

WANATAH TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
March 6th, 2025
6:30 pm

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

ABSENT: President Mayo

GUESTS: Brad Ebert, Fred Matuszak, Eric Wright, Michael O'Keefe, Chuck Jonas, Justin Higginson, Ian Stull, Jared Campbell, Bran Spears, Chuck Mack & Dwayne Tate

Call To Order:

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

Correspondence

- None

Appointments Needed

- Planning Commission-Replacement for Philip LaFoone is still needed.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

- Motion by Councilman Higgins; Second by Councilman Sutton to approve the minutes of February 6th, 2025 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 in April to discuss the replacement of the Bridge.
- Animal Control – Officer Spears reported on two separate calls that he had to take.
 - Dogs defecating on Railroad easement across from 108 Railroad St. Spoke to the homeowners daughter and they are cleaning it up. He asked if we could update the current Ordinance for such matter. Attorney Shoffner said that he would looking into making those changes.
 - Lucky the German Shephard dog is running around the neighborhood off of Williams St. He knocked on the door of 701 Williams Street several times, no answer. Reported that “Lucky” is a very friendly dog.
- Building Commissioner –Fred Matuszak reported that we had 1 Contractor Registration and 1 Sign for \$15.00 totaling \$90.00. He said that things were very quiet this past month.

Clerk's Office Reports

- Personnel Committee –No Report
- Facilities Coordinator – No Report

- NIRPC –Clerk Treasurer Ebert reported that she attended the Executive Board meeting held on February 20th, 2025.
 - Other- Clerk Treasurer Ebert thanked Councilman Higgins for the work that he had done to repair the ceiling of the Women’s bathroom. He saved to town about \$1,500 in costs.
 - Clerk Treasurer Ebert reminded the Counsel that we have a Public Hearing on April 3rd, 2025 at 6:15 PM prior to the regular scheduled Town Council meeting at 6:30 PM.
 - Clerk Treasurer Ebert informed the Council that we received our Award letter from INDOT stating that we will be receiving \$121,264.50 for our Community Crossings Grant. James Mandon was notified to proceed with the Bidding process.

Public Works

- Chuck Mack added to the CCMG grant stating that regarding House Bill 1461 that in the upcoming future there will be certain roads that will have to start paying Toll’s which includes paying a Wheel Tax. If we as a town don’t pay the Wheel Tax, we won’t be eligible for a future Community Crossings Grant.
- They did some Lift Station repairs that were plugged up with baby wipes.
- For the Tower inspection, he hasn’t been able to find a certified inspector to do the job.
- He spoke briefly with Triad and had a discussion about the WW Plant design.
- Asked the Council for approval to purchase a Mini Hoe to help out with a variety of jobs for the town. He would keep it under the \$30,000 dollar threshold. The Council asked Chuck to bring them a quote and price comparison to the April meeting and they would make their decision.

New Business

- 01-2025 Bond Ordinance-Vice President Newburn asked CT Ebert to read the ordinance. No discussion was had.
- 02/2025 –Wastewater Rate-Vice President asked CT Ebert to read the Ordinance. Councilman Howell had questions pertaining to changing the limits with IDEM. Chuck Mack told him that he would set up a meeting with Lou Savaka with Triad so he could get the answers to his questions.
- Motion from Councilman Higgins; Second by Council Sutton to approve Automatic Withdrawal for Water Bill payments.
- Motion by Councilman Howell; Second by Councilman Higgins to approve the Bakertilly-Scope of Work Agreement.
- Proposed Timetable from the Bond Counsel-Ian from Bakertilly mentioned that if the Council needed more time to discuss the design of the WW Plant to let Dennis Otten know so they could amend this Timetable.
- Motion by Councilman Howell; Second by Councilman Sutton to accept the free Rader Signs gifted by Prosecutor Fagen to be used for Condon Rd & Illinois Rd. They are moveable so the Public Dept. was told to move them as they see fit.
- Motion by Councilman Higgins; Second by Councilman Howell to approve Resolution R1-2025 Transfer within Wastewater Funds.
- Representatives Michael O’Keefe & Ryan Wright gave the Council a presentation for the upcoming Fiber Optic Project for the Town. The will be covering approximately 300 households.

Unfinished Business

- Motion by Councilman Higgins; Second by Councilman Howell to approve all the following Boring Applications.
 - #2510583-101 N Main St.
 - #2510585-110 N Washington St.
 - #2510586-106 N Main St
 - #2510587-105 E. 2nd St.
 - #2510590-107 E. 2nd St.

- CT Ebert gave a reminder of the Propel Meeting for 3/24/25 at the Cass-Clinton fire station from 4:30-7:30 PM.
- Bakertilly-Ian Stull gave the Council an update for the Wastewater Sewage Works Rate Study. Discussion was had about future planning for Capital spending. Ian offered to put a plan together when the Council was ready.
- CT Ebert reported that the Town officially received \$500,000 of ARP Funding for the Wastewater Treatment on 2/18/2025 with her thanks.

Financial Report and Claims Approval

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

Any Other Business to come before the Council

- Dwayne Tate, President of the Cass-Clinton Fire Department presented their 2024 statement. He also mentioned that he is very active with the Propel 30 project. He also mentioned the next Propel 30 meeting on 3/24/25 at the Cass-Clinton Fire Department from 4:30-6:30 PM.
- Councilman Higgins gave a complaint to the town regarding a Semi-Truck Driver that illegally parks on Williams & Earl Street. He has brought it to the owner's attention and it was taken care of temporarily, but continues to be a problem. Asked the town to call 911 non-emergency number if you happen to see any of this activity.

Public Comment

- None

Adjournment

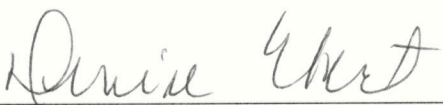
President Newburn asked for a motion to adjourn.

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

All Ayes.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:08 PM

ATTEST:



Denise Ebert
Clerk-Treasurer

