

October 17, 2016

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 were Randy Watson, Supervisor; Gene Bennati, Mick McDonough, Steve Adamkowski and John Peters. Also present: Art Freemire, Highway Superintendent; Jody Thieme, Codes Officer and 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.

Supervisor Watson asked the council members if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes from the September 12, 2016 meeting. There being none, a motion to approve the minutes as written was made by Bennati, seconded by Adamkowski. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

PUBLIC CONCERNS:

Matt Howard, Karen Linton and Stuart Murphy asked the Board to assist them with issues they've had with James Mills, their neighbor, who continues to have garbage and debris all over that blows into their yards, who doesn't mow his lawn, and who keeps his dog chained to a tree for hours. They have tried to talk to him to no avail and they have put in a written complaint to the Codes Office. Codes Officer Jody Thieme said that they sent him an Order to Remedy and after 30 days they sent him another one and if nothing happens after that 30 days, then he will receive an appearance ticket. Bennati said that we are doing everything that we can do, legally. McDonough suggested calling the police to cite him for littering. Peters suggested documenting everything and taking pictures so they have proof of what they are saying. Adamkowski said that they should also call our Dog Control Officer to see what she can do about the dog. Thieme also suggested that they call Adult Protective Services to help with the situation.

Scott and Cindy Faulkner expressed their appreciation to the Board and Highway Superintendent Freemire for helping with her request to ask the County that the road they live on be named Gifford Road and not Wells-Gifford Road, from Potash to Skinner, and get it straightened out with the 911 Call Center.

Douglas Kraeger asked if the Board had any comments on his proposed resolution and will they bring it up for public discussion. He is asking the Board to issue a memorializing resolution to ask ministers of all faiths to answer 2 questions so that the people in their churches know their answers. The questions are: 1) Do you believe God is infinitely good and powerful enough to convert everyone to the one faith he wants everyone to have by peaceful means, and therefore, do you reject terrorism done in the name of God, and 2) Will you do all you can to help all people to believe all the truths that God wants everyone to believe. If this discussion is done publically, all ministers would eventually say yes to both questions and if God wants everyone to come to a certain faith by peaceful means, this will cooperate with God. Bennati responded by saying that we have had a similar discussion in the past and this will not stop terrorism. Also, what do you do about atheists? Kraeger believes that these people haven't been given the right questions to seek God's answers. Bennati also asked how he expects people to get answers from God. Kraeger replied that God will answer them in his time and will give them what they need, not what they want. There were no other comments.

REPORTS:

The following reports were presented: Town Clerk, Planning Board, Codes Enforcement, Supervisor's, Education and Libraries: Bennati reported that, unfortunately, there is no increase in the budget for the Sherrill Library. The Vernon Library, which is making a great comeback, is getting some help from us. Intergovernmental Relations: Adamkowski reported that he and Bennati had a meeting with some of City of Sherrill officials, but some issues should be discussed in executive session. SWOCO: Supervisor Watson reported that Wendy researched our insurance and it will be less expensive to pay for our policy every 2 years, instead of every year.

There were no reports from Zoning Board of Appeals, Assessors, Economic Development, Operations, Highway Superintendent, County Legislator and Historian.

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

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

BUSINESS:

Sarah Marshall CPA explained the results and recommendations of her report that was requested by the Board regarding the agreed upon procedures to determine whether internal controls are operating to safeguard Town assets for the period of January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2015, which is often done when there is a change in management. Overall, she found that out of many others that she has done, this municipality is what they call “a really clean job”.

Codes Officer Jody Thieme suggested that the Board increase permit fees and inspection fees as he compared ours to other towns. There was a brief discussion and Adamkowski offered to meet with the Codes Officers and come to the Board with a proposal at the next meeting.

A motion to hold a public hearing regarding Code Book changes on November 3, 2016 at 6:15 p.m. was made by Bennati, seconded by Adamkowski. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to hold a public hearing for 2017 Fire contracts on November 3, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. was made by McDonough, seconded by Adamkowski. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to hold a public hearing for the 2017 Budget on November 3, 2016 at 6:45 p.m. was made by Bennati, seconded by Adamkowski. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to pay 2016 cemetery contracts was made by Bennati, seconded by Peters. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to transfer \$3379.50 from A1990.4 Contingency to A1355.4 Assessors Contractual for FEMA property was made by McDonough, seconded by Adamkowski. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to approve the Snow Plowing Agreement with Oneida County for 2 years for \$6000/mile for a total of \$151,800/year was made by McDonough, seconded by Adamkowski. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to approve Highway Superintendent Freemire’s request to order new 2017 truck using county bid before the price increases was made by Bennati, seconded by Peters. There was a brief discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to approve the 2017 Prospect St. Water District Maintenance Agreement was made by Adamkowski, seconded by McDonough. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to approve the V.V.S. School District’s request to use the Town Office Building for the Capital Improvement vote on December 1, 2016 was made by Bennati, seconded by Adamkowski. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

FEMA reimbursement was received for attorney fees in the amount of \$5225.

A motion to approve the Town Court’s application for a JCAP grant for label makers was made by Adamkowski, seconded by Peters. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

State AIM (Aid and Incentives for Municipalities) was received in the amount of \$32,319.

CHIPS funding was received for \$86,138.58 and Pave NY funding was received for \$19,661.99.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

McDonough mentioned that it is a pleasure working with the Board members.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion to enter into Executive Session at 8:34 p.m. to discuss potential litigation was made by Adamkowski, 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 8:45 p.m. A motion to adjourn at 8:46 p.m. was made by Adamkowski, seconded by McDonough. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Additions to minutes on file
in Town Clerk's Office.

Julie A. McElroy
Town Clerk

This meeting was digitally recorded and is on file in the Town Clerk's office.

COMMUNICATIONS:

None