

June 10, 2024

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 repealing all or some portion of Local Law No. 3 of 2023 which authorized the use of ATV's on portions of Wood Road. Council members present: Randy Watson, Supervisor; Gene Bennati, Steve Adamkowski, John Peters and Myron Thurston. Also present: 48 community members. The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Watson at 6:45 p.m.. Watson advised the public that the board members would like to hear from anyone who lives on Wood Road first. Justin Eaton spoke up and stated that he lives at the trail head. He feels the ATV club members have gone above and beyond what the snowmobile members have done. He had even seen a member brushing stone off the road. He has heard members out after Utica Rome Races probably heading home. He has not heard loud exhaust noise from the ATV's. Eric Vermeulen said the members have been friendly, they wave as they go by, driving below the speed limit. The stone that was put on the trails by the club seems to have taken care of the mud issue. He also noted that with Utica Rome Speedway being so close that it really isn't a quiet neighborhood. Councilman Thurston stated that he took a ride down Wood Rd. just before the meeting and there was not an issue of mud in the roadway even after all the rain we have had. The club had a terrible start on opening weekend. They put in many hours of hard work, and it took a group effort to repair the trails and fix the issues. Councilman Bennati invited anyone to speak even if they had had concerns about the ATV Club using the road. There were no concerns from the public. Bob Splendario said that he had an ATV when his children were growing up and his wife recently bought him one to use. He has enjoyed the trails and feels that it is a good way for families to make memories like he did with his children. The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 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: several residents.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, there was a moment of silence. The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Watson at 7:05 p.m.

Supervisor Watson asked the council members if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes from the May 13, 2024, meeting. There being none, a motion to accept the minutes as written was made by Thurston, seconded by Adamkowski. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

PUBLIC CONCERNS:

VVS Chamber of Commerce advised that they had a great turn out for the first farmers market that they organized in Vernon Center. The group asked what the Town Board needed from them to get approval for the proposed Holiday Light Walk and Fall Festival. Supervisor Watson advised that they need a proposal in writing with a sketch along with what they will require from the town for electrical service etc.

Nate Richter asked if the Town of Vernon had what they needed to be able to distribute the agreed money to the City of Sherrill for the CAC. Watson advised that they need receipts to be able to reimburse the expenses. Richter said that the City of Sherrill advised him that they needed an agreement with the Town of Vernon and that the way the Town of Vernon wanted to issue the money was illegal. Watson advised that the way it is done is not illegal.

Councilman Benatti advised that Legion Baseball has a game schedule out and that he encourages others to attend the games.

A resident asked for an update on the Vernon Center Water District. Councilman Peters advised that it is currently in the hands of the Department of Health. It generally takes them about 4 to 6 months to review and we are currently about 2 months into that time frame. The Town of Vernon has completed all the necessary paperwork and is waiting for responses back so

any necessary changes can be approved and finalized so the project can be put out for bid. Peters advised that due to the project proposing directional boring under the frost line, this can be done during the winter and the project should not be held up for that reason.

REPORTS:

The following reports were presented, Town Clerk, Codes Enforcement, Supervisor and Highway; Superintendent Murphy advised that the 2024 paving has been completed, the first round of mowing has been done and 9 trees have been taken down.

There were no reports from Assessors, Zoning/Planning Board, Education and Libraries, Intergovernmental Relations, Economic Development, Operations, SWOCO and Oneida County Legislator.

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

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

BUSINESS:

Supervisor Watson advised that there was no reason for further discussion on the All Terrain Vehicles Local Law and the SEQR Negative Declaration that was passed in August 2023 permitting the use of Wood Road as there were no concerns from the public during the public hearing.

A motion to approve Agreement to Spend Highway Funds of \$526,500.00 was made by Thurston, seconded by Peters. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to approve Oneida County Municipal Appropriation Agreement \$225,000 for 2024 was made by Bennati, seconded by Peters. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to spend up to \$2,500 on purchasing poles and flags for Vernon Center Park was made by Thurston, seconded by Peters. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

SWOCO sent invitation to the annual picnic at the Hatalla Road for all board members, July 11th at 6:00pm. RSVP number of board members attending.

Received Franchise Fee of \$9,598.69 for second quarter.

Received from Oneida County 1st quarter sales tax \$326,710.72 increase of \$39,046.63 from last year.

Highway Department brought old tractor and miscellaneous equipment to Empire Livestock Auctions and received \$23,414.65. Also, brought 2015 pickup to auction and received additional \$12,550.00.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

None

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn at 7:28 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

DRAFT