

March 13, 2023

A special meeting of the Town Board of Vernon was held at 6:45 p.m. on the above date at the Town Office Building for the purpose of a public hearing to consider enactment of a local law to provide a property tax exemption for Volunteer Firefighters and Volunteer Ambulance Workers pursuant to the recently passed Section 466-a of the Real Property Tax Law. Council members present: Randy Watson, Supervisor; Gene Bennati, John Peters and Myron Thurston. Adamkowski was absent. Also present: 9 community members. The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Watson at 6:45 p.m. Peters questioned the definition of an active member. His concern is fairness as a member that responds to most calls verses a member that only responds to a couple calls a year. Vernon Center Fire Chief stated that basing the eligibility by call volume alone is not fair as some volunteers are working during the time of the calls and that the business meetings and fire drills should be accounted for. With multiple fire departments being within the Town of Vernon the call volume is different for each department. The fire departments are hoping that this will encourage more people to volunteer. Town Board members decided that volunteers need to be active for 2 years before being eligible for the exemption. Each fire department committee will establish bylaws that state what is required to be an active member. Each year the Fire Departments will be required to report an eligibility list to the town by January 1st. The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

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, Steve Adamkowski, John Peters and Myron Thurston, Council members. Also present: Dan Faldzinski and Jeremy, Delta Engineers; Arthur Wood, Vernon Downs and 8 residents.

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 February 13, 2023 meeting. There being none, a motion to accept the minutes as written was made by Thurston, seconded by Bennati. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

PUBLIC CONCERNS:

Dan Faldzinski from Delta engineering wanted to touch base on the Vernon Center Water District progress. They are currently working on securing of temporary construction and permanent easements for the water line progress. Preliminary Engineering plans have been submitted to Oneida County DPW and NYSDOT. Geotechnical drilling has been rescheduled for March of 2023. There has been a delay to this part of the process as the appropriate permits have not been issued. Once this drilling has been completed the results will need to go to the Department of Health for approval and anticipating approval for Fall of 2023. Advertisement to bid project is anticipated by Winter of 2023. Commencement of work is anticipated by Spring of 2024 and is contingent upon receipt of grant funding.

REPORTS:

The following reports were presented: Town Clerk, Codes Enforcement, Supervisors, Intergovernmental Relations: newsletter has been submitted and should have the rough draft by the end of the week, SWOCO: The landfill has been closed for 30 years and they are winding down on the inspection process.

There were no reports from: Zoning/Planning Board, Education and Libraries, Operations, Assessors, Highway Superintendent, Oneida County Legislator and Economic Development.

A motion to accept above reports was made by Bennati, seconded by Thurston. 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 to approve Volunteer Fire/Volunteer Ambulance 10% Exemption was made by Peters, seconded by Adamkowski. Ayes 4. Nays 0. Thurston abstained. Motion carried.

A motion to change zoning from Commercial to Commercial Manufacturing at 5661 Route 5, Vernon, NY was made by Peters, seconded by Thurston. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to schedule a Public Hearing April 10, 2023 at 6:45p.m. to Renew Spectrum Franchise Agreement for 15 years was made by Peters, seconded by Adamkowski. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to approve Assessor Chairman request to allow increase to tax exemption eligibility for low-income seniors and persons with disabilities per NYS Property Tax Exemption RPTL-459-c was made by Thurston, seconded by Peters. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to approve Assessor Chairman request to allow increase to tax exemption eligibility for low-income seniors and persons with disabilities per NYS Property Tax Exemption RPTL-467 was made by Peters, seconded by Bennati. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to approve Inter-municipal agreement with Jefferson-Lewis-Herkimer-Oneida BOCES for drug testing was made by Thurston, seconded by Peters. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to approve estimate from Kevin Mumford to replace outside lighting on office building and remove solar electrical boxes of \$2,210.00 was made by Bennati, seconded by Thurston. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to approve request by Codes Department for fee schedule changes was made by Peters, seconded by Adamkowski. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

Town Supervisor sent letter to County Executive Anthony Picente thanking him for the Oneida Compact Agreement and requesting meeting to discuss future agreement.

Notice of liquor license application for 6591 Route 5 at Utica-Rome racetrack was filed with the Town Clerk.

Received 4th Quarter Sales tax in the amount of \$316,074.07, an increase of \$29,673.42.

Received Oneida County Snow Contract 1st installment of \$83,457.00, an increase of \$5,027.00.

Received 4th Quarter Cable Franchise Fee of \$9,630.85.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

None

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn at 7:33 p.m. was made by Bennati, seconded by Peters. 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:

Update Fee Schedule
NYS Property Tax Exemption RPTL-459-c
NYS Property Tax Exemption RPTL-467