

July 13, 2020

A special meeting of the Town Board of Vernon was held 6:45 p.m. on the above date at the Town Office Building for the purpose of a public hearing for the Proposed Local Law Amending the Town of Vernon Zoning Ordinance Regarding Event Permits. Council members present: Randy Watson, Supervisor; Gene Bennati, Myron Thurston, Steve Adamkowski and John Peters. Also present: Tim Murphy, Highway Superintendent; Keith Schiebel, County Legislator and 6 citizens. The changes to this ordinance include changes to the required documents for Issuance of administrative or temporary event permits, Permit fees and procedures for administrative permits and temporary event permits in PDET Districts, and Special Rules for Temporary Events. There were no comments or questions from the community. The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

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, Deputy Highway Superintendent and 6 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 8, 2020 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:

A representative from Burgman Associates was present to express the complications he has had with the codes department in reference to a solar farm on Sholtz Rd. Brian Dam, Chair of Zoning Board was present to share that he had reviewed previous plans submitted and sent back to have addressed. He has not received any further communication in regards to this. Mr. Switala advised that they had previously addressed those concerns and returned them to the codes office. Brian Dam stated that he would check back with the codes office tomorrow to review.

Jason Calcara expressed his concern of having this solar farm near his home. Mr. Calcara reminded the town board of the previous meeting when community members were present to express their disapproval of a solar farm on Sholtz Rd. He also was present to ask the Town Board to support his request to lower the speed limit on Sholtz Rd. There has recently been a couple accidents on this road which he feels could have been prevented if the speed limit was reduced.

Gene Bennati requested that the board ask an expert on solar be present at future meetings to inform all on the pros and cons of solar. This could help educate all involved as there have been concerns in the past about health problems from solar farms.

#### REPORTS:

The following reports were presented: Town Clerk, Codes Enforcement, Supervisor's, SWOCO; current lease has been extended as renter is doing a great job with maintaining the land. Highway Deputy Superintendent also submitted a written report, County Legislator Schiebel reported on the Local Municipals Leaders meeting.

There were no reports from Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, 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:

Mark French from Next Generation Solar, LLC spoke to the board on options currently available to municipalities for solar panels. This discussion involved NYSERDA rebates, lending agency, grants and warranties.

A motion to approve selling the Town's solar panels on Auctions International was made by Bennati, seconded by Adamkowski. There was a brief discussion to sell in small quantities rather than selling all together or each separately. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to approve returning the codes contracts for the Village of Oneida Castle and Village of Vernon to last year's price of \$29.25 per hour due to financial impacts of COVID was made by Thurston, seconded by Peters. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to amend Solar Law to specifically state residential and agriculture solar was exempt was made by Thurston, seconded by Bennati. Thurston asked that it be noted that this does not apply to him as the solar he put on his property was grandfathered in before the Solar Law was put in effect. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to accept changes on Mass Gathering codes revision was made by Bennati, seconded by Peters. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to accept proposal of services amended agreement with Fiscal Advisors was made by Peters, seconded by Bennati. Barton and Loguidice recommended the Town of Vernon seek Bond Council/Advisor for the Vernon Center Water District. Board members do not want a contract signed yet. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

The Town Clerk requested approval to have office hours reduced from Monday thru Thursday 9am-4pm to Monday thru Thursday 9am-2pm and be available by appointment from 2pm -4pm through the end of August as currently there is very little to no patrons utilizing these hours. Thurston mentioned that the Town Clerk position is an elected position and they cannot tell the Clerk what hours to be open. There was concern that the community may be upset with the change. It was agreed that the Board would notify the Town Clerk if there were any concerns from the community expressed to them due to this change. Supervisor Watson did not support shortening the clerk's hours. Adamkowski wanted to know if the change would result in problems with civil service classification for full time employment and eligibility for health insurance.

The Oneida Public Library BAN proceeds officially closed on July 9, 2020 for \$4,351,653.00.

VLT money was received in the amount of \$185,430.40 from the State Comptroller. This is a 20% reduction in payment from last year.

On July 21, 2020 at 8pm there will be a Town Hall Local Municipal Leaders meeting at the Village of Vernon to discuss Oneida County suspension of OIN share monies and discussion on reconfiguring sales tax money.

A motion to support lowering the speed limit on Sholtz Rd. was made by Adamkowski, seconded by Peters. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried

#### GOOD OF THE ORDER:

None

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION:

None

Supervisor Watson announced that no further business would be conducted.

A motion to adjourn at 8:45p.m. was made by Bennati, seconded by Adamkowski. 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