

February 8, 2021

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 and County Legislator, Keith Schiebel.

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 4, 2020 meeting. There being none, a motion to accept the minutes as written was made by Peters, seconded by Bennati. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

PUBLIC CONCERNS:

None

REPORTS:

The following reports were presented: Town Clerk, Zoning Board: Solar special use permits have been given for 5518 State Route 5 and 4426 Sholtz Rd. There is one more meeting on February 11th to work out the details of the screening of trees that will be planted and the visuals the neighbors will see. Brian Dam stated that Margaret from EDF has spoken with land owners of Sholtz Rd. to work with them on what they would like to see as a visual around the solar panels rather than just doing a blanket screening. Some still wanted to be able to see the hills in the distance rather than just seeing trees. 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: in addition to report, Murphy would like to work with the attorney to write up a municipal agreement with Madison Oneida BOCES to save the town money on costs for maintenance, Operations: Thurston is pleased with the job the Highway department is doing on keeping the snow cleared from the roads; SWOCO: Watson stated that a bid has been accepted to replace the siding on the building and work is scheduled to be done in the spring; County Legislator: Schiebel submitted a written report including discussions at county level regarding COVID-19 effect on sales tax and administering vaccines.

There were no reports from Education and Libraries, Planning Board, Assessors, SWOCO, Economic Development, and Historian.

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

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

BUSINESS:

A motion to make a Local Law combining the Planning and Zoning Boards to one board was made by Peters, seconded by Thurston. Brian Dam believes combining these two boards will work and save the town money. He does not believe we would need 10 members. It was agreed that 6 or seven members would be enough. Thurston stated that we need to get a public hearing scheduled to do this right. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to appoint Brian Dam as Chairman of Planning and Zoning Board was made by Thurston, seconded by Peters. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to approve the addition to Codes fee schedule; Permit fee for antenna replacement installed to existing tower \$50.00 per antenna was made by Thurston, seconded by Bennati. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

Board members had a discussion on the Engineering proposal for the Vernon Center Water District. Thurston noted the price difference being \$398,000.00 less than Barton and Loguidice. Peters stated that Barton and Loguidice proposal was for black iron pipe and he mentioned plastic pipe to them. With iron pipe you would have to go from the center of the road to the 25 feet right of way. That would be at the ditch and you would have to go 5-7 feet below the ditch and disturb all of that dirt and pack it back in. Anytime the Highway department dug the ditches they would have to worry about the water lines. After talking to Delta Engineering, by switching to plastic you would directionally bore to go 300-400 feet. Digging up yards would not be necessary. Going with plastic would save money. Peters said they started this project with one Engineering company but it is now time to sit down and consider switching to another company. Adamkowski said if this comes out cheaper then the reality of this project becomes more likely. Thurston talked about the design of the tower and that Barton and Loguidice was not willing to look at options to make it capable of expansion. Peters said that a tank company out of Syracuse will build a tank for this project and it will be capable to be raised if in the future an expansion is wanted. Switching Engineering firms should not affect pursuing the WIA grant. It was mentioned that the Engineer from Barton and Loguidice did not do very much talking on behalf of the Town of Vernon while at the meeting with representatives of New York State and the Town Board members. Peters would like Wendy Coston to put together a summary page showing what the differences between the two firms were proposing.

Oneida Library proposed 2021-2022 Operating Budget will be \$450,407.00. Amount to be levied for library services 2021-2022 will be \$398,407.00.

Oneida Library estimated obligation for debt service for construction of new library increase to be raised by levy is \$238,979.00.

The 3rd quarter 2nd installment of sales tax was received in the amount of \$101,962.14.

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 Bennati. 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 Adamkowski, seconded by Peters. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to approve request of pre-approval for upgrade to Enhanced Business Funds accounting program of \$2995 as soon as it is available was made by Thurston, seconded by Bennati. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss a senior living facility at 7:53p.m. was made by Bennati, seconded by Adamkowski. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

Board members returned from Executive Session at 8:15p.m.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn at 8:16 p.m. was made by Peters, seconded by Adamkowski. 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