

March 11, 2024

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; Keith Scheibel, County Legislator. Also present: 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 February 12, 2024 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:

Rose Lockwood asked for an update on the Vernon Center Water District. Councilman Peters mentioned that he had just received documents from Delta Engineers that day and that he would be reviewing them. Currently the Town of Vernon is going to install a new fence and 40ft. driveway culvert with a 30ft gate on Churton Rd. on the 2 acres of land that the water tower will be located on. The Department of Health has reviewed the plans for the pump station, water tower and water lines and came back with some revisions that need to be made. After the changes are made and the DOH approves, the plans will need to be approved by USDA Rural Development. There are stipulations that the Town of Vernon will need to go through to be able to use much of the funding that was given to the Town for this project through various sources throughout the state. Jim Morrissey inquired about an easement that one of the property owners was not willing to sign previously. Supervisor Watson advised that the easement has been resolved. Morrissey asked if there were any issues with endangered species such as the Indiana bat or the monarch butterflies. Peters said that had been reviewed and is not an issue. Morrissey was concerned about the cost of the project and recommended that the town inquire about soliciting more than one bid. He also wanted the board members to be sure it is in the bids that the water tower be expandable. Morrissey has offered to help the board members in anyway he can.

Chad Leonardo and Brian Bennati are looking to start Legion Baseball back up and are looking for financial support. It has been 5 years since a legion baseball team played in the area. The team is open to players ages 13-16 in the VVS District. They recently held a pancake breakfast and are planning a chicken barbecue in the late spring to raise money. The estimated cost to get the team started is \$5,693.00. Board members asked if Sherrill or Verona had been approached yet for their financial support. Leonardo said they have not approached the other entities yet. Board members will discuss available finances in Executive Session later in the meeting.

Tyler Tormy introduced himself as the new Fire Chief for the Sherrill-Kenwood Fire Department. Kevin Sayles introduced himself as a new city commissioner for the City of Sherrill. Board members thanked them for coming and look forward to working with them in the future. The next meeting for the City of Sherrill is on March 25th at 7pm and the Vernon Board members would like to attend.

AES Solar is looking to begin the process and submit an application for a 3-megawatt solar array in Vernon. Residents on the privately owned Carrick Road have been in contact with the company and are working with AES Solar in regard to utilizing Carrick Road and building it to town specs so the Town can take the road back as a town road. The other option for the company would be to put in a roadway from Route 5 then build a bridge over the Sconooda creek.

REPORTS:

The following reports were presented: Town Clerk, Codes Enforcement, Supervisor, Highway Superintendent; Murphy attended meeting in Albany with state representatives in hopes to push for the CHIPS money. He felt it was a positive meeting and that they will reinstate money for the program. Education and Libraries; Bennati thanked the Vernon Library board members for all they are doing. Intergovernmental Relations: Adamkowski stated that he is about a week behind on getting the newsletter to the printer. He also mentioned that he attended an Association of Towns meeting. The next meeting is in May with one of the speakers being an Attorney for the Association of Towns. County Legislator Schiebel submitted a report and highlighted the county challenging the state's new even-year election, support for veterans, and county appointments/reappointments.

There were no reports from: Zoning/Planning Board, Operations, Assessors, SWOCO, and Economic Development.

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

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

BUSINESS:

Board members discussed that the previous agreement with the Village of Vernon for the location of the Vernon Center Water District Pump Station that was approved last month by the Town is being revised by the Village of Vernon.

A motion to approve Vernon Verona Seniors request for funding in the amount of \$1700 for a bus trip was made by Thurston, seconded by Peters. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Supervisor Watson noted that the group is looking to go on 3 trips this year and he would like the town to help them out with one of them. The average cost of the trips is around \$1600-\$1700. Motion carried.

A motion to approve Bookkeeper request to attend Association of Town Finance School in Geneva May 6th – 8th was made by Peters, seconded by Thurston. Ayes 5. Nays 0. No discussion. Motion carried.

A Liquor license renewal application was received for Moteloc, LLC 5591 NY Route 5.

Annual Local Government Conference by Tug Hill Commission will be held on May 2, 7:30am-4:15pm at Turning Stone. Need number of attendees.

The 4th quarter sales tax was received in the amount of \$369,365.07. This is an increase of \$53,291.00.

Charter Communications franchise fee was received in the amount of \$9,808.97.

A motion to approve Supervisor Watson to write a letter to National Grid requesting replacing lights in the Vernon Center Lighting District with LED lights was made by Peters, seconded by Adamkowski. Peters stated that out of the 7 lights in that district, 4 of them are out. It is currently costing the Town around \$4000 a year to supply these lights. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion to enter executive session to discuss Legion Baseball funding at 8:10p.m. was made by Thurston, seconded by Adamkowski. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

Board members returned from Executive Session at 8:27p.m.

A motion was made to approve funding for youth programs in the following amounts was made by Peters, seconded by Thurston. No discussion. 5 Ayes. 0 Nays.

- Legion Baseball-\$4,000.00
- City of Sherrill Community Action Center (CAC)- \$15,000.00
 - The City of Sherrill will need to submit invoices for expenses of the CAC, to the Town of Vernon, to pay directly to the vendor.
- Oneida Castle Park \$2,000.00
- Village of Vernon Park \$2000.00

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn at 8:30 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