

January 10, 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: Gene Bennati, Deputy Supervisor; Steve Adamkowski, John Peters and Myron Thurston, Council members. Also present: 3 community members. Absent: Randy Watson, Supervisor.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, there was a moment of silence. The meeting was called to order by Deputy Supervisor Bennati at 7:00 p.m.

Deputy Supervisor Bennati asked the council members if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes from the December 27, 2021 meeting. There being none, a motion to accept the minutes as written was made by Thurston, seconded by Peters. No discussion. Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

PUBLIC CONCERNS:

Bennati addressed the community members who were attending from Carrick Rd. He stated that the Board Members have tried everything they could to help as this is a Board who always helps people that come forward needing help. Bennati feels badly for the residents on Carrick Rd. JoEllen Nortz stated the Board has given them ideas as to how to build their road to make it a town maintained public highway but wants to know what they have really done to help and what can they do to help them. She said they have heard from the Board that they want to help but what is it they can do to help. Bennati said what they can do to help is everything they have suggested such as: look for grants, write to Senators, Assemblyman, Congresspeople, Federal Senators and State Senators as the Boards hands are completely tied by law. Nortz said they have written to all those recommended however, they can not apply for the Grants as individuals. She thought that's how the Town of Vernon could help them. She asked if the Towns Grant Writer could write the grant. Bennati advised that the Town does not have a Grant Writer. Myron stated it is illegal for the Town of Vernon to use town funds to build this road. Coston advised that the Town cannot apply for funding for this project. Bennati attended a meeting with a Grant Writer and provided the residents information on this meeting. Steve Bartlett stated that they have been told the Grants need to be written by a Municipality and asked if they were able to get someone to write the grant, would the Town be able to submit it? Thurston said they would contact the Association of Towns for that information. Bennati recommended they contact Oneida County Executive, Anthony Picente to see if he had any ideas as to how to help this situation. Adamkowski had spoken with a woman from Soil and Water who John Nortz had previously contacted and she advised they should have more information later this month. Thurston asked if Mr. Mathalia or his family did any of the maintenance on the road any longer. Nortz stated that he does not. Nortz himself and a few other residents maintain it. Thurston clarified that the Town would be happy to take over Carrick Rd. once the road has been brought up to NYS specs. As the road is not, it is not up to par for us to be able to do so. Nortz spoke that he has acquired 68 more signatures to add to his initial petition and asked the Board members to also sign it in support of their goal. Board members advised that the only signatures that would have meaning are those whom live on that road. After reading the petition asking for the Town of Vernon NY to retake ownership of Carrick Rd for road improvements including blacktop paving the Board Members decided they were not interested in signing it.

REPORTS:

The following reports were presented: Town Clerk, Codes Enforcement, Supervisors and Intergovernmental Relations: Adamkowski would like Newsletter submissions by the 1st of February as he would like it published the 1st week of March. Bennati suggested something be added to the Newsletter about the Memorial Trees for community members to purchase. Bennati also would like information on the parking lot being paved this year. SWOCO; Coston reported that they have reelected Officer positions, Highway Superintendent, Operations; Thurston reported that it has not been snowy, however, ice has been a challenge. The Highway Department is doing a good job.

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

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

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

BUSINESS:

A motion was made by Peters, seconded by Thurston to authorize Supervisor to pay all utilities, bank indebtedness and invest funds wisely without prior approval of the Board. No discussion. Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to appoint Rome Sentinel as the official newspaper for the Town of Vernon was made by Thurston, seconded by Adamkowski. No discussion. Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to designate Community Bank to be used as depository for all Town funds was made by Peters, seconded by Adamkowski. No discussion. Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to allow Supervisor or Deputy Supervisor to attend SWOCO meetings as Town representative was made by Thurston, seconded by Adamkowski. No discussion. Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to authorize the Highway Superintendent to purchase tools, equipment and implements in an amount not to exceed \$2,000 per purchase in 2021 without prior approval of the Town Board was made by Peters, seconded by Adamkowski. No discussion. Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion was made to approve the salary for members of the Planning Board and members of the Zoning Board of Appeals at \$150 per meeting attended with Board Chairman of each Board to receive \$275 per meeting chaired; secretary of the Planning Board and Zoning Board to receive \$150 per meeting; pay for members of the Board of Assessment Review will be set at \$200 per day with Chairman receiving \$250 was made by Peters, seconded by Adamkowski. No discussion. Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion was made to accept the Highway rate of pay for 2022: Working Foreman \$25.00/hr; Heavy Equipment Operator (2) \$24.65/hr; Motor Equipment Operator (3) \$23.10/hr; Mechanic (1) \$23.10/hr; Laborer minimum wage to \$17.00/hr; Part time Laborer minimum wage to \$17.00/hr. One-week vacation after completion of one (1) year's work, two-week vacation after completion of two years' work, three-week vacation after completion of five years' work, four-week vacation after completion of fifteen (15) years' work. Six (6) personal days—noncumulative. All Vacation/Personal days to be paid at standard pay rate. Holidays: New Year's Day, Good Friday (1/2 day), Memorial Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Veterans' Day, Juneteenth, Thanksgiving plus following Friday and Christmas. Health Insurance: 50 per cent during first six months of work. Town pays other 50 percent if employee signs during first year of employment. Second six months and thereafter the employee will pay 15 percent of the premium per month. The Town will pay \$20 per month toward dental and vision insurance. The Town will pay one-half of single person health insurance for retiree with 30 years of service. Noncontributory retirement and disability for Tiers 1 and 2; employees pay 3 percent for Tiers 3 and 4. Tier 5 and 6 employees pay minimum of 3 percent for entire career. Five days sick leave cumulative to sixty (60) by Peters, seconded by Adamkowski. No discussion. Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to accept the following appointments:

Deputy Supervisor	Gene Bennati
Deputy Town Clerk	Julie McElroy
Bookkeeper to the Supervisor	Wendy Coston
Bookkeeper to Hwy Superintendent	Wendy Coston
Personnel Director	Wendy Coston
Deputy Hwy Supt/Working Foreman	George Vencek
Clerk to Town Justice	Sandra Schell
Prospect St Water Dist Collector	Wendy Coston
Prospect St Water Dist Biller	Jennifer Champney

Prospect St Water Dist Meter Reader and Repairman	Kevin Champney
Registrar of Vital Statistics	Jennifer Champney
Deputy Registrar of Vital Stat.	Julie McElroy
Records Management Officer	Jennifer Champney
Budget Director	J. Randall Watson
Chairman, ZBA	Brian Dam
Chairman, Planning Board	Brian Dam
Chairman, Board of Assessors	Duane Munger
Assessors' Clerk	Jennifer Tyczinski
Attorney for the Town	Vincent Rossi Jr
Codes Enforcement Officer	Jody Thieme
Building Inspector	Reay Walker
Codes Clerk	Heather Mair
Potash Hill Cemetery Custodian	Elizabeth Janowski
Marble Hill Indian Cemetery Custodian	Melvin Phillips
Preretirement Seminar Coordinator	Wendy Coston
Dog Control Officer	Clayton Conover
Filey Road Plowing	Kevin Mumford
Town Engineer	Delta Engineering

Supervisor: Committee Appointments:

Education and Libraries	Gene Bennati
Intergovernmental Relations	Stephen Adamkowski
Economic Development	John Peters
Operations	Myron Thurston

was made by Peters, seconded by Adamkowski. Ayes 4. Nays 0. No discussion. Motion carried.

A motion to include these salaries in the Board Minutes:

Salaries not to exceed the following:

Supervisor	J.Randall Watson	\$20,000.00	
Deputy Supervisor	Eugene Bennati	3,000.00	
Budget Director	J.Randall Watson	2,580.00	
Bkpr to Supv	Wendy Coston	37,820.00	
Bkpr to Hwy Supt	Wendy Coston	4,836.00	
Personnel	Wendy Coston	2,040.00	
Justice	Robert Suttmeier	21,660.00	
Councilperson	Gene Bennati	7,000.00	
Councilperson	Stephen Adamkowski	7,000.00	
Councilperson	Myron Thurston	7,000.00	Councilperson
John Peters	7,000.00		
Town Clerk	Jennifer Champney	28,434.00	
Tax Collector	Jennifer Champney	6,267.00	
Rgstr of Vt Stats	Jennifer Champney	4,950.00	
Rcds Mgmt Officer	Jennifer Champney	1,665.00	
Deputy Town Clerk	Julie McElroy	17.50/hr	
Assessor, Chrnm	Duane Munger	20,550.00	
Assessor	Frank Laguzza	19,300.00	
Assessor	Timothy Wagner	19,300.00	
Assessors' Clerk	Jennifer Tyczinski	15.00/hr	
Supt of Hwys	Timothy Murphy	64,000.00	
Prsp St Biller	Jennifer Champney	600/qtr	
Prsp St Collector	Wendy Coston	600/qtr	
Prsp St Meter Rdr	Kevin Champney	600/qtr	
Codes Enf Officer	Jody Thieme	28.00/hr	
Building Inspector	Reay Walker	23.00/hr	
Codes Clerk	Heather Mair	16.00/hr	
Clerk to Justice	Sandra Schell	17.00/hr	
Town Engineer	Delta Engineering	700.00/yr	

Dog Control Off Clayton Conover 8,400.00/yr
Filey Road Plowing Kevin Mumford 395.00/yr

General Office Help (Part time depending on experience)
Minimum Wage to 17.00/hr

Election Workers – to be paid by Oneida County
Board of Elections
Potash Hill Cem.Custodian Elizabeth Eastman 750/yr Marble Hill
Indian Cem Cust Melvin Phillips 750/yr

was made by Peters, seconded by Adamkowski. Ayes 4. Nays 0. No discussion. Motion carried.

A motion to audit Town books on February 7, 2022 at 6:30p.m. was made by Thurston, seconded by Peters. No discussion. Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to adopt a Resolution to allow Assessors to dispense with renewal of Senior Exemption for 2022 was made by Thurston, seconded by Adamkowski. No discussion. Ayes 0. Nays 4. Motion denied.

Board members had a discussion about Village of Oneida Castle's request for the Town of Vernon to take over their duties of Registrar of Vital Statistics. Bennati believed it be a function of Oneida Castle and did not understand why they were not going to handle these duties any longer. Town Clerk advised him that the Village of Oneida Castle stated they could not find anyone to take on the responsibilities of this role. Bennati was going to speak further to Village of Oneida Castle's Board members.

Delta Engineers is preparing bid for the Town Hall parking lot and walking trail to be paved. Bid will be advertised January 18th.

The Town of Vernon requested masks from Oneida County. Public wants to know if we will be handing them out. Have not received them yet.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel at 7:38p.m. was made by Thurston, seconded by Peters. No discussion. Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

Board members returned from Executive Session at 8:04 p.m.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn at 8:06 p.m. was made by Adamkowski, seconded by Peters. No discussion. Ayes 4. 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