

December 4, 2023

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, and Steve Adamkowski. Also present: Tim Murphy, Highway Superintendent; 3 board members from the Vernon Library; Keith Schiebel, County Legislator; and 1 resident. Absent: John Peters

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 6, 2023 and November 20, 2023 meetings. There being none, a motion to approve the minutes as written was made by Thurston, seconded by Adamkowski. Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried. Absent: Peters

PUBLIC CONCERNS:

None

REPORTS:

(Peters arrived at this time)

The following reports were presented: Town Clerk, Codes Enforcement, Education and Libraries; Bennati thanked the Library members for sending over detailed meeting minutes and praised the good job being done. Thurston added that the Christmas lights they put on the building were very nicely done. This helps to let the public know that they are open again. Seymore Excavating donated the lift for them to be able to put the lights up. The library will be holding a community Christmas party and invites all to attend on December 16th from 9-12. They would like the community to come see what they have been able to do with the help of the rotary grant that was received; SWOCO, Supervisor's, Highway, County Legislator Schiebel gave a written report and briefly spoke on the highlights of the report including protecting county workers, promoting child safety, budget highlights, and sales tax distribution.

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

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

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Board members entered executive session to discuss personnel at 7:17pm and returned at 7:38pm.

BUSINESS:

A motion to accept resignation from Judge Robert Suttmeier as of January 1, 2024 was made by Bennati, seconded by Adamkowski. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to appoint John Peters as Town Judge as of January 1, 2024 was made by Thurston, seconded by Bennati. Thurston added that as much as they hate to lose Peters from the Town Board, they are doing what is best for the Town of Vernon by putting a responsible upright individual in the seat of the Judge who will treat people fairly and equally. They are thankful Peters is stepping forward to do the job. Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried. Peters recused himself from the vote.

A motion to approve the following 2024 Town Board Meeting dates: January 8, February 12, March 11, April 8, May 13, June 10, July 8, August 12, September 9, October 15, November 4, December 9 & December 23 was made by Adamkowski, seconded Thurston. No Discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to approve request by town clerk to collect a \$10 abstract water search fee was made by Peters, seconded by Adamkowski. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to approve renewal contract for Rome Humane Society increase of \$15 per dog for a total of \$225 per dog was made by Thurston, seconded by Peters. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

Third quarter sales tax check was received from Oneida County in the amount of \$436,092.13. This is an increase of \$71,503.08 over the last year.

A letter was submitted to USDA Rural Development requesting extension for Vernon Center Water loan/grant.

Tug Hill Commission Local Government Conference is being held at Turning Stone on May 1, 2024, and May 2, 2024.

A motion to schedule a Public Hearing on December 18, 2023 at 6:45pm to amend Local Law for the Administration and Enforcement of the New York State Uniform Fire prevention and Building Code and the State Energy Conservation Construction code per NYS guidelines was made by Peters, seconded by Bennati. Ayes 5. Nays 0. No discussion. Motion carried.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Highway Superintendent Murphy congratulated Peters on his appointment as Town Judge. Peters thanked the board and hopes he does not let them down. Since a child he has wanted to be a Judge and has been encouraged by other local Judges to do so.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

None

A motion to adjourn at 7:46 p.m. was made by Bennati, seconded by Thurston. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

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:

None