"The Crossroads to the Future"

# Town Council Meeting Minutes

**September 29, 2015**
**7:00 P.M.**

**Present at Meeting:** Mayor Rau, Mr. Bass, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Shaw, Mr. Mellecker, Mr. Branham, Mr. Williams, Mrs. Knagge, Mr. Fontes, Mr. Williams, Mrs. Graham, Mr. Knagge, and two (2) members of the Media.
**Absent:** None

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I. ***Call to Order*** – Mr. Bass at 7:00 PM

II. ***Pledge of Allegiance to Flag & Invocation*** – Mr. Bass

III. ***Visitors Welcomed & Reminded Meeting Minutes are Being Recorded*** – Mr. Bass

IV. ***Persons Wishing to Address Council – 3 Minute Limit*** – Mr. Bass

- John "Randy" Knagge of 45080 Robinwood Circle
  - Mr. Knagge reminded the Council that he has been representing the Town on the Nassau County Economic Development Board since being appointed by the Council in December 2014.
  - Mr. Knagge requested that the Council consider making the NCEDB a line item on the Budget instead of just part of the donation lists. Laura has been working really hard to pull in businesses to the entire county and we need to show our solid support of this. The potential benefits to the entire Town & its residents is huge!
  - Mr. Fontes asked Mr. Knagge for a figure amount. Mr. Knagge stated that while he didn't have a set figure in mind if he had to give one tonight he would say around $2,500 would be a good number. To get these large companies attention Ms. Dibella is having to do a lot of traveling which gets pricey.

- Mayor Rau asked Mr. Knagge why a line item? Mr. Knagge stated that he would like to see the Town commit more than the average donation amount of up to $500.
- Mr. Fontes stated that it's not technically a donation list it's Town Promotions which is not just Charity.
- Mr. Knagge stated that he hasn't missed a meeting since his appointment, and that while he can't go into detail due to confidentiality agreements, he can assure the Council that the Board is working equally for all of Nassau County.
- Mrs. Smith asked if there was any reason we can't decide to make it more than $500 as a Town Promotion Donation. Mr. Branham stated that there was no reason the Council can't decide what amount they want to contribute.
- Mr. Fontes stated it was too late this Budget season to make it a line item, but that Mr. Knagge can bring it up for discussion next budget season if he chooses too.

## V. ***Minutes***

- Motion to Approve the Minutes by Mr. Fontes and 2nd by Mrs. Smith.
  - Motion Carried.

## VI. ***New Business***

- 1st Public Budget Hearing
  - Mr. Bass Closed Regular Meeting & Opened Public Hearing 7:10 PM.
    - No Public Comment
  - Mr. Bass Closed Public Hearing & Re-Opened the Regular Meeting 7:11 PM

  - Resolution 2015-R19 – Final Millage Rate
    - Read by Title by Mr. Branham
    - Motion to accept the proposed Final Millage Rate of 3.2152 mills by Mr. Fontes and 2nd by Mrs. Shaw.
    - Motion Carried.

  - Mr. Bass Closed Regular Meeting & Opened Public Hearing 7:13 PM.
    - No Public Comment
  - Mr. Bass Closed Public Hearing & Re-Opened the Regular Meeting 7:14 PM

  - Resolution 2014-R20 – Final Budget
    - Read by Title by Mr. Branham
    - Motion to Approve the Budget for Fiscal year 2015-2016 in the amount of $2,201,800 by Mellecker and 2nd by Mrs. Shaw.
    - Discussion:
      - Mr. Fontes asked if we needed to adjust and add the NCEDB as a line item. Council Consensus was not at the time, but to revisit it next Budget Season.
    - Motion Carried.

- Volunteer Fire Department Appointment
    - Mr. Williams stated that due to the Assistant Chief stepping down he would recommend that the Council allow Bill Watts to be hired on as the Administrator of the Volunteer Fire Department. He stated that Mr. Watts is retired and can be at the station more than others to make sure that required paper work is being completed and submitted.
    - Mr. Fontes stated that he has already heard the Mr. Watt's isn't getting along with the paid guys and we don't need to go backwards with the re-pore that has been established. Mr. Williams stated this has already been addressed with Mr. Watts, and won't happen again.
    - Mr. Bass stated he had seen emails where Mr. Watts has stated he is Chief over Administration. Mr. Bass stated this is not okay. We can only have one Chief and that is Chief O'Steen. He also stated re-pore & comradery that we have worked very hard to obtain is in jeopardy.
    - Mr. Fontes recommended that Mr. Bass speak with Mr. Watts on what's expected, and let's see if he can follow the rules. If he can't than we will need to look at other avenues.
    - Mayor Rau stated there needed to be a meeting with himself, Chief O'Steen, Mr. Bass, Mr. Williams, and Mr. Watts to make sure everyone is on the same page.
    - Mr. Bass asked Mr. Williams who would be the Assistant Chief and Mr. Williams stated there wouldn't be one.
    - Mr. Mellecker stated that would not be good.
    - Mrs. Knagge recommended that making the Chief from Station 10 the assistant Chief could go a long way with all of the guys that are coming over, and we know we will have an Assistant Chief that can follow the rules.
    - Mr. Fontes stated that would be good with re-pore with the guys coming over from Station 10.
    - Mr. Williams stated that Mr. Watts will just be there for Administration purposes.
    - Mayor stated that Mr. Watts would technically just be the secretary. Mr. Williams said yes.
    - Mr. Bass stated he feels that all of the guys should have the opportunity to apply for the Assistant Chief position. He also stated that everyone is getting certified on the new Tanker.
    - Mrs. Knagge asked if Mr. Watts's position would be paid or volunteered. Mr. Williams stated he would like it to be what the Assistant Chief received before which he believed to be $250 a month.
    - Mr. Fontes asked that the meeting be held before the next meeting, and then the Council can vote on it.

- Discussion of Donations for Fiscal Year 2015-2016
    - Mr. Fontes stated that for the 2014-2015 Fiscal year our donations went over by about $2000.
    - Mr. Fontes asked if we needed to cut some donations or amounts of donations.
    - Mrs. Knagge read the list of people who have already asked for donations for 2015-2016:
        - Families In Transition
        - Episcopal Children's' Services

        - Micah's Place
        - American Cancer Society – Relay 4 Life
        - Callahan Middle School Band
        - Nassau County Economic Development Board
    - Mr. Fontes stated he feels the Economic Development Board should wait until Laura can give another update.
    - Mrs. Smith stated that if the groups can't personally come and ask than they shouldn't receive a donation.
    - Mr. Branham reminded the Council that all donations should be sure to meet the requirement of a Public Purpose.
    - Mrs. Shaw stated that she has had a resident state that we shouldn't give any donations with Tax payer dollars.
    - Mrs. Knagge stated that for everyone citizen that might think we shouldn't donate there are 3 that think it's great to support the community.
    - Mr. Mellecker stated we should take the top 3 off the donation list that are purely Town Promotions, and should come out of that Budget:
        - Railroad Days
        - Library
        - Nassau County Economic Development Board
    - Mayor Rau stated that Episcopal Children's Services is matched with Federal Funds $16 per every $1 donated, so our $500 donation turns into $8,000.
    - Mrs. Smith asked what our cap on donations is. Mr. Fontes responded $14,000 per Fiscal Year.
    - Council Consensus was that groups had to come before the Council to request funds and the Council will scale back some on their amounts.
    - Mrs. Knagge was instructed to all she listed except the NCEDB.

## VII. ***Recurring Business***

- Water & Sewer Adjustments – None

## VIII. ***Review & Approval of Town Expenditures***

- General Fund **$6,276.95**
    - Motion to Pay the General Fund by Mrs. Smith and 2nd by Mrs. Shaw. Motion Carried.

- Water & Sewer Fund **$7,938.55**
    - Motion to Pay Water & Sewer Fund by Mrs. Shaw and 2nd by Mr. Fontes. Motion Carried.

- Water & Sewer Disbursements **None**

## IX. ***Around the Council Table***

- **Mayor** – Nothing

- **Mrs. Smith – Parks** – Park is under water, but other than that things are looking good.

- **Mr. Fontes – Water & Sewer** – Nothing

- **Mrs. Kirk – Treasurer** – Nothing

- **Mrs. Shaw – Streets** –
  - Stated she had spoken with Mrs. Johnson at Sonshine and they have started doing staggered times for pick up to help with traffic flow.
  - Spoke with the Sheriff's office about writing more tickets or something at the High School, so we will see what happens. Ms. Knagge stated there still isn't a sign saying Warrior is one way when exciting the student parking lot. Mrs. Shaw said that the Resource Officer stated he has no control over the students once they leave the gate. Mrs. Shaw will be doing some more research and report back at the next meeting.

- **Mr. Mellecker – Zoning** – Nothing

- **Mr. Branham – Attorney** – Nothing

- **Mrs. Knagge – Clerk**
  - Clerk's conference Oct. 11-15 where she will be graduating with her Certified Municipal Clerk's Certification.

- **Mr. Williams – Town Manager** -- Nothing

- **Mr. Bass – Council President & Fire** – Nothing

## X. *Adjourn*

- Motion to adjourn by Mr. Fontes and 2nd by Mr. Mellecker. Motion Carried.
- Time: **7:59 PM**

**John Kenneth Bass, Council President**

Stephanie Knagge

**Stephanie Knagge, Town Clerk**

*If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the board, agency, or commission with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, he or she will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he or she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.*