

April 11, 2022

A special meeting of the Town Board of Vernon was held at 7:05 p.m. on the above date at the Town Office Building for the purpose of a public hearing to consider enactment of a local law to increase the terms of office for the Town Supervisor and Town Highway Superintendent from two years to four years. Council members present: Randy Watson, Supervisor; Gene Bennati, Steve Adamkowski and John Peters. Myron Thurston was absent. Also present: Town Attorney Vince Rossi, Highway Superintendent Murphy, Assessor Chairman Duane Munger and 4 community members. The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Watson at 7:05 p.m. Howard Regner commented that the 2 year term can be beneficial in an instance where someone gets elected and then does not do a good job. There was no further discussion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Town Board of Vernon was held at 7:15 p.m. on the above date at the Town Office Building. Council members present: Randy Watson, Supervisor; Gene Bennati, Steve Adamkowski and John Peters. Myron Thurston was absent. Also present: Town Attorney Vince Rossi, Highway Superintendent Murphy, Assessor Chairman Duane Munger and 4 community members.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, there was a moment of silence. The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Watson at 7:15 p.m.

Supervisor Watson asked the council members if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes from the March 14, 2022 meeting. There being none, a motion to approve the minutes as written was made by Peters, seconded by Bennati. No discussion. Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

PUBLIC CONCERNS:

Rose Lockwood heard that the grant went through for the Vernon Center Water Project for \$3,000,000.00. Supervisor Watson added that we filled out the paperwork to acquire the 2.2 acres of land on Churton Road to build the tower on. Also, the engineers will be initiating the blueprints and we hope to get the bid out just about Christmas time to begin next spring. Rose Lockwood also mentioned that the Board members worked very hard on this project.

REPORTS:

The following reports were presented: Town Clerk, Planning Board/Zoning Board of Appeals, Codes Enforcement, Supervisor's, Highway Superintendent, Economic Development: Peters mentioned that the Mohawk Valley EDGE gave a presentation at 6:30. Education and Libraries: Bennati reported that the Sherrill City Library is struggling with the City of Sherrill to get funding for the library because there are people who think libraries are being replaced by the internet and that's far from ever going to happen. The Sherrill Library is working to create a library district within the V.V.S. school district that would generate a library tax, which would be about 20 cents per thousand. This tax would greatly help the Sherrill City Library financially. Also, an overwhelming number of people from all over the Town of Vernon and Verona go to the Sherrill Library and he has seen that data. Howard Regner commented that he pays library tax for the Oneida Library and I'm ok with it, but I think you're going to get a lot of resistance after what happened with that. Bennati responded that the vote on that was the biggest scam job ever.

There were no reports from Assessors, Intergovernmental Relations, Operations, SWOCO and Oneida County Legislator.

A motion to accept the above reports was made by Bennati, seconded by Peters. No discussion. Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to pay the bills was made by Peters, seconded by Adamkowski. No discussion. Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

BUSINESS:

A motion to approve increasing Town Supervisor and Town Highway Superintendent position to a 4 year term to be on the November ballot was made by Peters, seconded by Bennati. Bennati commented that our Supervisor and Highway Superintendent are doing a very good job and I believe they're going to be around for a while and we'd like to keep them around. Attorney Rossi added that this Local Law just puts it on the ballot and the people will decide on it. No further discussion. Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to enact a policy that dogs that come into the Town building need to be on a leash was made by Peters, seconded by Adamkowski. Peters mentioned that the Town has a leash law. No discussion. Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to approve Vernon-Verona-Sherrill School District's request to use the Town Office Building as a polling site on May 17, 2022 from 12:00 pm to 9:00 pm was made by Peters, seconded by Adamkowski. No discussion. Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

Notice was received from Joe Nehme from Senator Schumer's office confirming the executed 2022 Congressional Spending bill, as part of the budget, for the Vernon Center Water Project in the amount of \$3,000,000.00.

Application was completed and signed to acquire NYSDOT land on Churton Road to include in the Vernon Center Water District.

Supervisor Watson stated that there were 2 requests for street lights, one on the corner of State Route 26 and Cooper Street and the other on the corner of State Route 31 and Townline Road. Attorney Rossi specified that the process is to first create a lighting district and the Board would decide what properties would be affected and the expense would be levied onto their tax bill. There may be a way to get the State to do it because they are State roads. But, we may be able to do it as a townwide expense, which would eliminate the bureaucracy. Supervisor Watson would want the Town to take on the expense. Attorney Rossi will check with the State and County to see if they will do it and if we have to do it, then can we do it as a townwide expense.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

None

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn at 7:42 p.m. was made by Bennati, seconded by Peters. No discussion. Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Additions to minutes on file
in Town Clerk's Office.

Julie A. McElroy
Acting Secretary

This meeting was digitally recorded and is on file in the Town Clerk's office.

COMMUNICATIONS:

None