

WANATAH TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
January 2nd, 2025
6:30 pm

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

ABSENT: None

GUESTS: Chuck Jonas, Dwayne Tate, Bryan Spears & Evelyn Mayo

Call To Order:

- Clerk Treasurer Ebert called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was held.

Roll Call:

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

Election of Officers

Councilman Sutton nominated Councilman Mayo for 2025 Council President. Councilman Mayo has accepted. No other interested parties. Motion by Councilman Higgins; Second by Councilman Sutton to approve Councilman Mayo as the 2025 President. Vote was taken. All Ayes. Councilman Mayo is now the 2025 Council President.

Councilman Higgins nominated Councilman Newburn for Vice President of Council 2025. Councilman Newburn accepts. Motion by Councilman Sutton; Second by Councilman Higgins to approve Councilman Newburn as the 2025 Vice President. Vote was taken. All Ayes. Councilman Newburn is now the 2025 Vice President for Town Council.

Appointments Needed

- Town Attorney - Motion by Councilman Howell; Second by Councilman Higgins to accept the 2025 Contract as submitted by Attorney Shoffner. Roll Call vote was taken. All Ayes.
- Animal Control –Motion by Councilman Howell; second by Councilman Higgins to reappoint Bryan Spears for another year.
- Building Inspector – Motion by Councilman Howell; Second by Councilman Higgins to reappoint Fred Matuszak.
- Planning Commission –Motion by Councilman Sutton; second by Councilman Higgins to reappoint Nathan Howell for Vice President. President Mayo announced that we still need a replacement for Philip LaFoone, one that is not on the Town Council.
- NIRPC-Motion by Councilman Howell; Second by Councilman Higgins to reappoint Denise Ebert as the NIRPC Commissioner.
- Traffic Commission- need replacement for Philip LaFoone
- Park Board-Motion by Vice President Newburn; Second by Councilman Howell to reappoint Ashley Mendoza.
- Newspaper - Motion by Councilman Higgins; Second by Councilman Howell to reappoint The Regional News.

Correspondence

- None

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

- Motion by Councilman Higgins; Second by Vice President Newburn to approve the minutes of December 5th, 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 met in January
- Animal Control – Officer Spears let the Council know of three individual situations he came across where possum were getting into residents homes/garages. He told them that he was only allowed to take care of domestic animals but he could direct them to someone who could help but there would be a cost. Spears asked if the Town would ever cover that fee and the answer was no.
- Building Commissioner –President Mayo reported that there were 14 Contractor Registrations, 1 Electrical Upgrade, and 1 New Construction for a total of \$1,410.00.

Clerk's Office Reports

- Personnel Committee –No Report
- Facilities Coordinator – No Report
- NIRPC –No Report
- Other –Clerk Treasurer Ebert reminded the Council of the Nepotism Form that was in their folder and asked to have them and President Mayo sign it and return back to me.
- CT Ebert reported that the Town received their December Settlement for LaPorte County in the amount of \$169,525.15.

Motion by Councilman Mayo; Second by Councilman Higgins to write off outstanding Checks #13335 for Matt Zacharias in the amount of \$7.54, and Check #13433 for Donald Guse in the amount of \$50.00. They are deposit reimbursements that the resident didn't cash. Vote was taken. All Ayes.

Public Works

- None

New Business

- Motion by Councilman Higgins; Second by Councilman Howell to approve to prepay Goetz Landscaping for a 3% discount to the Town Hall.

Unfinished Business

- None

Financial Report and Claims Approval

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

Any Other Business to come before the Council

- Dwayne Tate from the Cass-Clinton Fire Department reported that they had 288 calls for the year and that Greg Mulkey was the new Vice President. Discussion was held on his concerns of the upcoming Propel 30 project and the delay in response times. Attorney Shoffner brought to the Councils attention a "Petition to Prevent the Adoption of Propel 30" as a possible petition for our residents to sign. Councilman Howell discussed the

- increased speeding if they went forward with this project and that a roundabout would be the only answer to correct that problem. After a long discussion, the Council agreed to have a Public Meeting to discuss and strategize along with the residents to come up with an action plan to fight against this. That meeting will be held on January 23rd, 2025 at 6:30 PM at the Town Hall. Clerk Treasurer Ebert let the Council know that she would send out several Reach Alerts to get the word out about this meeting.
- President Mayo discussed the issue at Dollar General when they lost power. He stated that one of the legs dropped due to the high winds

Public Comment

- None

Adjournment

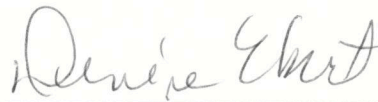
President Mayo asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion by Councilman Sutton; Second by Councilman Higgins. A vote was taken.

All Ayes.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:09 PM

ATTEST:



Denise Ebert
Clerk-Treasurer

