

March 11, 2019

A special meeting of the Town Board of Vernon was held at 6:30 p.m. on the above date at the Town Office Building for the purpose of a public hearing for the Town of Vernon Board to consider the adoption of a local law regulating the application, approval, permitting and siting of residential and commercial solar power systems within the Town of Vernon pursuant to Section 261-263 of the New York State Town Law and Section 20 of the Municipal Home Rule Law.. Council members present: Randy Watson, Supervisor; Gene Bennati, Mick McDonough, John Peters and Steve Adamkowski. Also present: Attorney Evan Rossi and 15 citizens. The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Watson at 6:30 p.m.

On March 11, 2019 the Town of Vernon held a Public Hearing in the Matter of the Town of Vernon Proposed Zoning Ordinance Regulating Solar Power Systems.

John Stone asked why the Board was taking these actions for solar. Watson advised the reasoning behind this was the Town of Vernon does not currently have laws on solar and have had people inquiring about solar projects. Before allowing these projects the Board feels it is necessary to put codes in place. Many of these codes that are being considered are based from NYSERDA recommendations and then adjusted to fit within our town. Rossi advised that these codes are similar to other municipalities.

Rossi suggested that permitting fees should be set for residential and commercial permits. Adamkowski suggested that codes be involved with this. There was a suggestion of \$50 for residential and \$100 for commercial plus engineering fees that were incurred that the applicant would also be responsible for. Stamped NYS Licensed Engineer plans will be required for commercial arrays.

John Martin asked what the health risks of Solar are and if the Board has looking into that. Councilman Peters has gone to a couple seminars on solar power. He learned that solar power has changed and they are not made of heavy metals and there is nothing in them that will pollute the ground. A representative from RER Energy advised that there are no heavy metals in the solar panels or carcinogens like years ago.

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: Assessor Chairman Frank Laguzza, County Legislator Keith Schiebel, 9 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.

There will be a Public Hearing on April 8, 2019 to continue solar discussion.

Supervisor Watson asked the council members if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes from the February 11, 2019 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:

Douglas Kraeger asked the Town to consider investigating, issuing and memorializing resolution for area ministers to join together and publicly unite encouraging everyone to seek all essential acts of true living faith. He would like the Board Members to promote this.

John Stone questioned the Board on how things were between the City of Sherrill and the Town of Vernon. The Board advised that they have come to a settlement that is good for 5 years with Sherrill and they feel things are going well.

The Town Historian Janice Buneo asked if the Vernon Historical Society can use the pavilion on May 28th for a meeting and was told yes. The Historical Society is looking for \$500 to purchase items.

REPORTS:

The following reports were presented: Town Clerk, Codes Enforcement, Supervisor's, Historian, and Intergovernmental Relations: Adamkowski advised that the newsletter has been approved for printing and should be mailed as scheduled.

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

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

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

BUSINESS:

A motion was made to donate \$500 to the Vernon Historical Society was made by Peters, seconded by Bennati. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

Town Board Members and Oneida Castle Board attended a joint public hearing and approved annexation of 2 properties for the Oneida Castle Sewer District.

A motion was made by Bennati, seconded by Adamkowski to approve expenses for Annexation with Oneida Castle up to \$4000.00. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to approve a request from the Assessors Department that the Town of Vernon Board exercise Local Option to remove the 10 year limit on Cold War Veterans Property Tax Exemption was made by Peters, seconded by Bennati. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

Mike Janowski from the highway department is retiring April 1st and going to be a seasonal employee; Robert Frost is replacing Janowski's position of full time Heavy Equipment Operator. Bennati stated that he heard a rumor that Art Freemire requested Janowski to retire. Bennati asked Janowski directly if this rumor was true and was advised that this was absolutely not true.

The Town Newsletter is ready to be finalized

The 4th Quarter Sales Tax check was received in the amount of \$222,162.80 which is up \$1,197.11 from last year.

The Town has received the Oneida County Snow Contract check in the amount of \$78,430.00.

The Town has received the 4th quarter Franchise Fee check from Charter Communication in the amount of \$9,876.30.

Frank Laguzza submitted a letter to the board advising of the Uniform Percentage of Value applicable to the assessing unit as 66.2%.

County Legislator Keith Schiebel briefly discussed his report for March 2019 Municipal meetings. He also advised the board to move forward with communications to Congressman Brindisi, Assemblyman Salka & NYS Senator Griffo in regards to the Vernon Center Water Project.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion to enter into Executive Session at 7:55p.m. was made by Bennati, seconded by Peters. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

Supervisor Watson announced that no further business would be conducted.

Council returned from Executive Session at 8:40p.m. A motion to adjourn at 8:45p.m. was made by McDonough, seconded by Bennati. No discussion. Ayes 5. 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