

November 7, 2022

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 to consider the advisability of entering into contracts for providing fire protection services with the following fire companies with respect to the following fire protection districts:

- Oneida Castle Fire Department
 - District #1 \$28,813.00
 - District #2 \$47,403.00
- Sherrill-Kenwood Volunteer Fire Company \$42,863.00
- Volunteer Fire Company of Vernon \$93,482.00
- Vernon Center Volunteer Fire Company \$93,841.00

Council members present: Randy Watson, Supervisor; Gene Bennati, Myron Thurston, Steve Adamkowski and John Peters. Also present: 3 community members. The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Watson at 6:30 p.m.

Vernon Fire Chief, Scott Nell asked the board members for the breakdown of funds. He was advised that there was approximately a 3% increase to the base amount. Each department will be receiving money up front then reimbursement of funds up to a specific dollar amount for fire insurance and grants. These amounts are as follows:

- Vernon \$88,130 up front; \$3,125 fire ins; \$2,227 grant applications
- Vernon Center \$88,489 up front; \$3,125 fire ins; \$2,227 grant applications
- Oneida Castle \$72,480 up front; \$2,250 fire ins; \$1,486 grant applications
- Sherrill \$37,303 up front; \$4,750 fire ins; \$810 grant applications

Nell stated that the Vernon Fire Department received a FEMA grant this year to purchase portable radios as the county is upgrading the radio system. They used the increase of their 2% funds to purchase a used UTV side by side and have put tracks on it for situations like grass fires where they could get out into the woods. They will be using donations to add lights, a water tank and a basket on it. With the snowmobile and ATV trails increasing in the area this could be useful if there were a situation where a patient needs to be brought from a trail to a location of an ambulance. This could also be accessible neighboring fire departments. Nell advised that membership is up. They have 6 new members this year. In addition to the new members, they have 2 that are paramedics and 8 EMT's.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

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 Preliminary Budget Hearing. Council members present: Randy Watson, Supervisor; Gene Bennati, Myron Thurston, Steve Adamkowski and John Peters. Also present: 9 community members. The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Watson at 6:45 p.m.

The proposed salaries of the following Town offices are hereby specified as follows:

	Supervisor	\$23,000.00
	Deputy Supervisor	\$4,200.00
4	Council Person(each)	\$8,200.00
	Town Clerk/Tax Collector	\$43,116.00
1	Justice	\$21,660.00
	Assessor-Certified Chairman	\$21,000.00
1	Assessor-Certified	\$20,300.00
1	Assessor-Certified	\$20,300.00
	Highway Superintendent	\$70,000.00

Town resident, Nate Richter asked the board when the budgets will start to be added to the town's website. Supervisor's secretary advised that the current site will not hold files as large as the budget without it bogging the website down and causing issues. Bennati advised that they are always available to the public by stopping in the Town Clerks Office.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

The regular 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: Randy Watson, Supervisor; Gene Bennati, Myron Thurston, Steve Adamkowski and John Peters. Also present: Tim Murphy, Highway Superintendent; Keith Schiebel, County Legislator and 9 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 October 3, 2022 meeting. There being none, a motion to approve the minutes as written was made by Thurston, seconded by Peters. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

PUBLIC CONCERNS:

Town resident, Jeremy Griffith attended the meeting to discuss the Amish living and traveling on Arquint Road. He is requesting that the town board adopt laws pertaining to the following concerns.

1. Rearend collection devices on horse and buggies
2. Rubber wheels and horseshoes to prevent causing roads to deteriorate
3. Lighting on buggies after dark
4. Registering of buggies
5. Better secured fencing for livestock

The town board members agreed that these are valid concerns. However, this has been previously addressed and there is nothing the board can do. Peters explained that the Oneida County Sherriff's and NYS Police won't enforce laws unless they are created by Oneida County. Thurston added that the Elders in the Amish community have the say. He has seen other communities that do have rubber wheels and rearend collection devices. Schiebel stated that he has been to meetings and it was addressed that the Amish believe if an accident happens it is Gods will.

Suzanne O'Neal has submitted a petition on behalf of Indiantown Road residents. They are asking for the boards support as they request Spectrum to provide internet services to their homes. The majority of homes on that road have Spectrum services while there are a few that do not.

REPORTS:

The following reports were presented: Town Clerk, Codes Enforcement, SWOCO; insurance is increasing and will be \$2000 more a year by going annually. They are no longer able to do a 2-year policy. Supervisor's, Highway Superintendent: reported that he has acquired plow blades that follow the contour of the road; County Legislator: Schiebel submitted a written report highlighting the plowing contracts for the next 2 years, pay raises for poll workers, car charging stations, "Share the Road" farm safety initiative and gaming revenues.

There were no reports from Planning Board/Zoning Board of Appeals, Assessors, Education and Libraries, Intergovernmental Relations, Operations and Economic Development.

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

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

BUSINESS:

A motion to approve the 2023 Fire Contracts was made by Bennati, seconded Peters. No Discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to approve the 2023 Budget was made by Adamkowski, seconded by Peters. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to approve VVS School District request to use Vernon Town Hall as polling location for VVS School District Facilities Project Vote on Tuesday, December 13, 2022 from 12:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. was made by Thurston, seconded by Peters. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

VVS School Superintendent of Finance, Mark Wixson gave a presentation on their upcoming Facilities Project. About a year ago VVS organized a facilities review committee. This has resulted in a facilities project. This project will be phase 1 of 2. The project will include updating learning spaces, welcoming spaces, infrastructure and community spaces. This proposal includes creating spaces that will develop the skills needed for jobs in the future. The proposed estimated project cost is \$41,850,000. State building aid at 89.6% = \$37,497,600. The district fund balance allocation is \$1,000,000. Wendy Coston asked if there would be updates to the high school including the bathrooms as 4 out of the 5 do not have working water faucets for hand washing, the rotting ceiling tiles and the rats in garbage cans that are catching water that is leaking from the ceiling. Coston asked if the arts department and auditorium would be upgraded. Mr. Wixson advised that the auditorium is part of the proposal. John Peters was shocked to see the conditions of the school in the pictures that were shown to them. He asked why they had not been repaired or taken care of and allowed to become in the condition they are currently in.

Town of Vernon will hold Veterans Memorial Service on 11/11/22 at 11:00 am.

A motion to accept resignation letter submitted by court clerk, Sandy Schell as of 11/23/22 was made by Peters, seconded by Bennati. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to re-appoint Brian Schorer to Board of Assessment Review was made by Peters, seconded by Thurston. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to approve request made by City of Oneida to establish City of Oneida as lead agency on SEQRA titled “Zoning” to include short term rental provisions was made by Peters, seconded by Bennati. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to approve request made by City of Oneida to establish City of Oneida as lead agency on SEQRA titled “Zoning” and 143, titled “Site Plan Review”, of the City of Oneida Code to include Wind Energy Regulations was made by Peters, seconded by Thurston. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to approve request from Indiantown Road Residents to support Petition to Spectrum for internet service was made by Bennati, seconded by Thurston. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to approve quote for \$5,400 from Sahl’s Glass to install a glass wall dividing the main hallway to separate court for when court gets metal detector was made by Peters, seconded by Thurston. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

Received check from NYMIR Insurance for repairs to damaged highway truck. Payment was forwarded to Tracey Road Equipment.

Received 2nd quarter Oneida Indian Nation revenue sharing check from Oneida County in the amount of \$31,250.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Bennati noted that due to the new gun laws in NYS, the gun salute is no longer allowed for the Veteran's Day Ceremony.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion to enter into executive session at 8:22 p.m. was made by Adamkowski, seconded by Thurston. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried

A motion to adjourn at 9:25 p.m. was made by Peters, seconded by Thurston. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

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