

May 15, 2019

The Special 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; Steve Adamkowski, Mick McDonough, Gene Bennati and John Peters. Also present: 7 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.

PUBLIC CONCERNS:

Janice Buneo spoke on behalf of the Vernon National Historical Society. The Historical Society is asking the Town Board of The Town of Vernon to designate \$50,000 per year for the next five years for a total of \$250,000, for the express purpose of erecting a town facility at its Peterboro Road facility to permanently house the Vernon Historical Society and its artifacts. A brief video was shown to the Board members of artifact the Historical Society has in storage that would be used in the new building.

BUSINESS:

There was discussion on the Oneida County Agreement before the Board voted. McDonough stated that even though the money is available now it may not be available at any point in the next five years of the contract and then the Town of Vernon would not receive the funds noted for that year of the contract. McDonough also stated that if we take the money this year and the Oneida Nation puts more land into trust the Town would lose more tax base. And because we took the money we would have no legal recourse. He stated if this was a five year agreement and we were to get five years of the money, it probably would sway his vote. Bennati stated the Town of Vernon has previously spent \$380,000.00 in the past on lawsuits, including going to Supreme Court, and he doesn't feel anyone would win a lawsuit against Oneida Nation and doesn't see why the Board would want to spend any further funds on lawsuits. McDonough's concern was that if any other Town started a lawsuit and named the Town of Vernon in it, it puts Vernon in breach of the settlement with this contract. Watson spoke and stated that the agreement doesn't say we can't sue, just that we would have to give the monies back with interest if we did. Watson's view is that if something is going to change our whole town that is worth fighting for, then we give them the money back and proceed. Peters believes this contract shows that Oneida County is showing with this contract along with the plowing contract and mowing contracts, that they are trying to make amends with the Town of Vernon as those contracts were previously taken away from Vernon. Schiebel explained from his perspective that the contract states that the money will be paid as long as funds are available and he sees no reason why that money would not be available. Adamkowski questioned whether Oneida County would be accepting to Vernon banking the monies received because if this was audited and we had to present vouchers on what the money is being spent on, they would want to see it spent on infrastructure and things getting done in the town. Schiebel advised that there has been discussion on this and believes they would be open if there was a projected use for the monies.

There was a roll call vote on Accepting the Oneida County Agreement. Bennati Aye. McDonough Nay. Watson Aye. Adamkowski Nay. Peters Aye. Motion carried.

A motion to accept estimate of \$400 for 2019 landscaping at the Town Office Building by Steven Drake, was made by McDonough, seconded by Peters. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to accept the Highway Superintendent request to approve quote to furnish/install 133' bridge rail on existing posts, with double drop ends in the amount of \$21,688.00/LS, was made by Bennati seconded by McDonough. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to accept Codes Department request to purchase a new copier in the amount of \$4,795.00, was made by Adamkowski, seconded by McDonough. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to approve a resolution to hold a public hearing to pass a local law at the June 10, 2019 board meeting changing the position of Highway Superintendent to appointed is subject to mandatory referendum at the next biennial election, was made by Bennati, seconded by McDonough. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Bennati suggested that the Historical Society look into grants and donations to help fund their project. The Town has done this in the past with great success for the memorial out front and the pavilion out back.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion to adjourn at 8:04p.m. was made by Peters, seconded by McDonough. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

Supervisor Watson announced that no further business would be conducted.

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: