

August 14, 2023

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 public hearing to consider enactment of a local law to permit and regulate All-Terrain Vehicle operations on certain public roadways of the Town of Vernon, pursuant to the authority granted in Section 2405 of the Vehicle and Traffic Law of the State of New York. The purpose of this Local Law is to open portions of Wood Road in the Town, to ATV use in order for the ATVs to gain access and/or trails adjacent thereto which would otherwise be impossible to access without the use of such town highway, and to provide lawful operators of All-Terrain Vehicles suitable locations for their use. This Local Law is meant to discourage unsafe operation and unlawful trespass upon public lands managed by the NYS Department of Conservation and upon private lands. Council members present: Randy Watson, Supervisor; Gene Bennati, Steve Adamkowski, John Peters and Myron Thurston. Also present: Town Attorney Vince Rossi, and 22 community members. The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Watson at 6:45 p.m. Rossi explained the reason for the local law and advised board members that if the law was going to pass, they would have to do a SEQR Resolution of a Negative Declaration. Three residents from Wood Road asked where the ATVs would be using the roadway. Rossi provided them with a map of where the trail would enter and exit the roadway. Residents were concerned about the noise and safety of traveling on the roadway. It was asked when the trails would be open for use. Trails are open from the first Saturday in May and close the first Sunday September from 6am – 12am with a speed of 25mph. The ATV club president explained that this is a private club open to local residents and by permit only. The club does not tolerate misuse of trails and will issue tickets (ex. Altered exhaust) and revoke use if necessary. This also encourages police presence on the roadway. The ATV club offered to put up trail cameras if a problem were to arise. Wood Road resident said this opens a Pandora box and is not comfortable as people don't follow rules. Thurston advised that the ATVs are not as much of a noise issue as Harley motorcycles and large trucks. There are not many people on these trails. The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

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 and Myron Thurston, Council members. Also present: County Legislator, Keith Schiebel and 21 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 July 10, 2023 meeting. There being none, a motion to accept the minutes as written was made by Thurston, seconded by Peters. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

PUBLIC CONCERNS:

Discussion from the public hearing continued and was previously noted in these minutes.

REPORTS:

The following reports were presented: Town Clerk, Codes Enforcement, Intergovernmental Relations: Adamkowski mentioned that the plaques have all been placed by the memorial trees, Supervisors, Legislator; Schiebel submitted a written report highlighting the after-action COVID review was rejected, broadband issues, shared services between Public Works and municipalities and thermal imaging drones for Sheriff's Office.

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

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

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

BUSINESS:

A motion to approve SEQR resolution of Negative Declaration declaring the proposed Local Law Permitting and Regulating All-Terrain Vehicle Operations on Wood Road will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment was made by Peters, seconded by Bennati. Ayes 3. Nays 2. Motion carried.

A motion to approve Local Law Permitting and Regulating All-Terrain Vehicle Operations on Wood Road was made by Bennati, seconded by Peters. No discussion. Ayes 3. Nays 2. Motion carried.

A motion to approve Village of Vernon contract to deliver water to Vernon Center Water District at the rate of \$3.30 was made by Thurston, seconded by Peters. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to approve Gates Cole premium for 2023-2024 of \$38,068.83 was made by Bennati, seconded by Adamkowski. This premium increased 4.32% by \$1,576.27 from 2022-2023 term. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to approve General Code supplement proposal of \$600.00 was made by Bennati, seconded by Peters. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to approve United Healthcare/Foxwood Insurance Agency request to use Town Courtroom/Meeting Room on Friday, October 20th from 10:00am – 12:00pm for a formal presentation on 2024 plans available to the public was made by Thurston, seconded by Peters. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to approve Northland Communications renewal agreement to upgrade phones, increase internet speed with lower rate of \$80 per month along with removing an additional fee of \$61.80 was made by Thurston, seconded by Peters. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

Charter Communications Franchise fee with the Town of Vernon renewal has been approved.

A motion to approve spending and not to exceed \$11,000 to seal and reline the Town parking lot based off from Dan's Lawncare quote was made by Peters, seconded by Bennati. Peters will contact a few other local companies for quotes. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to approve transfer of \$200 from Supervisor A1990.4 Contingency to A1220.2 Equipment to cover additional cost of new computer and monitor was made by Peters, seconded by Adamkowski. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Supervisor Watson advised that he received notice that the Town has obtained the land on Churton Road for the Water District. He was not sure on the exact acreage of the land as that was not in the notice.

Bennati wanted to explain to the residents of Wood Road that he does understand how things can change around property as when he built his house in Sherrill there were no other houses around him. Now his home is surrounded by other homes.

Thurston asked the residents of Wood Road to come back to them in the future with a report of positive or negative feedback regarding the ATV use on the road.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

None

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn at 8:07 p.m. was made by Peters, seconded by Thurston. 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