Town of Bethel

Town Council Meeting Minutes

January 2, 2024 – 7:00 p.m.

**1. Meeting Called to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by V. Proctor. Present were M. Shaver, V. Proctor; K. Layfield; P. Kough; K. Phillips; and Bethel Town Clerk, M. Hawkins.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance:** The Pledge of Allegiance was led by V. Proctor.

President, Vern Proctor, on behalf of the town expressed thanks for the life of Howard Vanderslice and the services he rendered to the town.

**3. Secretary’s Report:** P. Kough presented the December 5, 2023 Town Council Meeting Minutes. M. Shaver made a motion to accept the December 5, 2023 minutes as corrected. K. Phillips seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**4. Town Clerk’s Report:** Town Clerk, M. Hawkins, presented the Town Clerk’s report. M. Shaver made a motion to approve the Town Clerk’s report. K. Layfield seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. We need to do an outline of dates for the Election Committee, so they are put on the town clerk’s report. This needs to include the absentee ballots.

**5. Treasurer’s Report**

 **a. Bills to be Paid:** K. Layfield presented the bills to be paid. P. Kough made a motion to pay the bills as presented. M. Shaver seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

 **b. Treasurer’s Report:** K. Layfield presented the December Treasurer’s Report. P. Kough made a motion to approve the abbreviated December Treasurer’s Report as submitted. M. Shaver seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. SU suggested that we change where money other than municipal aid money is kept so that we can get a larger return on our investments. A motion was made by P. Kough to authorize M. Shaver to move the Money Market Account to a different type of account to improve the returns with the stipulation that there are no maintenance charges. The motion was seconded by M. Shaver. The motion passed unanimously.

**6. Building Permits:** A $100 permit was issued to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Stark for a complete tear off and new roof. **Blue Hen Properties** – Kevin and Martha will work on a letter to Blue Hen letting them know we will enforce our rules regarding permits. They need to look at Article 9 and see what it says. This will be moved to February’s Agenda.

**7. Bracken Property Status:**  V. Proctor received an email from Ellie Bracken explaining why they haven’t done anything yet. She did not want to give information regarding the person who supposedly bought the trailer. V. Proctor told her she needed to let him know it has to be moved. V. Proctor also asked her to continue to give us a monthly report. He stated to her that we want this issue resolved by the end of this year.

**8. Complaints:** No new complaints were filed. A letter is going to be put together regarding the cluttering of 500 Vine Street. M. Shaver and V. Proctor are going to set up a meeting with the occupant.

**9. Ordinance Committee:**  **Truck Limits Ordinance:** V. Proctor did not get a response from the Town Solicitor on this ordinance. V. Proctor will call the Town Solicitor to see if he is interested in continuing to work for the Town. The solicitor’s response time is not up to par. However, the work he has done for us is good. K. Layfield made a motion to approve the new section 4.4 to the truck limits ordinance. M. Shaver seconded the motion. The ordinance passed unanimously. A discussion was held regarding multi-family homes.

**10. Election:**  Dates have been set for filing, etc. Dates need to be set for absentee ballots. V. Proctor is going to call Stacy Northam Smith about acting as the Chair of the Election Committee.

**11. Planning and Zoning Commission: Consideration of potential new members:** A minimum of 5 members is required. Now, we only have four. V. Proctor asked Martha to print out what she now has on the thumb drive. V. Proctor will check with the Town Solicitor if we can go with the four remaining members who would be a majority to approve the Comprehensive Plan.

**12. Board of Adjustment: Consideration of potential new members:** We need a minimum of three members. M. Shaver will talk to some people about serving. The Solicitor is one of the members.

**13. Old/New Business:**

Church pews – The small one will be put in the office. The museum may take one for their porch. We will offer the third to the church.

Handicapped parking - We will remove the two stops in front of the community house and make it no parking. Striping will be done out front.

K. Phillips asked what the Town’s stance is on remote control cars and drones. A discussion was held. A drone ordinance will be put on February’s agenda. K. Layfield will check and see if there is a state ordinance about remote cars on state roads.

**14. Adjourn Meeting:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:23.