

August 8, 2011

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 enactment of a local law to authorize the appointment of alternate Board members for both the Zoning Board of Appeals and Planning Board of the Town of Vernon and also to consider reducing the number of members of each board. Council members present were: Myron Thurston, Supervisor; Mick McDonough, Sandy Williams and Randy Watson arrived at 6:50 p.m. Gene Bennati was absent due to being out of town and Attorney Rossi was absent. Also present: Art Freemire, Superintendent of Highways; and Garold Vanderwerken. The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Thurston at 6:45 p.m. at which time the Town Clerk read the Notice of Public Hearing dated July 20, 2011, which is attached to the minutes. Supervisor Thurston explained that we had a situation where we almost had to cancel a meeting because we didn't have a quorum and no one could substitute. We would also save money by decreasing the number of members. There were no questions. The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 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: Myron J. Thurston, Supervisor; Mick McDonough, Sandy Williams and Randy Watson, Council members. Gene Bennati was absent due to being out of town and Attorney Rossi was absent. Also present: Art Freemire, Superintendent of Highways; Mike Kaiser of PAC 99, Garold Vanderwerken, Ed Ballou, John Douglas and Michael Hennessy, County Legislator.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, there was a moment of silence. The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Thurston at 7:00 p.m.

Supervisor Thurston stated that he knew the minutes from the July 11, 2011 meeting had been received by council members and asked if there were any additions or corrections. There being none, a motion to approve the minutes as written was made by McDonough, seconded by Watson. No discussion. Ayes 3. Nays 0. Motion carried.

PUBLIC CONCERNS:

None

REPORTS:

The following reports were presented: Town Clerk (Supervisor Thurston asked the Town Clerk how the dog licensing is working since the Town took it over and she replied that it is going well, also the dog census postcards will be going out September 1st), Planning Board, Codes Enforcement, Supervisor and Economic Development: Watson reported that the Marketing Board decided to have a Fall Festival on September 17, 2011 behind the Town Office Building to show off our businesses. The businesses will be able to rent a booth for \$20, and there will be fireworks at night. Supervisor Thurston said that the Town and the Village are working on this with the Marketing Board. It will be a family event with a bike rodeo, dunking booth, food vendors and entertainment. We are very excited about this.

There were no reports from Zoning Board of Appeals, Assessors, Education and Libraries (Williams mentioned that Jennifer from the Sherrill-Kenwood Library called and would like to put an article in the next Town newsletter explaining the programs that the library offers), Intergovernmental Relations, Operations, SWOCO, Highway Superintendent and Historian (Garold Vanderwerken thanked Wendy Coston for putting things in the display case for him).

County Legislator's Report: Mr. Hennessy reported:

- 1) notice was received from the County Executive that they are about \$15 million short in the budget for the County, but they should get it down to about a 2 to 3% increase in property taxes.
- 2) a corporation at the airbase is looking into creating about 150-200 jobs if they can get more hangar space.
- 3) our new Sheriff is trying to get some communities to merge their local police forces with the County.

- 4) there have been many hydrofracking meetings and he is against it but would like to hear more about it.

A motion to accept above reports was made by McDonough, seconded by Williams. No discussion. Ayes 3. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to pay bills was made by Williams, seconded by McDonough. No discussion. Ayes 3. Nays 0. Motion carried.

BUSINESS:

A motion to approve payments up to \$1500 for advertising and incidentals for the Fall Festival from Celebrations A7550.4 was made by McDonough, seconded by Watson. No discussion. Ayes 3. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to approve Supervisor Thurston to open checking and savings account with the Village of Vernon for the Fall Festival was made by Williams, seconded by Watson. No discussion. Ayes 3. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to donate the Town's old glass display case to Mt. Vernon Presbyterian Church's consignment shop was made by Watson, seconded by Williams. No discussion. Ayes 3. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to approve \$500 toward purchase of basketballs for the VVS Youth Basketball program in Sherrill was made by Watson, seconded by Williams. No discussion. Ayes 2. Nays 1.(McDonough) Motion carried.

A motion to sign agreement with Eastern NY Youth Soccer Association to use the Town Park for soccer programs for the length of the contract and termination at any time by the Town Board was made by McDonough, seconded by Williams. No discussion. Ayes 3. Nays 0. Motion carried.

Supervisor Thurston announced the resignation of Dan Rossiter and the death of Grove Seifert, both members of the Planning Board.

Supervisor Thurston noted that Utica-Rome Speedway held a food drive on July 15, 2011 for the area food banks. They collected a can good or \$2.00 donation for reduced admission and collected 3500 cans. Highway Superintendent Freemire along with Ian Kraeger, Robert Cullen and Tim Murphy from the Highway Department and Supervisor Thurston donated their time to distribute them to St. Pat's, Holy Family Church and Assembly of God Church.

A motion to enact Local Law #1 for 2011 lowering the number of Planning Board members from 7 to 5 and substituting Planning and ZBA members to have a quorum was made by Williams, seconded by McDonough. No discussion. Ayes 3. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to approve \$500 for annual services from the Oneida County Soil & Water Conservation District was made by Williams, seconded by Watson. No discussion. Ayes 3. Nays 0. Motion carried.

Supervisor Thurston announced a Mohawk Valley Watershed meeting to be held on August 17, 2011 from 7:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m. at the Oneida County Farm & Home Center in Oriskany.

Supervisor Thurston announced a Land Use Training Conference to be held on October 1, 2011 from 9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at the MVCC Information Technology Building in Utica.

Supervisor Thurston reported that our new Town website is completed and will be online in about a week. Wendy Coston will post events on the event calendar, Jean Halstead from the Codes office will scan the Code Book to have it online, the Assessors will be able to post notices on it and the Town Clerk will have the minutes and various forms posted on it. The event calendar will have a link to the area businesses so they can get more information on the events that have been posted on it.

Highway Superintendent Freemire recommended the Board to refuse the only bid of \$570,092 for the salt dome elevator. McDonough asked if we could use a portable elevator and Supervisor Thurston replied that our issue is the building. A motion to refuse all bids was made by McDonough, seconded by Williams. No discussion. Ayes 3. Nays 0. Motion carried. Freemire said that they had a meeting and are streamlining the whole project that might cut the price almost in half. McDonough asked if we could buy more property and Supervisor Thurston replied that buying more land is an option, and also they can bid it out again with a single elevator. Freemire stated that he talked to the Town of Madison and they just bought a new hoop building for \$300,000, but the sand will freeze. Supervisor Thurston said that we will continue to look into this.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Supervisor Thurston mentioned that there will be meetings every Wednesday night with the Marketing Board at 7:00 p.m. if anyone wants more information on the Fall Festival.

Williams said that she went to the ribbon cutting for the Vernon Downs expansion and told Mr. Gural that we very much appreciate everything he has done for the Town. Also, for every \$10 ticket that was sold for the Pat Benatar concert they donated \$5.00 to the food bank, which totaled about \$50,000.

Supervisor Thurston said that Vernon Downs had their employee picnic at our Town pavilion and there was also a large anniversary party recently, so people are using it more and more.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

None

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn at 8:09 p.m. was made by Watson, seconded by Williams. No discussion. Ayes 3. Nays 0. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Additions to minutes on file
in Town Clerk's Office.

Julie A. McElroy
Town Clerk

It should be noted that this meeting was tape recorded and is on file in the Town Clerk's office.

COMMUNICATIONS:

NYS and Local Retirement System 2012 Estimate
NYS and Local Employees' Retirement System Update