

February 13, 2023

The regular meeting of the Town Board of Vernon was held at the Town Office Building on the above date with the following persons present: Randy Watson, Supervisor; Gene Bennati, Steve Adamkowski, John Peters and Myron Thurston, Council members. Also present: County Legislator, Keith Schiebel and 5 residents.

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 January 9, 2023 meeting. There being none, a motion to accept the minutes as written was made by Peters, seconded by Thurston. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

PUBLIC CONCERNS:

Resident Paul Badhan is inquiring if public water can be brought down Lampman Rd. There are 7 houses on the paved portion of the road that would benefit from this. Councilman Peters advised that it would need to be done as an additional phase.

REPORTS:

The following reports were presented: Town Clerk, Codes Enforcement, Supervisors and Intergovernmental Relations: Adamkowski advised he is finishing up getting the submissions for the newsletter and is right on schedule to send for printing the beginning of March, County Legislator; Schiebel submitted a written report highlighting tax break increased for seniors and disabled, the support of Mercy Flight, more reliable voting machines and Fire Board appointments. He also included communications with Oneida County Department of Public Works Commissioner, Mark E. Laramie in regards to his inquiry of the condition of Peterboro Street and Williams/Beacon Light Roads. Laramie responded that Peterboro Street/Road is scheduled for a surface treatment and Williams Rd from the Sherrill City line to Patrick Rd is scheduled for paving.

There were no reports from: Zoning/Planning Board, Education and Libraries, Operations, Assessors, Highway Superintendent, SWOCO and Economic Development.

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

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

BUSINESS:

A motion to appoint Cynthia Thurston to Planning/Zoning Boards was made by Peters, seconded by Adamkowski. Myron Thurston recused himself from the vote as Cynthia is his spouse. Ayes 4. Nays 0. Thurston abstained. Motion carried.

A motion to close Town Office building on April 6th for employees to attend the Annual Local Government Conference by Tug Hill Commission was made by Bennati, seconded by Adamkowski. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

Board members had a discussion on adopting a local law/resolution after having a public hearing to offer a real property tax exemption of up to 10% for volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers. Adamkowski mentioned that he had thoughts on it and after having multiple fire departments at his house the evening before, he certainly appreciates them and their dedication. He wanted to be sure that the board members understood that the reduction isn't backfilled by the county or the state. It is the other taxpayers in the community would have to fill the gap. Thurston stated that it is still cheaper than

paying for a hired fire department. Watson mentioned that 10% of the town tax which is currently 1.11 % per \$1000 would not be a large hit for the taxpayers. It would be a much larger hit on the school or the county taxes. Murphy stated that there are criteria that should be met. Adamkowski stated it would not be right for someone to receive this if they only went on 1 call a year when others were at 150 calls. Taxpayers' dollars are being changed and there is very little accountability or trail to it. He is not against it; he is just unsure if there is more to it than he has read. Community member Kaylee Sierson asked if this would be a break for all properties of a volunteer or if it was just for the primary residence. Board members advised her that it was only for the primary residence.

A motion to hold a public hearing on Monday, March 13, 2023 at 6:45pm to offer a real property tax exemption of up to 10% for volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers was made by Thurston, seconded by Bennati. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

Oneida Library proposed 2023-2024 Operating Budget will be \$483,895.68 an increase of \$11,536.47.

The 3rd quarter mortgage tax was received in the amount of \$120,813.48.

A motion to approve Audit of the Town of Vernon Courts performed and reviewed by Wendy Coston and the Town Board was made by Bennati, seconded by Adamkowski. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to approve audit of the Town of Vernon conducted on February 13, 2023 was made by Thurston, seconded by Adamkowski. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to approve request from Historical Society to use building for meetings on 3/28, 4/25, 5/30, 6/27, 7/25, 8/29, 9/26, 10/31, and 11/28 was made by Thurston, seconded by Peters. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Adamkowski wanted to publicly thank those in the community who checked in with him and the firefighters who were there. He had people here at the town office, neighbors, people from the school, local businesses and even a professor from SUNY Morrisville check in with them. It is a reflection of the area we live in and the nice people.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion to enter into executive session to discuss Vernon Downs and Oneida County Gaming Compact at 7:25p.m. was made by Peters, seconded by Thurston. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried

Board members returned from Executive Session at 7:45 p.m.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn at 7:46 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