

May 12, 2025

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, Myron Thurston, Council members; Keith Scheibel, County Legislator; Cindy as a representative from Assemblyman Brian Millers office. Also present: 42 community members.

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 of the April 14, 2025, meeting. There being none, a motion to accept the minutes as written was made by Thurston, seconded by Adamkowski. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

#### BUSINESS:

Chris from Delta Engineer spoke on the Vernon Center Water District Project. The project has been put out to bid. Currently 19 companies have requested the plans. The bids are due by May 30, 2025. Bid packets include 6.2 miles of 8-inch water main directionally drilled, 39 hydrants, water tank, and booster pump. There are 3 contracts to this bid which include the booster pump, water tank and the water distribution system. This is a buy America project. Meaning that the materials are produced in the United States.

#### PUBLIC CONCERNS:

Residents had the following concerns about the Cannabis Facility that is being installed in the area of Arquint Rd., Peterboro Rd. and Hogan Rd.

- Health hazards
- Close to elementary school
- Smell
- No notice being given to homeowners prior to project
- Exposure to wildlife and livestock
- Waste management
- Silos
- Effects on wells and water in the area
- Irrigation
- Use of black plastic/mulch

Fred Polsinelli responded to the concerns on behalf of Nonna Farms

- Medical cannabis company
- Proposal/plan/agreement to have a highly secure outdoor cultivation operation
- Smell occurs during the harvest season for approximately 3 weeks in the immediate area of the farm
- There will be 24-hour surveillance security
- No pesticides will be used
- The entire site is 52 acres. 40 acres of plants
- Office of Cannabis Management regulates
- Fully bonded
- 4 wells have been drilled

Town Attorney, Vincent Rossi advised of the state requirements for this operation

- Site plans provided to the State of New York
- Operation Plan
- Sanitation requirements
- Tier and canopy requirements for fences
- Product must be tagged and traced when it leaves the facility
- Security requirements

- New York State classifies cannabis as an agriculture crop

## REPORTS:

The following reports were presented: Town Clerk, Codes Enforcement, Intergovernmental Relations: Adamkowski advised that five memorial trees will be planted tomorrow morning. Supervisor, SWOCO: old lawn mower did not sell at the auction. They will be sending it back with a lower minimum bid. Highway Superintendent stated that eight roads in the Town of Vernon will be paved before memorial day. County Legislator Schiebel spoke about the need for housing in CNY, Chobani building in Rome, NY, and even year elections.

There were no reports from: Assessors, Zoning/Planning Board, Education and Libraries, Operations, and Economic Development.

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

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

## BUSINESS:

A motion to hold a Public Hearing on June 9, 2025, at 6:45pm to reduce the number of Zoning/Planning Board members to 5 was made by Peters, seconded by Bennati. Ayes 5. Nays 0. No discussion. Motion carried.

A motion to transfer \$500.00 from DB5110.4 General Repairs Contractual to DB5111.4 Resurfacing was made by Peters, seconded by Bennati. Ayes 5. Nays 0. No discussion. Motion carried.

A motion to approve agreement to Spend Highway Funds in the amount of \$377,350.26 was made by Thurston, seconded by Peters. Ayes 5. Nays 0. No discussion. Motion carried.

A motion to approve Highway to spend up to \$8000 for 2 tampers was made by Bennati, seconded by Peters. Ayes 5. Nays 0. No discussion. Motion carried.

A motion to approve spending up to \$5000.00 on landscaping and benches in the Town Park was made by Bennati, seconded by Peters. Ayes 5. Nays 0. No discussion. Motion carried.

A motion to approve Vernon Verona Sherrill Seniors request of funding in the amount of \$2,100 for a senior trip was made by Thurston, seconded by Peters. Ayes 5. Nays 0. No discussion. Motion carried.

A motion to approve VVS Pop Warner request for \$1,800 for concussion safety guardian hats for all players was made by Peters, seconded by Thurston. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to approve Vernon Public Library request for funding in the amount of \$3,000 for a summer reading program was made by Peters, seconded by Adamkowski. Ayes 5. Nays 0. No discussion. Motion carried.

A motion to approve Maple Grove Cemetery Association to use the board room on Wednesday, June 11, 2025, from 5:30pm – 6:30pm for their annual meeting was made by Adamkowski, seconded by Peters. Ayes 5. Nays 0. No discussion. Motion carried.

Assessor's software program with Systems Development Group (SDG) has been sold to Schneider Geospatial. Schneider Geospatial has an increase in costs of \$60 per year and is converting all clients to a fiscal year. Duane Munger assessor Chairman signed new agreement.

\$85,986.00 was received from Oneida County for the Snow Plowing Contract.

\$3,604.00 was received from Oneida County for Prospect Street Water District tax re-levies.

NYMIR Mandatory training will be held on Tuesday, May 20, 2025, 9:00am for all employees.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

None

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn at 8:41 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:

None