

December 28, 2020

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 Gene Bennati, Steve Adamkowski, John Peters and Myron Thurston. Supervisor, Randy Watson was absent. Also present: Janice Buneo, Historian; and 1 citizen.

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 November 2, 2020 meetings. There being none, a motion to accept the minutes as written was made by Adamkowski, seconded by Peters. Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

PUBLIC CONCERNS:

Doug Lockwood submitted a signed petition to the Board members and requested their help submitting this to New York State Department of Transportation. He is concerned there will be an accident on the stretch of Youngs Rd. between Churton Rd. and Stuhlman Rd due to dangerous hills and aggressive curves posing a risk for collision with a horse and buggy.

REPORTS:

The following reports were presented: Town Clerk, Planning Board, Codes Enforcement, Supervisor's, Highway Superintendent, Intergovernmental Relations; Adamkowski will be asking Town Offices to submit their write ups for the 2021 Newsletter come mid-February, Historian; Buneo turned in an end of the year overview and stated that the most common question she is asked is "Where can I come from out of state to Vernon to see records?". Vernon Historical Society has a Facebook page and the email linked to that is for the Vernon Historian. They are working with Facebook to have that removed. She would like to piggyback a Facebook page for the Historian through the Town of Vernon Facebook page. The Board members do not know how that is done and will have to look into it. Operations, Thurston added that he has noticed the sand on the roads and is happy that it is not too muddy.

There were no reports from Zoning Board of Appeals, Assessors, Education and Libraries, Economic Development or County Legislator.

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

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

BUSINESS:

A motion to schedule the dates for 2021 Town Board Meetings as follows, January 4th, February 8th, March 8th, April 12th, May 10th, June 14th, July 12th, August 9th, September 13th, October 4th, November 1st, December 6th and December 27th was made by Peters, seconded by Thurston. No discussion. Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A letter was received from Rossi & Rossi Law Firm informing the Town that due to the financial hardships they will reduce their attorneys' hourly rates by 10% effective October 1, 2020. Thurston added that this was very generous of them.

A motion to accept resignation letter from Michael Sheridan from Chairman of Planning Board effective January 1, 2021 was made by Peters, seconded by Thurston. Bennati stated that they are very sad to receive this news. No discussion. Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to appoint Justice Cheney to Planning Board effective January 1, 2021 was made by Thurston, seconded by Peters. Thurston asked who was going to take on the roll as Chairman. This would be an appointment made by the Town Board and it is very important to figure out who is going to do this. Ayes 4. Nays 0.

A motion to Assessor's Department to opt in for Local Option to Forego 467 and 459-C Renewals for 2021 was made by Thurston, seconded by Peters. No discussion. Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to transfer \$1000.00 from Prospect Street Water SW8310.4 Administration to SW8320.4 Source of Supply Contractual Exps. was made by Thurston, seconded by Bennati. No discussion. Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to transfer \$300.00 from A1990.4 Contingency to A1910.4 Unallocated Insurance was made by Thurston, seconded by Peters. No discussion. Ayes 4. Nays 0.

Board members reviewed quote from Computers with a Heart to install cameras and equipment for virtual meetings. Adamkowski explained that he has been doing meetings through zoom using his own laptop and is not sure we need all the equipment that is in the quote. Thurston mentioned it could help with employee trainings as it would save on travel expenses and overnight stays. This technology is the way of the future. Adamkowski feels that the quote is more technically involved than what the school board is currently doing. He does not want to use this equipment and zoom online for every board meeting and would like to see it used only as needed. Thurston would like to see the Town of Vernon have the capability to use zoom for meetings during times that it is needed. Bennati is not sure if we need all the "bells and whistles". He likes the meetings as they are in person. Thurston mentioned that COVID is not going to be over anytime soon. Purchasing technology that can be used by all offices and board members would be a good investment. Peters asked if two laptops would work to get the town started. Adamkowski is urging that training is provided for anyone that would need to set up and be in charge of coordinating public and confidential meetings.

A motion to purchase equipment and software needed for online meetings not to exceed \$2000.00 was made by Thurston, seconded by Adamkowski. No discussion. Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to approve request made by Upstate Mammography Van to set up in town parking lot on February 1, 2021 was made by Thurston, seconded by Adamkowski. No discussion. Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

Second quarter sales tax 3rd installment was received in the amount of \$64,337.45.

Third quarter sales tax 1st installment was received in the amount of \$101,962.14.

Charter Communications Franchise Fee was received in the amount of \$9,650.38.

Oneida County Agreement 1st quarter payment was received in the amount of \$31,250.00 after Watson was advised to submit a voucher to the County for this payment to be made.

Received Mowing Contract payment from Oneida County in the amount of \$8,812.00.

Received \$6,030 from Empire Livestock for sale of truck.

JCAP PPE Grant from New York State was received in the amount of \$971.94.

AIM payment was received from State of New York in the amount of \$32,319.00.

Board members discussed closing the walking trail during winter months due to possible liability. Bennati spoke with Tom Cole from Gates and Cole Insurance in regards to this. Cole will get back to him after speaking with NYMIR. Thurston and Adamkowski do not support closing trails.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

None

A motion to adjourn at 7:50p.m. was made by Thurston, seconded by Peters. No discussion. Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

Deputy Supervisor Bennati 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:

Summary of funding to date and plans for Vernon Center Water District

Rome Sentinel article on Vernon Center Water District