

July 8, 2019

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 and John Peters. Absent: Steve Adamkowski and Mick McDonough, Council members. Also present: County Legislator Keith Schiebel and numerous 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 10, 2019 meeting. There being none, a motion to accept the minutes as written was made by Bennati, seconded by Peters. No discussion. Ayes 3. Nays 0. Motion carried.

PUBLIC CONCERNS:

Woodstock 50 organizers were in attendance and wanted to get feedback from the local community. They advised that they are not the same team as in Rome NY for Woodstock in 1999. Woodstock 50, that they are organizing to potentially be held at Vernon Downs will bring in 65,000 people. They advised that cars and attendees will be screened by K9, law enforcement and local security companies will be present. Medical tents will be on property to handle needs of concertgoers so it will not impact community resources. Bags will be screened, metal detectors will be used. Traffic plans are being worked on and a Letter of Intent has been signed with Oneida Nation for parking. They do not want locals sitting in traffic due to this event.

Kevin Revere; Director of Emergency services and Rob Maciol; Oneida County Sherriff both advised public safety was their main concern before, during and after the event. Planning time is minimal and nearly impossible with only 39 days. The Oneida County Sherriffs are waiting for their concerns to be addressed by Woodstock 50 Officials. Oneida County Sherriffs are not the lead agency for this event. NYS Police will be handling this. There are many other events at the same time that services have already been reserved for such as the Woodmans Field Days, Bouckville Antique Show and the Herkimer Fair. Revere advised there are a limited number of dispatchers and they are committed to doing this right. He indicated that required time frames for State Health applications are not being met. Maciol stated that planning normally starts 1 year in advance. NYS Troop D commander stated plans have been received and that Woodstock 50 organizers will have an opportunity to address their concerns. He helped plan the event in 1999 and is familiar with planning events like this. A lot that was promised back then by Woodstock organizers did not actually happen. Security inside the event disappeared. Many things went right and many went wrong. Vincent Rossi; Attorney for Town of Vernon, stated the Town has provisions which includes the State Health Department. He also stated the County Attorney has questions that need to be taken care of. Paul Taylor from AmCare stated that over the course of 6 days when Woodstock was in Rome NY the calls were up 55% outside the venue alone and many they were unable to get to because of traffic.

Many members of the community were concerned about the following issues; Traffic being backed up and/or at a standstill, not enough time for planning, not enough room for 65,000 people at Vernon Downs, where the concertgoers are going after the gates close each evening, Fire/EMS and Law Enforcement delayed response for community, vandalism, trespassing, and litter throughout the community. Questions asked were why this is being planned so late, why Watkins Glen backed out, what makes the current Woodstock organizers any better than the previous, who is going to be here afterwards to clean up the mess that is left and with area hotels already booked where are these people going to stay. There were no answers for these questions.

A 17 page petition from community members who are against Woodstock 50 being held at Vernon Downs was given to Supervisor Watson.

REPORTS:

The following reports were presented: Town Clerk, Codes Enforcement, Economic Development: Peters reported that he has attended hazard mitigation meetings. By doing so it has helped the Town of Vernon receive funding in the past for culverts and stone that had been destroyed from past floods. Every five years monies are distributed to help with hazard

mitigation. Supervisors report, Legislator Schiebel reported on numerous subjects including completion of Youngs rd. resurfacing; and Historian report was presented.

There were no reports from the Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, Assessors, Education and Libraries, Intergovernmental Relations, Operations, Highway Superintendent, SWOCO.

A motion to accept above reports was made by Bennati, seconded by Peters. No discussion. Ayes 3. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to pay bills was made by Bennati, seconded by Peters. No discussion. Ayes 3. Nays 0. Motion carried.

BUSINESS:

A motion to accept Deputy Supervisor, Steve Adamkowski's letter of resignation as of July 1, 2019 as Deputy was made by Bennati, seconded by Peters. Adamkowski will remain on board as councilperson. No Discussion. Ayes 3. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to accept quote from TDS to upgrade the telephone system to have an auto attendant which won't change the amount of our monthly bill was made by Peters, seconded by Bennati. No Discussion. Ayes 3. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A VLT check was received in the amount of \$231,788.

Final paperwork was received for Roof Grant and Interior Grant to receive check.

There has been progression of the Oneida Public Library bonding process.

Mandatory NYS Labor Department training for Harassment and Violence in the Workplace will be held on July 16th at 6:00pm. Town invited all Town Officials, Oneida Castle Fire Department. Town is only required to document Officials, Employees and OCFD, VCFD for completion of training.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

None

A motion to adjourn at 8:57p.m. was made by Peters, seconded by Bennati. No discussion. Ayes 3. Nays 0. Motion carried.

Supervisor Watson announced that no further business would be conducted.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

None

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