

February 6, 2012

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; Gene Bennati, Mick McDonough, Sandy Williams and Randy Watson, Council members. Also present: Art Freemire, Superintendent of Highways; Mike Kaiser of PAC 99 and Howard Regner, County Legislator. Attorney Rossi was absent.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the meeting was called to order by Supervisor Thurston at 7:00 PM.

Supervisor Thurston stated that he knew the minutes from the January 2, 2012 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 Bennati, seconded by McDonough. No discussion. Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

PUBLIC CONCERNS:

None

REPORTS:

The following reports were presented: Town Clerk, Codes Enforcement and Supervisor's Report.

There were no reports from Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, Assessors (Supervisor Thurston mentioned that if anyone has a question about the STAR exemption they should come in and talk to the Assessors), Education and Libraries, Intergovernmental Relations, Economic Development, Operations, SWOCO, Historian and Highway Superintendent (Highway Superintendent Freemire mentioned that OSHA requires the highway department to purchase CPR panels and they will be trained by the fire department to use them).

County Legislator's Report: Mr. Regner reported: 1) petitions are being passed regarding the State receiving the 911 surcharge fees, 2) the County will be having meetings regarding hydrofracking, 3) they are working on consolidation of services and 4) there are Economic Development & Tourism grants available for businesses.

A motion to accept above reports was made by Williams, seconded by Watson. No discussion. Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to pay bills was made by McDonough, seconded by Bennati. No discussion. Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

BUSINESS:

Highway Superintendent Freemire announced that there were 5 bid packets given out for the 2012 6x4 10 wheel Mack or equivalent truck cab and chassis. Only 2 bids came back, which were from Utica Mack for \$123,711.00 and Triple Cities Mack for \$139,265.85 (a bid bond was not included with this bid). Freemire recommended the Utica Mack bid. McDonough suggested getting a couple of used trucks for the same price from down south, but Supervisor Thurston recommended that we get a new one because we keep them for a very long time. A motion to accept the bid from Utica Mack for \$123, 711.00 was made by Bennati, seconded by Williams. No discussion. Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to re-appoint Douglas Lockwood to ZBA for a 5 year term was made by Williams, seconded by Watson. No discussion. Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

Supervisor Thurston updated the Board members on the PILOT (payment in lieu of taxes) agreements that we have which include: Briggs and Stratton Corp. which is current, Sherrill Manufacturing paid for 2012 and Mid-State Development Corp. (Vernon Downs) has almost completed its application for a 5 year agreement.

Projected 2012 water rate increases were received from the City of Oneida Water Department due to repairs on a main water line at Fish Creek landing. Supervisor Thurston announced that letters were sent to inform residents that we had to increase our water rates to a flat fee of \$30 (from \$25) per 1000 cubic feet or less and \$2.25 (from \$1.83) per 100 cubic feet over 1000 per quarter.

Supervisor Thurston requested the Board members to sign a memorializing petition urging Governor Cuomo to stop the State's raiding of the 911 surcharge funds and that Oneida County receive 100% of future 911 surcharge funds, which is for 911 Call Center services and the upgrade of technology. The State is taking this money and they do not operate 911 services, the County does. There is no increase in taxes in the petition. A motion to sign this petition was made by McDonough, seconded by Bennati. No discussion. Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

Notification was received from FEMA regarding their Flood Mapping being revised. Town of Vernon residents can review new maps by linking to website www.rampp.team.com.

A motion to repair a crack in the boom of the highway department's grade-all for a cost of \$5000 in parts was made by Watson, seconded by Williams. No discussion. Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to audit the Town books on February 20, 2012 at 6:00 pm was made by Watson, seconded by Bennati. No discussion. Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

Supervisor Thurston reported that there was a meeting in Sherrill regarding the application for a grant of feasibility for a Regional Water System in eastern Madison and western Oneida areas. MVEDD referred the company GEMS, and Jeremy Silverman to write the grant. Those who attended this meeting included the City of Sherrill Mayor, City of Oneida Mayor, Gordon Silsby, Art Smolinski, City of Sherrill Manager, Patrick Becker, Greg Eisenhut, Jeremy Silverman, County Legislator Howard Regner and Supervisor Thurston. The growth in this area is stifled immensely by lack of water. A motion to approve the grant writing fee not to exceed \$1000 was made by Bennati, seconded by McDonough. No discussion. Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

Notification of NYS liquor license renewal was received from Crystal Springs Golf Course.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Bennati mentioned that he gets asked about what the Town taxes do for Sherrill and after he went through the list of things, he thought it would be a good idea for other people to know. Supervisor Thurston mentioned that we can put it in our newsletter and also talk to Bob Comis to have it in the City of Sherrill's newsletter.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

None

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn at 7:58 p.m. was made by Watson, seconded by Bennati. No discussion. Ayes 4. 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:

None