

April 14, 2025

The regular meeting of the Town Board of Vernon was held at the Town Office Building on the above date with the following persons present: Randy Watson, Supervisor; Gene Bennati, Steve Adamkowski, John Peters, Myron Thurston, Council members; Keith Scheibel, County Legislator. Also present: 6 community members.

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 March 10, 2025, meeting. There being none, a motion to accept the minutes as written was made by Thurston, seconded by Bennati. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

PUBLIC CONCERNS:

A resident inquired about what was going on in the location of Hogan Road. Art Wood from Vernon Downs was also present and advised that the company owns a parcel of approximately 48 acres in that area between Hogan Road and Arquint Road, and they were starting a Cannabis Farm. The resident was concerned about what they will see and smell from the farm as they are not in favor of it. It is an agricultural property, and the NY Government classifies cannabis as agricultural product. They have obtained the required state licenses.

Kaylee Sierson spoke on behalf of the Vernon Library. She thanked the Town for publishing an article for the Library in the Town Newsletter. Some donations were made to the library from the public after reading the article. The library has a rough balance of \$25,000. There continues to be an average of 100-200 attendees a month. They have not been able to secure additional funding. They have been approached by a few teachers from Verona as they are interested in starting a summer reading program. The library is looking to raise and have gifted \$3000 to fund the reading program this year. Sierson asked if the Town could contribute to help them reach their goal to make this happen.

James Morrissey asked for an update on the Vernon Center Water District. John Peters advised him to come to the meeting next month as a representative from Delta Engineers will be present to give a full summary. They were unable to attend tonight's meeting. The Health Department is fully satisfied. They are still working with USDA Rural Development finalizing things.

REPORTS:

The following reports were presented: Town Clerk, Codes Enforcement, Zoning/Planning Board, Intergovernmental Relations: Adamkowski advised that memorial trees will be dug this week, and he will work with the Highway Department to organize a time to plant the trees along the walking path. Supervisor, SWOCO: new mower has arrived, inspections are once every 3 years, County Legislator Schiebel will be inquiring about the potholes on Peterboro Street. He also submitted a report and highlighted MVCC boys basketball win of NJCAA Division III championship title, Oneida County successfully challenging the legality of the Governor's executive order that prohibited local governments and counties from hiring former employees of the state Department of Corrections and Community Supervision resulting in a temporary restraining order.

There were no reports from: Assessors, Education and Libraries, Operations, Highway Superintendent and Economic Development.

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

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

BUSINESS:

A motion to approve Lateral Restriction Resolution was made by Peters, seconded by Thurston. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Town Attorney Vincent Rossi explained that this resolution exempts agricultural district within the Vernon Center Water District from subdividing land and hooking up to the water line in the future. The purpose of having a property in the Agriculture District is to preserve the land as farmland. If a farmer would like to have their property removed from an Ag District they can apply to do so in the future. Motion carried.

A motion to approve Final Notice of Intent to Undertake an Action Within Agricultural District was made by Peters, seconded by Bennati. Ayes 5. Nays 0. No discussion. Motion carried.

A motion to approve General Code supplement estimate of \$1,816.00 up to \$2,021.00 to bring code book and ecode 360 up to date was made by Bennati, seconded by Adamkowski. Ayes 5. Nays 0. No discussion. Motion carried.

A motion to approve Red Cross to hold a Blood Drive on Wednesday, July 30th at Town Office Building from 11:30am – 6:00pm was made by Thurston, seconded by Peters. Ayes 5. Nays 0. No discussion. Motion carried.

A motion to approve transfer of \$350.00 from A1990.4 Contingency to A1220.2 Supervisor Equipment for a new computer and monitor for Bookkeeper was made by Bennati, seconded by Peters. Ayes 5. Nays 0. No discussion. Motion carried.

A motion to approve Codes Office request to add a fee of \$25.00 for operating permits to the Vernon fee schedule was made by Thurston, seconded by Peters. Ayes 5. Nays 0. No discussion. Motion carried.

Board members discussed funding availability under A7310.4 Youth Programs. The money in Youth Programs has already been allocated and other groups are asking about funding.

A motion to approve Thurston to bring the idea of a Pickleball Court to Engineer to have a sketch and feasibility plans drawn up for the possibility of having 2 courts behind the Town Office Building not to exceed the amount of \$5000.00 was made by Peters, seconded by Bennati. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to approve transfer of \$5,000.00 from A7410.4 Library to A7310.4 Youth Programs was made by Adamkowski, seconded by Peters. Ayes 5. Nays 0. No discussion. Motion carried.

Supervisor signed temporary license from NYSDOT Use and Occupancy Permit #21927; 4071 Churton Road, Town of Vernon, Oneida County.

\$85,986.00 was received from Oneida County for the Snow Plowing Contract.

\$112,500.00 was received from Oneida County for the 3rd and 4th quarter Oneida Indian Nation agreement.

\$1,680.00 was received from JCAP Grant from State of NY.

Board members discussed the request from Oneida County Freedom Trail Commission to support the designation of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad New York Scenic Byway. Board members do not wish to sign such a resolution as this would not allow future off-premise outdoor advertising signs along the byway.

Quote of \$950 for Handrails and ramp on gazebo was approved by Bennati, seconded by Thurston. Ayes 5. Nays 0. No discussion. Motion carried.

A motion to approve allocating up to \$3000.00 for Legion Baseball was made by Bennati, seconded by Thurston. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

Vernon Center Fire Department submitted a written report along with a list of active members.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

TextMyGov is active. Residents can sign up to receive town text message notifications by going on www.townofvernon.com or text Vernon to 91896.

Bennati recognized how nicely done the Town Newsletter was that went out to residents.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Board members entered Executive session to discuss Vernon Center Water and Personnel at 8:15 p.m.

Board members returned from Executive Session at 8:35 p.m.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn at 8:36 p.m. was made by Peters, seconded by Bennati. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Jennifer Champney
Town Clerk

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

COMMUNICATIONS:

None