

September 13, 2021

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 11 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 August 9, 2021 meeting. There being none, a motion to approve the minutes as written was made by Peters, seconded by Bennati. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

PUBLIC CONCERNS:

Resident, John Nortz, spoke on behalf of residents on Carrick Rd. A packet was given to the Board members, which included a petition to the Town of Vernon to retake ownership of Carrick Rd. for road improvements including; blacktop paving to secure safe passage for the taxpaying residents and landowners of Carrick Rd. Mr. Nortz followed up on the minutes from the May 10, 2021 Board meeting asking if the Board was able to find any grants that could help fund this. Watson stated that he had looked but hasn't found any yet for the residents to apply for. It's not Town property so the Town cannot apply for Grants for them. However, there is another \$3.5 trillion package that is going to be voted on in Washington that may have infrastructure grants available for these residents. Thurston recalled that this road was abandoned in 1928. He advised that this situation has to be treated the same as they would for any developer that were to come into the Town of Vernon and wanted to put in a new housing development with a road. He referred to Mr. Wentworth's development off from Sholtz Rd. He was required to build the road to Town's specs before the Town would accept it as a road. Right now, the Town has no responsibility for Carrick Rd. Thurston stated that when each home was built on that road, homeowners had to sign something with the ZBA stating they were aware this roadway was not owned by the Town and would be privately maintained. This brings us to the situation we are in now, and it is not a cheap project to build a road. It is unknown how much of the \$3.5 trillion will filter back to us as funds that could possibly be used for this road and this is probably the most opportune time in the last 30 years to find some funds. Bennati wanted to clarify that the Board Members want to help them. Mike Kazlauskas stated that they feel the Town Board would have more pull if it were the Town applying for the grant/grants. Bennati advised Kazlauskas that the Town has to pay grant writers to apply for grants. It is something that a professional need to do. Boards members all agreed that they believed the best option would be for residents to each send letters to government officials asking for assistance and the Town would send letters of support to those same officials. Watson stated that it would not be right for all taxpayers in the Town to pay for Carrick Rd to be brought up to spec.

REPORTS:

The following reports were presented: Town Clerk, Supervisor's, Planning Board/Zoning Board of Appeals and Codes Enforcement, Education and Libraries; Bennati stated that he was told a couple of people with power in Sherrill said that Libraries were not necessary anymore. He is not able to say if the statement is true or not but it is bazar if they did say it. SWOCO; Watson reported they are discussing ways to possibly earn revenue at the site in the future, Highway Superintendent, County Legislator; Schiebel submitted a written report and spoke on topics covering flood mitigation grants, reallocation of the Veterans Service Officer position, Public Safety Answering Points Operations Grant, Child's safety seats grant through the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee, Worker's Compensation budget passed, 3-year contract with Center for Family Life, Inc. and amendment to local law regarding temporary use permits issuance for county-owned land. Schiebel also gave updates on Nexus, Downtown Hospital parking garage and Oneida Indian Nation funds. Peters asked for an update on Route 5 down to the Creek on Route 31. He replied that he has been working with Highway Supervisor Murphy on the ditching on Peterboro Rd. but had not gotten an answer on Route 5 yet. Peters said that blacktop paving is in wide open mode. Murphy stated that it was on the list to get done from Route 5 to Route 365 and now it is no longer on the states list to be done. Peters stated that

it needs to be done. He also spoke about County Route 294 (Churton Road). There are two dips on the right-hand side that are getting bad and going to ruin our plows. Murphy stated that we are on their list/radar. Schiebel had spoke with Murphy and it was explained to him that right now the County is back logged on paving projects that are on the books. Commissioner of DPW advised him they were anticipating to be done with those projects in the next 3-weeks or so. He advised Murphy to speak to the engineer when they come up to work on Peterboro Rd. and have them come take a look at Churton Rd.

There were no reports from Assessors, Intergovernmental Relations, Operations, Economic Development, and Historian.

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 Adamkowski, seconded by Bennati. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

BUSINESS:

Dan Faldzinski from Delta Engineers and Jamie Sweet were present requesting a zoning change on Wood Rd. Jamie Sweet owns 57 acres that is currently zoned agricultural and would like it changed to Planned Development District. Bennati asked what exactly Hartman Enterprises does. Sweet advised that Hartman Enterprises is a CNC machine shop. Her grandfather was an aerospace engineer and in the 70's he purchased Hinman Milking Machine Company. It was more of a manual company and in the 80's when agriculture was kind of dying down in the area her father realized they needed to start getting CNC machines. At that time, they started making parts for transportation including trains, power generation and Ferris. In 2014 they received HUB Zone Designation (Historically Underutilized Business Zone). They are on government contracts and these contracts have set aside a certain amount for minorities and disadvantaged areas. Any land that is Indian Nation land is always going to have a HUB zone. In 2016 they received a Women owned and Aerospace designation. They now manufacture parts for Aerospace and Defense and are looking to expand. They initially plan to utilize approximately 6-7 acres. Bennati asked if the building they were putting up would allow for current work and allow for expansion. Sweet stated, yes.

A motion to approve scheduling a Public Hearing on October 4, 2021 at 6:30pm for a zoning change on Wood Rd was made by Thurston, seconded Bennati. No Discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to approve scheduling a Public Hearing for discussion of Dispensaries on October 4, 2021 at 6:45pm was made by Bennati, seconded by Adamkowski. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to approve transferring \$3000 from A1990.4 Contingency to A1220.4 Supervisor Contractual for Accounting Software upgrade was made by Thurston, seconded by Peters. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to approve Inter-Municipal Shared Services and Equipment Agreement between Oneida County and Highway Department was made by Peters, seconded by Adamkowski. No discussion. Ayes 4. Nays 0. Thurston Absent.

A motion to approve quote from JM Doors to upgrade office building entrance doors to ADA compliant in the amount of \$10,135 was made by Peters, seconded by Thurston. Peters and Adamkowski wanted to be sure the Court door was also ADA compliant. Town Clerk Champney stated this was completed previously by a grant issued to the Court. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to transfer \$10,135 from A1990.4 Contingency to A1620.4 Buildings Contractual was made by Bennati, seconded by Peters. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to reappoint Donald Ackerman to the BAR was made by Thurston, seconded by Peters. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

White Goods Day to be held on Saturday, October 9th for 9:00am – 1:00pm.

Town of Vernon Budget Workshop will be held on Wednesday, October 6th at 6:30pm. Bennati requested all Board Members to bring in the explanation booklet provided to them that explains every line on the Budget so they do not have to take the time that night explaining each line.

Second quarter sales tax check was received in the amount of \$301,826.10.

First half of ARPA funds was received in the amount of \$741.29. This portion is from Towns/Villages that did not apply for ARPA funds.

Third quarter Charter Communications Franchise fee was received in the amount of \$9,704.51.

Daylight Friendship Club donated \$50 to Veterans Memorial.

Maple Grove Cemetery donated \$25 to Veterans Memorial.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Thurston mentioned the shoulders of Peterboro Rd were washing out. Murphy has spoken with Mark Laramie at Oneida County DPW and they are coming at the end of the month.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

None

A motion to adjourn at 8:20 p.m. was made by Adamkowski, seconded by Peters. 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