

January 13, 2025

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: Keith Schiebel, County Legislator; and 5 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 December 23, 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:

Jim Morrissey asked for an update on the Vernon Center Water District project. Peters advised that he took the list of suggestions/concerns that Morrissey had to Delta Engineering. Delta was able to confirm all suggestions had been completed. The Town will meet with Delta next week to work on details that they need to bring closure to. Watson had spoken with the Chief Engineer who advised that the Department of Health and USDA have all been working on addressing each concern, one at a time rather than sending a list of everything at once. This will allow them the opportunity to update the bid packets as the results are resolved. In the end this will allow them to have the bid packets ready as soon as they get the okay to do so. Morrissey asked if the engineer, on the towns behalf, looked at the contract reporter to put a pre-advertisement out to gain more interest in the project. Peters advised that they were advised by Wendy Coston and the Engineer that it is illegal due to the grants they are receiving. Morrissey asked that it be looked into further as he does not agree.

Charles Cleary raised concerns about the intersection of 365 and 365A as he has seen many vehicles speeding and going through the red light. He had previously reached out to the police along with NYS DOT Regional Traffic Engineer. The Regional Traffic Engineer advised him to come to his local municipality to request a speed back sign be put up. Board members will look into this.

Kaylee Sierson had read the minutes from the December 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting which stated that “ the library did not send him invoices with cancelled checks as he requested “. Sierson advised that she did not recall being asked for the cancelled checks and that according to the email, Watson had requested a breakdown of what the money would be spent on. She asked if it would be helpful for the Library to provide cancelled checks? Watson said yes, they still have money for the Library and if they provide the cancelled checks and invoices that the board will vote on giving the money and that he had forgot to tell them that they needed them.

#### REPORTS:

The following reports were presented:

- Town Clerk
- Codes Enforcement
- Supervisors
- Intergovernmental Relations: Adamkowski is asking each Department to submit their articles for the newsletter by the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in February
- SWOCO: Watson advised that they had not gotten a response from the state or government on how often testing will need to be completed. A new mower was purchased to replace an old one.
- Operations: Highway Superintendent has not been able to get salt. Other municipalities are having the same problems with the company that was awarded the state contract. He has reached out to another company who has refused to sell to anyone who is under contract with the other salt company.
- County Legislator: submitted a written report from the December 18, 2024 Board of Legislators meeting. He highlighted that Ray Bara will be leaving his position as Public Defender- Civil to become a Family Court Judge. Resolution to change the term of Election Commissioners from two to four years.

There were no reports from:

- Planning Board
- Zoning Board of Appeals
- Education and Libraries

- Highway Superintendent
- Assessors
- 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 Adamkowski, seconded by Peters. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

**BUSINESS:**

A motion to authorize Supervisor to pay all utilities, bank indebtedness and invest funds wisely without prior approval of the Board was made by Thurston, seconded by Adamkowski. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to appoint Rome Sentinel as the official newspaper for the Town of Vernon was made by Bennati, seconded by Peters. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to designate Community Bank to be used as depository for all Town funds was made by Peters, seconded by Thurston. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to allow the Supervisor or Deputy Supervisor to attend SWOCO meetings as Town representative was made by Peters, seconded by Thurston. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to authorize the Highway Superintendent to purchase tools, equipment and implements in an amount not to exceed \$2,000 per purchase in 2025 without prior approval of the Town Board was made by Thurston, seconded by Adamkowski. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion was made to approve the salary for members of the Planning Board and members of the Zoning Board of Appeals at \$150 per meeting attended with Board Chairman of each Board to receive \$275 per meeting chaired; secretary of the Planning Board and Zoning Board to receive \$150 per meeting; pay for members of the Board of Assessment Review will be set at \$200 per day with Chairman receiving \$250 was made by Thurston, seconded by Bennati. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to accept Highway rate of pay for 2025: Working Foreman \$28.00/hr; Heavy Equipment Operator (2) \$26.50/hr; Motor Equipment Operator (3) \$24.50/hr; Mechanic (1) \$24.35/hr; Laborer minimum wage to \$20.00/hr; Part time Laborer minimum wage to \$19.00/hr. One-week vacation after completion of one (1) year's work, two-week vacation after completion of two years' work, three-week vacation after completion of five years' work, four-week vacation after completion of fifteen (15) years' work. Six (6) personal days noncumulative. All Vacation/Personal days to be paid at a standard pay rate. Holidays: New Year's Day, Good Friday (1/2 day), Memorial Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Veterans' Day, Juneteenth, Thanksgiving plus following Friday and Christmas. Health Insurance: 50 percent during first six months of work. Town pays other 50 percent if employee signs during first year of employment. Second six months and thereafter the employee will pay 15 percent of the premium per month. The Town will pay \$20 per month toward dental and vision insurance. The Town will pay one-half of single person health insurance for retirees with 30 years of service. Noncontributory retirement and disability for Tiers 1 and 2; employees pay 3 percent for Tiers 3 and 4. **Tier 5 and 6 employees pay a minimum of 3 percent for entire career.** Five days sick leave cumulative to sixty (60) was made by Peters, seconded by Bennati. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to accept the following appointments:

Deputy Supervisor	Gene Bennati
Deputy Town Clerk	Julie McElroy
Bookkeeper to the Supervisor	Wendy Coston
Bookkeeper to Hwy Superintendent	Wendy Coston
Personnel Director	Wendy Coston
Deputy Hwy Supt/Working Foreman	Garrett Burke
Clerk to Town Justice	Lori Klopfer
Prospect St Water Dist Collector	Wendy Coston
Prospect St Water Dist Biller	Jennifer Champney
Prospect St Water Dist Meter Reader And Repairman	Kevin Champney
Registrar of Vital Statistics	Jennifer Champney

Deputy Registrar of Vital Stat.	Julie McElroy
Records Management Officer	Jennifer Champney
Budget Director	J. Randall Watson
Chairman, ZBA	Brian Dam
Chairman, Planning Board	Brian Dam
Chairman, Board of Assessors	Duane Munger
Assessors' Clerk	Jennifer Tyczinski
Attorney for the Town	Vincent Rossi Jr
Codes Enforcement Officer	Jody Thieme
Building Inspector	Reay Walker
Codes Clerk	Heather Mair
Potash Hill Cemetery Custodian	Dale Talbot
Marble Hill Indian Cemetery Custodian	Daniel Phillips
Preretirement Seminar Coordinator	Wendy Coston
Dog Control Officer	Clayton Conover
Filey Road Plowing	Kevin Mumford
Town Engineer	Delta Engineering

**Supervisor: Committee Appointments:**

Education and Libraries	Gene Bennati
Intergovernmental Relations	Stephen Adamkowski
Economic Development	John Peters
Operations	Myron Thurston

was made by Thurston, seconded by Bennati. Ayes 5. Nays 0. No discussion. Motion carried.

A motion to include these salaries in the Board Minutes:

Salaries not to exceed the following:

Supervisor	J.Randall Watson	\$25,000.00
Deputy Supervisor	Eugene Bennati	\$4,700.00
Budget Director	J.Randall Watson	\$3,500.00
Bkpr to Supv	Wendy Coston	\$39,320.00
Bkpr to Hwy Supt	Wendy Coston	\$10,836.00
Personnel	Wendy Coston	\$3,540.00
Justice	Suzanne Bellinger	\$24,000.00
Councilperson	Gene Bennati	\$10,000.00
Councilperson	Stephen Adamkowski	\$10,000.00
Councilperson	Myron Thurston	\$10,000.00
Councilperson	John Peters	\$10,000.00
Town Clerk	Jennifer Champney	\$29,434.00
Tax Collector	Jennifer Champney	\$10,395.00
Rgstr of Vt Stats	Jennifer Champney	\$6,450.00
Rcds Mgmt Officer	Jennifer Champney	\$1,665.00
Deputy Town Clerk	Julie McElroy	\$22.50/hr
Assessor, Chrmm	Duane Munger	\$23,000.00
Assessor	Frank Laguzza	\$22,300.00
Assessor	Timothy Wagner	\$22,300.00
Assessors' Clerk	Jennifer Tyczinski	\$18.00/hr
Supt of Hwys	Timothy Murphy	\$73,200.00
Prsp St Biller	Jennifer Champney	\$600/qtr
Prsp St Collector	Wendy Coston	\$600/qtr
Prsp St Meter Rdr	Kevin Champney	\$600/qtr
Codes Enf Officer	Jody Thieme	\$33.50/hr
Building Inspector	Reay Walker	\$25.50/hr
Codes Clerk	Heather Mair	\$19.00/hr
Clerk to Justice	Lori Klopfer	\$20.00/hr
Town Engineer	Delta Engineering	\$700.00/yr
Dog Control Off	Clayton Conover	\$8,400.00/yr
Filey Road Plowing	Kevin Mumford	\$395.00/yr

General Office Help (Part time depending on experience) Minimum Wage to \$19.00/hr

Election Workers – to be paid by Oneida County Board of Elections

Potash Hill Cem. Custodian	Dale Talbot	\$1000/yr
Marble Hill Indian Cem Cust	Daniel Phillips	\$750/yr

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

A motion to audit Town books on February 10, 2025 at 6:30p.m. was made by Thurston, seconded by Bennati. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to approve the Oneida County Agreement to use of the Town Office Building as 2025 Polling Location was made by Bennati, seconded by Peters. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to approve appropriating A7310.4 Youth Program 2025 funds of \$30,000 in the amounts of \$15,000 for the CAC in the City of Sherrill and \$15,000 for Bartholomew Park in the Village of Vernon with an additional amount of \$5000 to be transferred into A7310.4 for other youth programs was made by Bennati, seconded by Adamkowski. Thurston asked if estimates had been received, and Watson advised that the bleachers would cost \$15,000 and the bathrooms could be anywhere between \$10,000-\$30,000. Watson asked board members if they wanted to set aside \$15,000 for the CAC as they did in 2024. Money would also need to be set aside for other youth programs. Adamkowski suggested keeping \$15,000 for the CAC, \$10,000 for the Village of Vernon and keeping \$5,000 for other youth programs. Peters proposed cutting the CAC back to \$10,000 and putting more money towards other youth programs that were not receiving support during the times of covid. Bennati asked if the flooding situation would be taken care of, so the fields do not continue to be ruined. Watson reminded board members that Highway Superintendent Murphy volunteered to help with resolving that issue. 4 Ayes. 1 Nay (John Peters). Motion carried.

A motion to approve Supervisor Watson to put Vernon Center Water District out for bid as soon as the Department of Health and USDA give approval was made by Thurston, seconded by Peters. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

None

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn at 8:17 p.m. was made by Adamkowski, seconded by Peters. 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