

December 9, 2024

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, John Peters, Myron Thurston, and Steve Adamkowski. Also present: Tim Murphy, Highway Superintendent; Keith Schiebel, County Legislator; Kevin Sayles, Sherrill City Commissioner and 8 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 November 4, 2024 meeting. There being none, a motion to approve the minutes as written was made by Bennati, seconded by Adamkowski. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

#### PUBLIC CONCERNS:

Doug and Rose Lockwood asked for an update on the Vernon Center Water District project. Supervisor Watson advised that the town has just been awarded another \$2.1 million grant. The engineers are working with the Department of Health finalizing details, and the project should be put out to bid by Feb/March 2025. Jim Morrissey suggested that the town work with Delta Engineers to have the project advertised ahead of time on "NYS Contract Reporter" as this would likely bring in additional bids. This would also allow contractors a heads-up that the project is expected to be underway for them to keep an eye out for the project to be placed up for bid. Morrissey also questioned how much the cost will be per household. He was advised that the amount has changed over time. Especially recently as the town was awarded the additional grant. The current price per property owner is approximately \$400-\$500 per year plus water usage costs. Morrissey asked if that price had been communicated to the property owners. There was a discussion as to how the price has changed over the years that the town has been working on the project. The cost per household cannot exceed \$976 per year. Morrissey asked that the Town communicate the ranges to property owners. He also reminded the board members that NYS is responsible for the contamination of the water and that they should be held responsible for it. Lockwood advised that one of the ways to prove the liability of the state is that they have been testing his water every year as the state supplies water for their house due to the water quality.

Kaylee Sierson spoke on behalf of the Vernon Library. Over the last quarter they have had 690 patrons. The last update on the bank accounts there was approximately \$30,000. They have had some private donors and have applied for a couple grants. Sierson asked the board for some funding. In the towns 2024 budget there was \$1,500 set aside and the library is asking the town if they would consider approving to give the library that funding at the next board meeting on December 23<sup>rd</sup>. They are looking to purchase some NYS park passes through Mid York and movie licensing which come to a total of \$1510.56.

Nate Richter asked if the Town has set aside money in the 2025 Budget for the CAC. Watson said there was no significant funding set aside for them, however there is money in youth programs that has not yet been decided how it will be disbursed.

#### REPORTS:

The following reports were presented: Town Clerk, Codes Enforcement, Intergovernmental Relations; Adamkowski said he has received pictures of the CAC to show the updates done with the \$15,000 that the Town of Vernon gave to the City of Sherrill. He will share them through email with the board members. The gazebo has been installed out back in the park. Next year benches will be added along with some planting being done. The Highway Department did a nice job on the base for the gazebo. Supervisor, Highway; Murphy reported that they are in good shape, County Legislator Schiebel gave a written report and briefly spoke on the Housing Community Forum he is holding on December 11<sup>th</sup> from 6-8pm at The Spot in Vernon. All are welcome and encouraged to come.

There were no reports from Planning Board/Zoning Board of Appeals, Assessors, Education and Libraries, Economic Development, Operations and SWOCO.

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 Thurston. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

**BUSINESS:**

A motion to transfer A1990.4 Contingency to A8160.4 Refuse & Garbage Contractual was made by Adamkowski, seconded by Bennati. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to approve the calendar for 2025 Town Board Meeting dates was made by Bennati, seconded by Thurston. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

Board members discussed disbursement of 2025 Budget line for Youth Programs A7310.4, specifically for baseball/softball leagues. Watson reminded board members that they are looking to update/repair the bathrooms and concession stands. There are approximately 300 kids in the league. Kaylee Sierson added that they have locked in some grant money. Adamkowski would like to get some plans and quotes from them before deciding on how much will be given to them.

\$394,180.59 was received for 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter sales tax.

A letter was submitted to USDA Rural Development requesting extension for Vernon Center Water loan/grant.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

Kaylee Sierson mentioned that she was thankful to the Code Enforcement Officers for shutting down the building that Dollar General is located in due to the lack of heat in the building. Watson added that they tried to give them a reasonable amount of time to fix the heating issues before closing the building.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

A motion to enter executive session to discuss contracts at 7:47pm was made by Thurston, seconded by Bennati. Ayes 5. Nays 0 Motion carried.

Board members returned from executive session at 9:04pm.

A motion to adjourn at 9:05 p.m. was made by Adamkowski, seconded by Bennati. 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