

July 12, 2021

The regular meeting of the Town Board of Vernon was held at 7:00 p.m. on the above date at the Town Office Building. Council members present were Randy Watson, Supervisor; Gene Bennati, Myron Thurston, Steve Adamkowski and John Peters. Also present: County Legislator Keith Schiebel; Tim Murphy, Highway Superintendent and 7 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 June 14, 2021 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:

Doug Lockwood was present and asked for an update on the Vernon Center Water District project. Watson advised him that while we are still moving forward, we are behind schedule by approximately 6 months due to grants that were delayed due to Covid. The Town currently has government funding for \$2.5 million and needs another \$3 million. Peters explained to the VVS Students that were present, that there was salt stored on Churton Rd. out in the open for 46 years by New York State Department of Transportation. The road salt, when it was rained on, leached into the ground and contaminated nearby wells. This is about the 4<sup>th</sup> year the Town has been working with the State trying to get drinking water for these residents. Adamkowski added that we are on the waiting list for grants that are supposed to be released. Thurston added that hopefully the Federal Infrastructure legislation that has stalled out in the Senate right now, will pass and the Town can benefit from those funds. A letter has been received by Congresswoman Tenney advising the Town that she requested funding for this project through the Federal Infrastructure Legislation.

#### REPORTS:

The following reports were presented: Town Clerk, Codes Enforcement, Planning/Zoning Board of Appeals, Supervisor's, SWOCO; Watson explained that this is a local landfill in Augusta that about 10-12 towns are involved in and it has been closed for about 30 years now. 120 acres have been turned back into farmland and a farmer grows crops on it now. Highway Superintendent also submitted a written report, County Legislator Schiebel reported there has been no County meeting since our last meeting in June. There is an upcoming Ways and Means meeting and he supplied the agenda for that meeting. Schiebel noted that the Town and County used to have a mowing and ditching contract and that several years ago the ditching part of the contract was suspended. He asked Highway Superintendent Murphy if he has seen problems with any of the county ditches that haven't been maintained, after the recent waters we have had? Murphy said yes and that he had just called the District Supervisor for this area. Thurston noted that the shoulders on Peterboro Rd are horrific. He also mentioned they fixed a problem on Marble Rd and it is not acceptable. Murphy noted that the road should be profiled and it was not done right. Cooper St was not done well either. Thurston stated there are ditches in this area that have not been dug out in at least 25 years. The County is so far behind that it is going to be difficult for them to catch up. Murphy asked if the county was going to complete the second wave of their road projects and pave Cooper St. Schiebel will find out. Thurston would like the county to do at least some work in Vernon and get it done right. Peters asked that the right shoulder be repaired on County Route 94 (Churton Rd) from Route 5 to Youngs Rd. The shoulder is no longer there and it is damaging the Town plows.

There were no reports from Assessors, Education and Libraries, Intergovernmental Relations, Operations, Economic Development, and Historian.

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

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

**BUSINESS:**

A motion to approve Prospect Street Water District Maintenance Agreement with City of Oneida was made by Thurston, seconded by Peters. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to approve renewal of Codes contracts for the Village of Oneida Castle and Village of Vernon at the rate of \$29.25 per hour was made by Adamkowski, seconded by Thurston. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to approve amending Codes Contracts to match Towns Budget year so the term will be January 1- December 31 was made by Bennati, seconded by Adamkowski. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A letter was received from NYS Division of the Budget awarding the Town of Vernon ARPA Funds in the amount of \$363,132.00; half to be paid summer of 2021 and balance by summer of 2022.

Russ Johnson from Computers with a Heart sent a letter to the Town of Vernon advising of his retirement effective June 2022.

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Sales Tax was received in the amount of \$241,123.34.

Oneida County Water tax re-levy was received in the amount of \$3,3137.00.

Received Oneida County Compact Agreement retro balance from last year in the amount of \$93,750.00.

NYS VLT check was received in the amount of \$231,788.00.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

Thurston asked what the Town was going to do with the old solar panels that had been removed from the roof of the Town Office Building. Watson responded that they were going to the auction.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

None

Supervisor Watson announced that no further business would be conducted.

A motion to adjourn at 7:39p.m. was made by Peters, seconded by Thurston. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

Additions to minutes on file  
in Town Clerk's Office.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Champney  
Town Clerk

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

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

None