

February 7, 2022

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: Brian Dam, Zoning Board Chairman; County Legislator, Keith Schiebel and 2 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 10, 2022 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:

None

REPORTS:

The following reports were presented: Town Clerk, Zoning/Planning Board: Brian Dam stated that he has had complaints from residents as they are unaware of the meetings being held on the Solar projects within the Town. He asked that notices be published in the newspaper, on the Towns website and on social media if possible. Currently they are being published in the newspaper and on the Towns website. 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, Highway Superintendent, County Legislator; Schiebel discussed how the census results has created redistricting of areas for elected officials. Also, construction will begin next month on Nexus Center in Utica.

There were no reports from Education and Libraries, Operations, Assessors, SWOCO and Economic Development.

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

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

BUSINESS:

Supervisor Watson asked Board members if they felt we needed to hire a Historian for the Town. Thurston added that they need to look into it as he believes at one time the Town was required to have a Historian.

A motion to pass a resolution for the Town of Vernon Clerk to consolidate the position of Registrar of Vital Statistics for the Village of Oneida Castle at no cost for the first year and to be revisited if there is extraordinary expense to the Town of Vernon was made by Thurston, seconded by Peters. Town Clerk Champney explained the process to make this change which includes a resolution by the Town Board then request for approval from Oneida County and then a request for approval from NYS DOH. This process needs to be done by both the Town of Vernon and the Village of Oneida Castle. Board members were concerned that this would put a strain on the Town Clerks Office and how this would affect the Town financially. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to approve Blair Law Firm requesting Town of Vernon to waive the 30-day notice requirement for the liquor license application for Say I Do Events, LLC was made by Thurston, seconded by Peters. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

Board members had a discussion on the request made by the Village of Oneida Castle to lower the contract amount for the Codes Officers. Bookkeeper Coston stated that the amount charged to the Village of Oneida Castle is the amount that it costs the Town of Vernon to provide these services. If the Town reduces the fee, it will then be costing all taxpayers within the Town money for those services. The amount charged covers the hourly rate for the Codes Officers plus tax withholdings and workers comp insurance. Our codes officers do a great job and are fully certified. One of the concerns for Oneida Castle was inspections that will need to be done for their new sewer district. The Engineers for the sewer district should be the ones inspecting the new sewer lines not the Codes Officers.

Oneida Library proposed 2022-2023 Operating Budget will be \$472,359.21. Amount to be levied for library services 2021-2022 will be \$398,407.00 plus construction tax levy \$147,000.00 for a total of \$545,407.00. Bennati mentioned that payroll accounts are 62% of the operating budget. He thought they were going to be all volunteers.

The 3rd quarter mortgage tax was received in the amount of \$55,096.12.

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

A motion to approve audit of the Town of Vernon conducted on February 8, 2021 was made by Bennati, seconded by Adamkowski. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A 2019 John Deere Loader was purchased for \$175,000; minus \$27,000 for trade in of 2000 Loader bringing total to \$148,000. Murphy added that this was a very good deal considering the cost of a new loader plus inflation and then depreciation value at time of receiving due to the delay of delivery being into 2023 for a 2022 machine. This was a low hour machine with only 619 hours. It is like new condition.

Payment of Western Star Truck with Plow equipment loan in the amount of \$193,644.29 for a savings of \$24,978.61.

There was a discussion on the Vernon Center Water District status. Watson advised that stated that they are still waiting on funding. The first one is Claudia Tenney had helped them on and that is currently scheduled for the Senate vote in March and the second is a grant from WIA in which we should have the results in May. Hopefully at least one of these will go through and we can break ground in Spring of 2023.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Bennati would like a presenter to come talk about the Mohawk Valley before the next Board Meeting. He talked about the timeline for advertising and the best places to advertise being the Town website, newspaper, social media and the presenters advertising as well.

Murphy spoke to the board members about the roads in the Village of Oneida Castle. He has received calls from residents complaining about the roads being in poor condition and he is concerned about them wrecking our equipment. He asked the board to have a discussion with them about this as the Village pays the Town for this service and he feels it will cost the Town substantial amounts of money in repairs to our equipment.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

None

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn at 8:02 p.m. was made by Peters, seconded by Thurston. 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