

April 13, 2020

A special meeting of the Town Board of Vernon was held at 6:45 p.m. on the above date at the Town Office Building for the purpose of a public hearing for the Local law, Codes Enforcement Position. Council members present: Randy Watson, Supervisor; Gene Bennati, Myron Thurston, Steve Adamkowski and John Peters. Also present: Tim Murphy, Highway Superintendent and Town Bookkeeper, Wendy Coston. The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Watson at 6:45 p.m. There was a misunderstanding and the notice was not published in the newspaper. This meeting will be postponed until May 11, 2020 at 6:45pm. The meeting was adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Town Board of Vernon was held at 7:00 p.m. on the above date at the Town Office Building. Council members present: Randy Watson, Supervisor; Gene Bennati, Myron Thurston, Steve Adamkowski and John Peters. Also present: Tim Murphy, Highway Superintendent and Town Bookkeeper, Wendy Coston.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, there was a moment of silence. The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Watson at 7:00 p.m.

Supervisor Watson asked the council members if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes from the March 9, 2020 meeting. There being none, a motion to approve the minutes as written was made by Thurston, seconded by Bennati. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

PUBLIC CONCERNS:

Supervisor Watson said he hopes everyone is staying home and safe. We will all get through the "Stay in place" due to the Coronavirus, COVID-19. He asked that if there was anyone in need of any help to please call the office and we would do what we can to help them.

REPORTS:

The following reports were presented: Town Clerk, Supervisor's and Codes Enforcement, Highway Superintendent, Education and Libraries; Bennati reported that we received a report from the Vernon Library. After not receiving a report for many months we were given a report with some concerns in regards to profit and loss of monies. The amount budgeted appears to be in the negative and the amount spent was over what was budgeted resulting in more debt. Thurston suggested we hire an independent auditor before moving forward with giving money to the Library. Bennati also suggested that we monitor the Libraries spending and rather than giving a one-time payment we possibly give them money either monthly or quarterly to be sure they are supplying us with reports.

There were no reports from Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, Assessors, Intergovernmental Relations, Economic Development, Operations, SWOCO, County Legislator and Historian.

A motion to accept the above reports was made by Peters, seconded by Thurston. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to pay the bills was made by Bennati, seconded by Adamkowski. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

BUSINESS:

A motion to approve Resolution for a \$50,000 Grant to Develop Vernon Center Water District was made by Bennati, seconded by Peters. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to approve Resolution for purchase/lease of new truck for the Highway Department in the amount of \$40,491.00 per year for 7 years was made by Peters, seconded by Bennati. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to postpone bidding of paving town driveway and walking trail due to the possible loss of the Town's revenue due to COVID-19 was made by Thurston, seconded by Adamkowski. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to approve request by Vernon Verona Sherrill School District to use Town Office Building as polling location for budget vote May 19, 2020 from 12:00pm – 9:00pm was made by Peters, seconded by Adamkowski. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to approve spending up to \$100 for repainting of sign expense was made by Peters, seconded by Bennati. Highway Superintendent offered to trim some of the branches from trees. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried

A motion to approve estimate from Sandie Leland of Sandie’s Housecleaning for \$170 weekly during the summer months when the pavilion is open and \$150 weekly the remainder of the year was made by Thurston, seconded by Peters. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion for Steve Adamkowski to call and negotiate estimates with Dan’s Landscaping and make a final decision on cost for mowing and shrub/weed control not to exceed the amount quoted of \$175 weekly for mowing and \$300 for monthly maintenance of shrubs and weeds was made by Thurston, seconded by Adamkowski. Fred Maciag does not want to be responsible for all of the mowing this upcoming year. The price is higher than what we paid Fred however; he is using his own equipment and gas, not the towns. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A letter was received from Oneida County Executive Anthony Picente on COVID-19 crisis. Board members discussed the probability of loss on sales tax revenue being estimated of up to 12%. Wendy Coston stated that if we do loose the 12% we are still within our budget. Thurston stated in 2021 we will see that the VLT money will be less. The Town has always been conservative with money and now it will pay off. Coston said there is no appropriation or VLT money in our budget.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Thurston would like the Town Board to review solar tax legislation. The way it was written, solar on Agricultural and Residential are assessed on taxes. He believed the Board wanted to encourage home owners and ag districts to have solar, and taxing was only supposed to be on Tier 3 properties.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

None

Supervisor Watson announced that no further business would be conducted.

A motion to adjourn at 7:43 p.m. was made by Adamkowski, seconded by Peters. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Jennifer Champney
Town Clerk

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

COMMUNICATIONS:

None