

August 12, 2019

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 were Randy Watson, Supervisor; Steve Adamkowski, Gene Bennati and John Peters. McDonough was absent. Also present: County Legislator; Keith Schiebel and 17 citizens.

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 July 8, 2019 meetings. There being none, a motion to accept the minutes as written was made by Peters, seconded by Bennati. No discussion. Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

PUBLIC CONCERNS:

Dan Daly was present to ask the Board to consider amending codes/ordinance to ban events that would bring large crowds to the Town of Vernon. With the recent applications for Woodstock 50, town residents and businesses came together and showed the Town Board that they do not want events that will bring large crowds to the area and a situation like Woodstock 50 should not be repeated in the future. Daly expressed his concern that mass gatherings are dangerous. He also stated that the type of crowds this brings to the area is not the type of people we want drawn to this area.

Scott Faulkner stated that he was at the previous meetings concerning Woodstock 50 and that Gural does not care about the Town of Vernon. Taxpayers should not have to pay in the future for the expenses like the Town of Vernon had to pay out for Lawyers etc. to deny the Woodstock 50 applications.

Mary LaClair asked the Town Board to consider a new Town Ordinance and gave a copy of information/suggestions to consider adopting to Town Clerk, Jennifer Champney to distribute to the Town Board and the Town Lawyer, Vincent Rossi.

Mary Kay Junglen from the Sherrill Library thanked the Town of Vernon for the space in the Town of Vernon Newsletter. Bennati acknowledged that her piece was very well written and thanked Junglen for submitting to our newsletter.

Janice Buneo spoke on behalf of the Vernon National Historical Society. Previously the Town Board motioned to donate \$500 to the Vernon Historical Society. Buneo stated Wendy Coston, Town Bookkeeper, advised her that if the Town gave a check to the Vernon Historical Society for the glass negative plates, they would become the property of the Town of Vernon. Buneo asked the Board if that is a responsibility they wanted to take on. Watson said he didn't think so. Peters asked Board members how they could give to the baseball league and the Fire Department then. Adamkowski advised that it is the law that does not allow them to donate taxpayer money to businesses. The Board wants to give Vernon Historical Society this money however it is the technicality if they can do it or not. Watson stated that he is almost positive they can find a way to do it and he will speak with the Town Attorney. The Town will have to find out what they have to do to make sure. Buneo advised that she has the receipts along with a voucher but she had to see if they would become the property of the Town of Vernon. Watson does not believe that is the way it has to be and that he wouldn't want it to be. Adamkowski stated that if it was a technicality and they were stuck, then they would be in the possession of Janice Buneo whom is also the Town Historian. Watson said he thinks he could find a way so they belong to the Historical Society, that is what they had intended it to be. Bennati stated that the real issue was that the Town would not have an ownership to them and that the Historical Society is separate from the Town of Vernon. Watson said that he finds it hard to believe they can donate to other groups but can't find a way to donate to the Historical Society for stuff to be preserved. He doesn't know what the method is for that.

Lonnie Guile asked if there was any way to get the speed limit reduced to 45mph on Morgan Rd. He was advised that they cannot determine this but he could petition for it. Approval would need to be made by the county. Guile introduced himself to everyone in the room and he is from Oswego County and co-owner of Joe's Jerky. Just recently his daughter Mikayla Guile was tragically killed in a car accident on March 30, 2019. The other driver was under the influence of drugs who is now serving 2-7yrs in prison. He has a meeting set up to enforce the sentencing for these offenders.

Mary LaClair stated that this is a good example of why residences of the town do not want music groups that will draw people using marijuana. It can affect those on the road in and around the community.

REPORTS:

The following reports were presented: Town Clerk, Codes Enforcement, SWOCO; Landfill meeting/picnic August 20th at 6pm, Supervisor's, Highway Superintendent; 1) Small truck has been received and it is being outfitted right now 2) Annual brush grinding at the gravel bed is done, County Legislator- Keith Schiebel reported on numerous subjects including: 1) Oneida Nation check should have been received. Schiebel encourages the town to send a letter acknowledging that and also maybe some suggestions of directions you are taking with that. 2) Energy performance contract for Griffiss Airport buildings 3) 2019-2020 Mohawk Valley Community College operating budget 4) Approval of an agreement between Oneida County and Cooperative Extension. And Historian report was also presented.

There were no reports from Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, Intergovernmental Relations, Assessors, Education and Libraries, Economic Development, and Operations.

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

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

BUSINESS:

A motion to appoint Eugene Bennati as Deputy Town Supervisor was made by Peters, seconded by Adamkowski. No discussion. Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to accept the proposed Insurance renewal from Gates-Cole Insurance, was made by Bennati, seconded by Peters. The board agreed they would like to include the cyber security insurance also. Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to pass a Resolution that the Town of Vernon approves new Gateway signs in Oneida Castle and gives permission for Oneida Castle Mayor John Deschamps to sign permit was made by Peters, seconded by Adamkowski. No discussion. Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to pass a Resolution authorizing Town Supervisor to sign memorandum of understanding with the Village of Vernon for the proposed Vernon Center Water District, was made by Bennati, seconded by Peters. No discussion. Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

Information was received by NYSERDA on services they provide on the Clean Energy Act.

Oneida County Association of Towns meeting will be held on August 22nd, 5:30pm at Orchard Hall.

Annual meeting/picnic at SWOCO is on August 20th at 6pm.

Oneida County Appropriation Agreement money was received for 1st and 2nd quarters in the amount of \$62,500.

Final paperwork has been submitted to receive disbursement of Town Office Building Improvements Grant and Town Roof Replacement Grant.

A motion to approve request to begin bid process for repaving walking trail and office building parking lot was made by Bennati, seconded by Peters. No discussion. Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to approve request to allow engineer to set up bid package for Freestanding Solar Array at Town office building, was made by Bennati, seconded by Peters. No discussion. Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

Fancett Road wash out – when will black top repair begin? Freemire advised it will be scheduled for next year, 2020.

A motion to approve proposal from General Code to update to new format for 20 new code books was made by Peters, seconded by Bennati. No discussion. Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

Homeowner expressed appreciation for Art Freemire and entire highway crew for ditch repairs on Skinner Rd.

A motion to approve request by Highway Superintendent to change job titles for George Vencek and Garret Burke from Motor Vehicle Operator to Heavy Equipment Operator, was made by Peters, seconded by Bennati. No discussion. Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to approve request to have C&S Engineers do well testing at Highway Garage was made by Bennati, seconded by Peters. Freemire explained that he was contacted by DEC Spill Response because of a fuel leak back in 1996. They would like to update their paperwork and have the wells tested again. Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to approve appointment of Jennifer Tyczinski as part time Assessor Clerk was made by Bennati, seconded by Adamkowski. No discussion. Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Adamkowski thanked the Codes Department for everything they went through with Woodstock 50 and he is sure that it was way above their pay grade and more than what they thought they would ever get into as a part time job. He wanted to thank them for getting through it and keeping a professional attitude. Watson expressed he was proud of everyone in the building with the pressure they were under. A special thanks to Mike Sheridan for handling the Woodstock 50 Planning Board meeting phenomenally. He was very professional. Bennati sent a thank you note to Sheridan.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion to adjourn at 8:02p.m. was made by Peters, seconded by Bennati. No discussion. Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

Supervisor Watson announced that no further business would be conducted.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Champney
Town Clerk

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

COMMUNICATIONS:

Oneida County Association of Towns