

May 9, 2011

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, Beverley Mackey, Garold Vanderwerken, Frank Bambino, Robert Maciol, Oneida County Sheriff; Rich Lagoy, Dalton Lagoy, Vernon and Vernon Center Cub Scouts and a couple names that were illegible. Attorney Rossi was absent.

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.

Oneida County Sheriff Robert Maciol introduced himself and announced that if there is anything that anyone needs from the Sheriff's office to let him know. He left a copy of their annual report and will answer questions anytime and would like to work with everyone.

Supervisor Thurston stated that he knew the minutes from the April 18, 2011 and April 25, 2011 meetings 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 Bennati. No discussion. Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

#### PUBLIC CONCERNS:

Frank Bambino purchased a home in the Town and requested that his assessment be lowered. He talked to the Assessors and they lowered it, but he was still not satisfied with it. Supervisor Thurston told him that he can bring his information and make an appointment with the Board of Assessment Review for their meeting on May 24, 2011 between 2:00-4:00 pm and 7:00-9:00 pm and request them to lower it, which is an annual Grievance Day.

#### REPORTS:

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

There were no reports from Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, Assessors, Education and Libraries, Intergovernmental Relations, Economic Development, Operations, Highway Superintendent (Supervisor Thurston mentioned that the Highway Dept. put a frame on one of our sand trucks that had broken and they did it between snowstorms this winter) and Historian (Bennati mentioned that we are having a beautiful display case built and our historical items will be nicely displayed in it on a rotating basis).

County Legislator's Report: Mr. Hennessy reported:

- 1) the rumor that someone is buying Vernon Downs is not true.
  - 2) the 2<sup>nd</sup> Circuit has ruled today that cigarette taxes can be collected.
  - 3) the County will reduce the number of Legislators to possibly 23.
  - 4) the sales tax extension is coming up.
  - 5) he and Supervisor Thurston threw out the first ball at the Sherrill Little League game.
  - 6) Jeff Gural has done a lot to give back to the community. Supervisor Thurston mentioned that we have never had any better people to work with our Codes Dept.
- Judy Bachmann gave Supervisor Thurston the ruling to read from the U.S. Court of Appeals 2<sup>nd</sup> Circuit that the Seneca and Cayuga Nations need to collect cigarette taxes. Also, all stays pending appeal are vacated.

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

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

#### BUSINESS:

A motion to adopt a Town exemption for additions between \$3000 and \$30,000 in improvements per County Capital Law No. 5 of 1998 for Town and County taxes was made by McDonough, seconded by Bennati. No discussion. Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

Notice was received from NYMIR insurance of a rate decrease of 6%.

Notice was received for NYS liquor license renewal from Crystal Springs Golf Course.

A motion to install a controlled exhaust fan for the Town Office Building boiler room for \$1616 was made by Williams, seconded by McDonough. The heat will be sucked out of the boiler room and blown into the kitchen and thus keep our routers from getting too hot. No discussion. Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

There will be a Business Meeting to discuss the formation of a Business Marketing plan with the Town, the Village and the Town's businesses on June 7, 2011 at 7:00 pm.

Supervisor Thurston mentioned that Donald Cossette, the manager of SWOCO, has passed away. His wife, Kathleen, was appointed to finish the year as manager.

A motion to hold a Special Board meeting on May 16, 2011 at 6:30 pm to choose web designer from proposals by Charles Thompson and Patrick Cronn was made by McDonough, seconded by Williams. No discussion. Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

#### GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Supervisor Thurston said that he met with Elizabeth Rossi from SUNY IT regarding a class that's working on green energy installation. He discussed our solar panel system with her. He explained that we have a 26.7 kilowatt set of panels, which you can see on each of the inverters that take the electricity from the panels and transfer it into the power lines or into this building. The display shows a daily total of how many pounds of carbon dioxide was saved from the atmosphere. There's a meter that registers how much was made and put back into the line. It lowers our use during the day and any excess is sent back into the line and brought back at night. Last year we saved almost \$6000 and the Town has only a \$15,000 investment, after NYSERDA and USDA grants. They have a 20-25 year life expectancy.

Bennati mentioned that there will be a Memorial Day ceremony here on May 30, 2011 at 1:00 pm with refreshments afterwards. Everyone is invited.

Williams announced that she is getting another Town newsletter together and has asked for articles by May 24, 2011. It should be out by the end of May or beginning of June. Also, please let her know if there is anyone that is not receiving it so she can add them to the list.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION:

None

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn at 7:56 p.m. was made by Bennati, seconded by McDonough. 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:

Letter from Zachary Dollar  
Letter from Elizabeth Rossi

