Howell; Second by Councilman Mayo to approve James Mandon to move forward with completing that application.
- Motion by Councilman Howell; Second by Councilman Sutton to approve the Public Works department to purchase new tires for the Loader in the amount of \$5,284.96.
- Chuck Mack also reported that the Fire Hydrant project was completed over on Earl Street and added shut off valves to all hydrants. D&M assisted with this project.
- Striping is not yet completed due to the cold weather, but the parking spaces were finished.
- Triad met with Chuck Mack to discuss the Wastewater Plant project.

New Business

- Motion by Councilman Mayo; Second by Councilman Sutton to approve the 2024 Personnel Policy & Procedure Handbook (Amending Payroll processing procedures to reflect no prepayment to employees via SBOA Audit).
- Motion by Councilman Sutton; Second by Councilman Howell to approve the R2-2024 Resolutions for Additional Appropriation for the LIT Public Safety Fund.
- Motion by Councilman Mayo; Second by Councilman Sutton to approve the Nipsco Boring Permit.

Unfinished Business

- Ordinance 07-2024 Amend Zoning Map was approved in the November 7th, 2024 meeting but needed a signature on this Ordinance for approval. Motion by Councilman Mayo; Second by Councilman Sutton to sign document for CT record keeping.
- Motion by Councilman Howell; Second by Councilman Sutton to approve Ordinance 06-2024 Wastewater rates for the 25% increase.

Financial Report and Claims Approval

- Motion by Councilman Mayo; Second by Councilman Sutton to approve the claims as presented. Vote was taken. All Ayes.

Any Other Business to come before the Council

- President Newburn was given a report from Councilman Higgins to read at this 12/5/24 meeting.
 - President Newburn reported that regarding the complaint of speeding over on Condon Road that was brought up at the November 7th, 2024 meeting, Councilman Higgins spoke to Prosecutor Shawn Fagan about getting 4 flashing digital signs for the Town. Two of those signs would be for Condon Rd. and the remaining 2 can be decided by the Council.

-

- President Newburn also reported that Councilman Higgins has been working on securing a grant with MCR Partners to put towards our Wastewater project. Councilman Higgins also asked the Council to approve the request in the amount of \$500,000 dollars of ARPA Grant money pending its availability and legal counsel with our attorney. Motion by Councilman Sutton; Second by Councilman Mayo to approve that request of \$500,000 dollars of ARPA grant money to be put towards our Wastewater project.

Public Comment

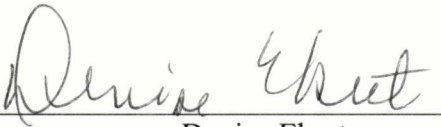
- A lengthy discussion was held regarding the Pro-Pel 30 project. Scott Sandstrom was the representative for Pro-Pel 30. Many disagreements from residents Greg & Debbie Smoker, Jeff Mitzner and several others about the options given from Pro-Pel 30 that would disrupt our town as a whole. Businesses would be ruined, having little access to get to a burning building, and properties destroyed. Rep. Sandstrom encouraged us all to meet the December 13th, 2024 deadline and send a comment of all our grievances to Indot. Due to only having 8 days to do that, Sandstrom was asked to reach out to Indot for more time on our behalf. He said he would do that and send an email to CT Ebert when he received confirmation. Councilman Howell said that he would take the lead on producing these statements after Attorney Shoffner approved it. Resident Jeff Mitzner said he would write the statement on behalf of the Cass-Clinton Fire Department.
- Kevin Ferrell went before the Council to ask them to rezone the church located on 208 N Illinois. Discussion was had about all the steps Mr. Ferrell would have to take. Councilman Howell encouraged him to attend the February 27th, 2025 Planning Commission meeting so they could begin this process.

Adjournment

President Newburn asked for a motion to adjourn.
Motion by Councilman Mayo; Second by Councilman Sutton. A vote was taken.
All Ayes.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM

ATTEST:


Denise Ebert
Clerk-Treasurer

