

May 13, 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, Myron Thurston, Council members; Keith Scheibel, County Legislator. Also present: 13 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 April 8, 2024, meeting. There being none, a motion to accept the minutes as written was made by Bennati, seconded by Peters. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

PUBLIC CONCERNS:

Residents asked for an update on the Vernon Center Water District. Board members advised that the Town has completed all necessary documents for the project and are awaiting response and feedback from agencies to continue to move forward with the project. With the grants that have been approved for the Town of Vernon, there are criteria that each agency requires the town to meet for the funding. The process is slow but still moving forward.

Lisa Jensen spoke with concerns of the ATV club using Wood Rd to connect the trails. On the opening day of the trails there was a significant amount of mud brought onto the roads which could potentially cause an accident. Jensen wanted to know who was funding the money that was used for the Town Highway Department to clean the road. Highway Superintendent, Murphy acknowledged that it needed to be done and that he had taken care of it. Supervisor Watson stated that they would not be doing it on a regular basis. Jensen wanted to know who was monitoring the trails. Club president Cubby LaGoy thanked the Highway Superintendent for cleaning up the road and stated that the trails going to Wood Rd. were closed by the club as soon as he was made aware of the situation. His priority is safety of all. Due to the amount of rain that we have had lately, all the trails have been closed until further notice. The club has brought in 19 ten-wheeler loads of stone to be used on the trail between Wood Road and Utica Rome Speedway. The ATV club monitors the trails and sets up roadblocks checking to be sure that everyone on the trails is an active member.

Justin Eaton spoke on behalf of VVS Chamber of Commerce. The Commerce is organizing a Farmers Market in Vernon Center that will be held every Tuesday beginning June 4th from 4pm-7pm. They are asking the Town to sponsor some of the Entertainment that they are scheduling for those evenings. The Commerce is also organizing a Fall Festival on October 19th and would like to set up a holiday light walk for the month of December along the walking trail behind the Town of Vernon Offices.

Mary LaClair requested that the unofficial minutes for the town's board meetings be available to the public before the following months board meeting.

Mary LaClair also expressed her concern of the voters that can vote in elections when they do not own property within the town. She does not feel that non-taxpayers should have the rights in elections and that they should be exclusive to taxpayer rights. LaClair is concerned with the upcoming Vernon Library vote on June 4, 2024, being conducted by the VVS School District. Board members stated that the school district was only using the town building and the Town of Vernon has nothing to do with the vote itself.

REPORTS:

The following reports were presented: Town Clerk, Codes Enforcement, Supervisor, Education and Libraries; Bennati advised that Kathy Brewer has been hired as the new Librarian for the Sherrill Library, Intergovernmental Relations; Adamkowski noted that they just planted several memorial trees along the walking path behind the town office building and that the trail is filling in nicely. They are looking to expand and add some more benches and a gazebo in the coming years, SWOCO: Watson mentioned that they are looking to set up solar, Highway Superintendent: Murphy noted that they are going to begin paving several roads in the town this week, County Legislator Schiebel submitted a written report and highlighted OIN money, video conferencing for those with disabilities, and plowing contracts.

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

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

BUSINESS:

A motion to schedule a public hearing on June 10, 2024 at 6:45pm to reconsider All Terrain Vehicles Local Law and the SEQR Negative Declaration that was passed in August 2023 permitting use of Wood Road was made by Adamkowski, seconded by Bennati. Ayes 5. Nays 0. No Discussion. Motion carried.

Received 2nd payment of \$84,721.50 from Oneida County for snowplowing.

A motion to approve Oneida County 2024-2025 Mowing Contract renewal; 2024 season at \$435 per mile for 22.03 miles, total of \$9,583.05 and 2025 season at \$445 per mile for 22.03 miles, total of \$9,803.35 was made by Thurston, seconded by Peters. Ayes 5. Nays 0. No discussion. Motion carried.

A motion to approve VVS School District request to use Vernon Town Hall as polling location for additional vote on June 4th, 2024 from 12:00pm-9:00pm was made by Peters, seconded by Bennati. Ayes 5. Nays 0. No discussion. Motion carried.

Supervisor Watson noted that there was a quote from GONotify Solution, for Town to purchase Citizen Notification software that allows Town to push information out in bulk to community through Town of Vernon Branded Mobile app. Cost is \$4,260.00 annually. It was mentioned that it would be a good idea for the company to come in for a presentation.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

None

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

None

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn at 8:18 p.m. was made by Thurston, 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