

October 5, 2020

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, Steve Adamkowski, John Peters and Myron Thurston. Also present: 1 citizen.

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 14, 2020 meetings. There being none, a motion to accept the minutes as written was made by Thurston, seconded by Peters. Board members complimented Town Clerk on minutes. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

#### PUBLIC CONCERNS:

None

#### REPORTS:

The following reports were presented: Town Clerk, Planning Board, Codes Enforcement, Supervisor's, Highway Superintendent and SWOCO; Watson stated that they have a tentative budget and are receiving quotes to re-side the building.

There were no reports from Zoning Board of Appeals, Assessors, Education and Libraries, Intergovernmental Relations, Economic Development, Operations, County Legislator or Historian.

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

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

#### BUSINESS:

A motion to schedule Fire Contract Public Hearing for November 2, 2020 at 6:30pm was made by Bennati, seconded by Thurston. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to schedule the 2021 Budget Public Hearing for November 2, 2020 at 6:45pm was made by Adamkowski, seconded by Bennati. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0.

A motion to approve Cemetery annual contracts for Twitchell- \$650 and Indian Town \$750.00 was made by Thurston, seconded by Peters. Thurston asked how Twitchell Cemetery was looking. Peters stated that it is looking very good. Town Highway workers have been there and took down a couple trees. Peters added that he cleaned up the back hedge row and the cemetery looks very nice.

A motion to update the General Code books and e-codes with Local Laws 1 & 2 of 2020, estimated cost of \$2,270.00 was made by Bennati, seconded by Thurston. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0.

A motion to transfer \$20,000 from DB5110.1 General Repairs Personal Svc to DB5142.4 Snow Removal Contractual was made by Bennati, seconded by Adamkowski. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Bennati asked what exactly that was saying. Watson advised that it was just moving money from Highway funds that were budgeted to another for sand.

The 1<sup>st</sup> installment of the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter sales tax revenue was received in the amount of \$64,337.45. Watson advised that this is down 16% from this time last year. Bennati asked if the County was taking money from the Town. Watson advised that we are receiving the same percentage. However, the sales tax collection is lower. Thurston added that he had seen on the news that Onondaga County is \$10million ahead in sales tax then they were a year ago. He feels the same thing is going to happen in Oneida County. As businesses started opening back up, people started shopping again. Vernon Downs is doing pretty good. He is watching their Facebook page and people are spending money playing and winning. Our VLT money may not be as good as it was last year but it is positive to see them paying out money in winnings. Watson stated that the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter sales tax was up 10% from last year. This money received is not from a month ago, it is from 3 months ago. They think things are coming back up as long as there isn't another shutdown.

Supervisor Watson and the Town Board would like to commend the entire Highway Department for their outstanding commitment and service. Watson stated that when he drives down the road everything is cleaned up. It's been a good year, added Watson. Peters added that every night he has a flood of people that stop over to his garage and are very happy with the job the Highway Dept. is doing. Bennati and Thurston added that he is doing a great job.

#### GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Thurston is thankful that our town is financially sound and has not had to make cuts to the Fire Departments, care for the roads, or employees. It has been attributed to many years of being careful with finances and this is when it pays off, when you have hard times.

Murphy wanted to add that they have made a payment on the new truck. He needs to contact them to find how the finance company will process this payment, either being a down payment or the first lease payment. The new Western Star was supposed to be delivered in December however, due to COVID it will not get to us as expected. Murphy said this is about \$19,000 cheaper than a Mack. Bennati asked if this was a better truck and Peters replied that this is an upscale truck compared to Mack.

Adamkowski stated he was glad to see they fixed the transition from old to newly paved area on Houck Road that was not leveled correctly and had left a bump when it was paved. He was a little disappointed when he went over it after hiring it out. Murphy said they did not have to pay any extra money to have them come back and fix the road.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION:

None

A motion to adjourn at 7:18p.m. was made by Bennati, seconded by Adamkoski. 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:

None