

January 9, 2017

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, Mick McDonough, Steve Adamkowski and John Peters, Council members. Also present: Art Freemire, Highway Superintendent; County Legislator Keith Schiebel and 3 citizens.

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 December 26, 2016 meeting. There being none, a motion to accept the minutes as written was made by Bennati, seconded by Peters. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

PUBLIC CONCERNS:

County Legislator Schiebel reported that the Sales Tax Committee opposed the sales tax re-distribution proposal from the County Executive and the next meeting will be held in mid-February. Also, the Vernon Center Water District Committee had a meeting and are now seeking grants.

Abe Acee made a request to be able to rent space on Route 31 for a business sign, which is not allowed according to the Town's Code Book. After a brief discussion, Supervisor Watson responded that he will look into the process to change this.

REPORTS:

The following reports were presented: Town Clerk, Codes Enforcement, Supervisor's, Education and Libraries: Bennati said that he contacted both libraries to submit articles for the Town newsletter. Operations: McDonough mentioned that the highway department is doing a good job on the roads.

There were no reports from the Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, Assessors, Intergovernmental Relations, Economic Development, SWOCO, Highway Superintendent 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 Adamkowski, seconded by Peters. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

BUSINESS:

A motion was made by Bennati, seconded by Adamkowski to authorize Supervisor to pay all utilities, bank indebtedness and invest funds wisely without prior approval of the Board. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to appoint Oneida Daily Dispatch as the official newspaper for the Town of Vernon was made by Adamkowski, seconded by Bennati. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to designate Community Bank to be used as depository for all Town funds was made by Bennati, seconded by Adamkowski. No discussion. Ayes 5. 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 McDonough. No discussion. Ayes 5. 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 2017 without prior approval of the Town Board was made by Bennati, seconded by Peters. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Bennati, seconded by McDonough to set the salary for members of the Planning Board and members of the Zoning Board of Appeals at \$60 per meeting attended with Board Chairman of each board to receive \$175 per meeting chaired; members' pay not to exceed \$900 each annually and Chairman of each not to exceed \$2,400 annually, secretary of the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals to receive \$60 per meeting; pay for members of the Board of Assessment Review will be set at \$125 per day with Chairman receiving \$175. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Bennati, seconded by Adamkowski to accept the following Highway rates of pay for 2017: Working Foreman, \$22.75/hr; Heavy Equipment Operator (2), \$22.40/hr; Motor Equipment Operator (3), \$22.10/hr; Mechanic (1) \$22.10/hr; Laborer, minimum wage to \$16.20/hr; Part time laborer, minimum wage to \$10.75/hr. One (1) week vacation after completion of one (1) year's work, two (2) week vacation after completion of two (2) years' work, three (3) week vacation after completion of five (5) years' work, four (4) 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, week of July 5 (vacation), Labor Day, Columbus Day, Veterans' Day, Thanksgiving Day plus following Friday and Christmas. Health Insurance: 50% during first six months of work. Town pays other 50% if employee signs during first year of employment. Second six months and thereafter the employee will pay 15% 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% for Tiers 3 and 4. Tier 5 and 6 employees pay 3% for entire career. Five days sick leave (per year) accumulative to sixty (60) days. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Bennati, seconded by McDonough to accept the following appointments:

- Deputy Supervisor - Stephen Adamkowski
- Historian - Janice Buneo
- Deputy Town Clerk - Jennifer Champney
- Deputy Town Clerk - Beverley Mackey
- Bookkeeper to the Supervisor - Wendy Coston
- Bookkeeper to the Highway Superintendent - Wendy Coston
- Deputy Hwy Supt/Working Foreman - Mark Burke
- Court Clerk - Sandy Schell
- Assistant Clerk - Morgan Espada
- Prospect St Water Dist Collector - Vanessa Nelson
- Prospect St Water Dist Biller - Melanie Slawiak
- Prospect St Water Dist Meter Reader and Repairman - George Thurston
- Registrar of Vital Statistics - Julie McElroy
- Deputy Registrar of Vital Statistics - Jennifer Champney
Beverley Mackey
- Records Management Officer - Julie McElroy
- Budget Director - J. Randall Watson
- Chairman, Zoning Board of Appeals - Brian Dam
- Chairman, Planning Board - Michael Sheridan
- Chairman, Board of Assessors - Frank Laguzza
- Assessors' Clerk - Mary Dam
- Attorney for the Town - Vincent Rossi, Jr.
- Codes Enforcement Officers - Jody Thieme
Terry Williamson
- Codes' Clerk - Vanessa Nelson
- Potash Hill Cemetery Custodian - Elizabeth Eastman
- Marble Hill Rd Indian Cemetery Custodian - Melvin Phillips

Pre-retirement Seminar Coordinator - Wendy Coston
Dog Control Officer - Karen Nixon
Filley Road Plowing - Kevin Mumford
Town Engineer - Delta Engineering
Supervisor Committee Appointments:
Education and Libraries - Gene Bennati
Intergovernmental Relations - Steve Adamkowski
Economic Development - John Peters
Operations - Michael McDonough

No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion was made by McDonough, seconded by Peters to approve the salaries budgeted but not to exceed the following:

Supervisor - J. Randall Watson - \$17,340
Deputy Supervisor - Stephen Adamkowski - \$1,302
Budget Director - J. Randall Watson - \$2,580
Bookkeeper to Supr. - Wendy Coston - \$17,820
Bookkeeper to Hwy. Supt. - Wendy Coston - \$3,336
Personnel - Wendy Coston - \$2,040
Justice - William Croll - \$10,830
Justice - Robert Suttmeier - \$10,830
Councilperson - Gene Bennati - \$4,790
Councilperson - Michael McDonough - \$4,790
Councilperson - Steve Adamkowski - \$4,790
Councilperson - John Peters - \$4,790
Town Clerk - Julie McElroy - \$27,876
Tax Collector - Julie McElroy - \$6,144
Registrar of Vital Statistics - Julie McElroy - \$3,084
Records Mgmt Officer - Julie McElroy - \$1,632
Deputy Town Clerk - Jennifer Champney - \$14.25/hr
Deputy Town Clerk - Beverley Mackey - \$11.85/hr
Assessor, Chairman - Frank Laguzza - \$17,680
Assessor - Timothy Wagner - \$16,600
Assessor - Robert Moher - \$16,600
Assessors' Clerk - Mary Dam - \$12.85/hr
Supt. of Highways - Arthur Freemire - \$56,270
Prospect St. Water District Collector - Vanessa Nelson - \$475/per qtr
Prospect St. Water Biller - Melanie Slawiak - \$475/per qtr
Prospect St. Water Meter Reader - George Thurston - \$475/per qtr
Code Enforcement Officers - Jody Thieme - \$22.50/hr
Terry Williamson - \$22.50/hr
Codes' Clerk - Vanessa Nelson - \$14.50/hr
Historian - Janice Buneo - \$1500/yr
Town Engineer - Delta Engineering - \$700/yr
Court Clerk - Sandy Schell - \$15.50/hr
Assistant Clerk - Morgan Espada - \$13.50/hr
Dog Control Officer - Karen Nixon - per schedule
Filley Road Plowing - Kevin Mumford - \$395/yr
General Office Help (part time depending
on experience) – minimum wage to \$14.50/hr
Election Workers - to be paid by Oneida County Board of Elections
Potash Hill Cemetery Custodian - Elizabeth Eastman - \$550/yr
Marble Hill Rd. Indian Cemetery Custodian - Melvin Phillips - \$550/yr

No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to correct last month's appointment of Duane Munger as an Assessor to be effective February 1, 2017 at \$15,000 annually was made by Adamkowski, seconded by Bennati. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to accept Robert Moher's resignation effective January 31, 2017 was made by McDonough, seconded by Adamkowski. There was a brief discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to approve Wendy Coston to attend a Grant Writing Course through Madison-Oneida BOCES was made by Bennati, seconded by McDonough. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to approve Village of Vernon Contract proposal for Court Clerk was made by McDonough, seconded by Bennati. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

The first of the FEMA buyout properties at 3434 Simmons Road is scheduled for closing on January 18, 2017 and demolition is scheduled to be completed by February 15, 2017.

A motion to vote to reimburse the Burkle property, which is in the FEMA buyout, for the school taxes for \$794 was made by McDonough. There was no second. Motion denied.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Bennati mentioned that Deputy Clerk Jen Champney has shown an interest in becoming a Notary Public.

Also, he stated that he really struggled with their decision to continue the lawsuit after the meeting with Judy Bachmann, and since they voted to continue to spend money on this lawsuit, then he would like to see our employees get raises when the budget is done this Fall.

Adamkowski reminded everyone to work on their newsletter articles.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

None

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn at 7:50 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.

Julie A. McElroy
Town Clerk

This meeting was digitally recorded and is on file in the Town Clerk's office.

COMMUNICATIONS:

None