

January 8, 2024

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, and Myron Thurston, Council members. Also present: 9 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 18, 2023 meeting. There being none, a motion to accept the minutes as written was made by Thurston, seconded by Adamkowski. No discussion. Ayes 3. Nays 0. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Benatti announced they would enter executive session to discuss Personnel at 7:05 p.m..

Board members returned from Executive Session at 7:18 p.m.

PUBLIC CONCERNS:

John Peters took a moment to introduce himself to the community members present. He has lived in Vernon Center for 59 years. Ten years ago he got involved in Town Government and he enjoys it. The Town Board members have worked to complete many projects throughout the town. Peters has been working with Board members on the Vernon Center Water District since he was elected. Peters has wanted to be a judge since he was young. When Judge Suttmeier put in his letter of resignation Peters thought that this was his opportunity. He attended a course in Albany to be a Judge and passed. He now has the hard decision to either be the Town Judge or stay on the Town Board. Peters is resigning as the Town Justice. Benatti asked if he was interested in being a judge down the road. Peters answered that he wants to complete this water district with the Town Board and then would like to be a judge in the future. On March 31st the Village of Vernon will be dissolving their court which will pose additional work for the town court. The village police department will remain active. The Village of Vernon has made this decision to dissolve their court without compensation to the Town. The town is responsible for absorbing the cost. Peters joined the Board members for the remainder of the meeting.

REPORTS:

The following reports were presented:

- Town Clerk
- Codes Enforcement
- Supervisors
- Education and Libraries; Vernon Library is working with the school and has taken the next steps to file the appropriate documents to be on the schools tax rolls.
- Highway Superintendent is shopping for a new truck.
- County Legislator: Employee contracts boost county's competitiveness, economic development, and mortgage tax distributed to municipalities. Bennati asked Schiebel to pass on information to the Town for solar grants/programs as the Town is interested in utilizing new solar panels on the ground for the town office building to replace the old ones that were on the rooftop.

There were no reports from:

- Planning Board
- Zoning Board of Appeals
- Intergovernmental Relations:
- Assessors
- Economic Development

- Operations
- SWOCO

A motion to accept the above reports was made by Thurston, seconded by Peters. 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 to authorize Supervisor to pay all utilities, bank indebtedness and invest funds wisely without prior approval of the Board was made by Peters, seconded by Thurston. 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 Thurston. 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 Bennati, 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 2024 without prior approval of the Town Board was made by Adamkowski, seconded by Thurston. 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 Thurston, seconded by Adamkowski. No discussion. Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to accept Highway rate of pay for 2024: Working Foreman \$27.00/hr; Heavy Equipment Operator (2) \$25.50/hr; Motor Equipment Operator (3) \$24.50/hr; Mechanic (1) \$24.35/hr; Laborer minimum wage to \$18.00/hr; Part time Laborer minimum wage to \$18.00/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 a 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 percent 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 retirees 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 a minimum of 3 percent for entire career.** Five days sick leave cumulative to sixty (60) was made by Peters, seconded by Adamkowski. No discussion. Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to accept the following appointments:

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| 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 | Garrett Burke |

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| Clerk to Town Justice | Shelly Reinold |
| 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 | Dale Talbot |
| Marble Hill Indian Cemetery Custodian | Daniel Phillips |
| Preretirement Seminar Coordinator | Wendy Coston |
| Dog Control Officer | Clayton Conover |
| Filey Road Plowing | Kevin Mumford |
| Town Engineer | Delta Engineering |

Supervisor: Committee Appointments:

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

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

A motion to include these salaries in the Board Minutes:

Salaries not to exceed the following:

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| Supervisor | J.Randall Watson | \$24,000.00 |
| Deputy Supervisor | Eugene Bennati | \$4,200.00 |
| Budget Director | J.Randall Watson | \$3,000.00 |
| Bkpr to Supv | Wendy Coston | \$37,820.00 |
| Bkpr to Hwy Supt | Wendy Coston | \$9,836.00 |
| Personnel | Wendy Coston | \$2,040.00 |
| Justice | TBD | \$21,660.00 |
| Councilperson | Gene Bennati | \$9,000.00 |
| Councilperson | Stephen Adamkowski | \$9,000.00 |
| Councilperson | Myron Thurston | \$9,000.00 |
| Councilperson | John Peters | \$9,000.00 |
| Town Clerk | Jennifer Champney | \$28,434.00 |
| Tax Collector | Jennifer Champney | \$9,567.00 |
| Rgstr of Vt Stats | Jennifer Champney | \$4,950.00 |
| Rcds Mgmt Officer | Jennifer Champney | \$1,665.00 |
| Deputy Town Clerk | Julie McElroy | \$20.50/hr |
| Assessor, Chrnm | Duane Munger | \$22,000.00 |
| Assessor | Frank Laguzza | \$21,300.00 |
| Assessor | Timothy Wagner | \$21,300.00 |
| Assessors' Clerk | Jennifer Tyczinski | \$17.00/hr |
| Supt of Hwys | Timothy Murphy | \$71,200.00 |
| 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 | \$31.00/hr |
| Building Inspector | Reay Walker | \$25.50/hr |

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|--------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Codes Clerk | Heather Mair | \$18.00/hr |
| Clerk to Justice | Shelly Reinold | \$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 \$18.00/hr

Election Workers – to be paid by Oneida County Board of Elections

Potash Hill Cem. Custodian Dale Talbot \$750/yr

Marble Hill Indian Cem Cust Daniel Phillips \$750/yr

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

A motion to audit Town books on February 12, 2024 at 6:30p.m. was made by Thurston, seconded by Adamkowski. No discussion. Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to approve 2024 Prospect Street Water District Agreement was made by Thurston, seconded by Adamkowski. No discussion. Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to approve VVS School District request for use of the Town Office Building for Facility Project Vote on Thursday, March 7th; 12pm – 9pm was made by Peters. Seconded by Bennati. No discussion. Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to approve VVS School District request for use of the Town Office Building for the Budget Vote on Tuesday, May 7th; 12pm – 9pm was made by Thurston, seconded by Bennati. No discussion. Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to approve Clerk to Town Justice position from \$17 per hour 21.85 per hour not to exceed 20 hours per week was made by Peters, seconded by Thurston. Adamkowski asked when this would go into effect. Peters stated “immediately”. Judge Gideon cautioned Peters to make sure the court clerk was paid appropriately. If not the Town of Vernon would be impeding justice by setting low wages. He advised that by talking to Judge Gideon and other Judges in the area is how he came up with the dollar figure. Court Clerk to Justice has not had an increase in 3 years. Surrounding Court Clerks pay ranges from \$20.00hr to \$28.50hr. Peters proposed a pay increase for this position to \$21.85hr. 3 Ayes. 0 Nays. Adamkowski abstained. Motion carried.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

None

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn at 8:08 p.m. was made by Bennati, 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