

## VESTAL TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION MINUTES

MONDAY, MAY 20, 2013

In Attendance: Supervisor Schaffer and Board Members Marnicki, Fitzgerald, Milkovich and Majewski

Also Attending: Town Attorney David Berger, Human Resource Director Nancy Olmstead, Highway Superintendent Brock Leonard, Vestal Museum Director Virginia Wood, Fire Chief Pat McPherson, Fire Captain Jon Weber, Town Clerk Emil Bielecki and several members of the community.

**WORK SESSION** – Supervisor Schaffer convened the meeting at 6:00 PM

**6:00 pm – Brock Leonard, Highway Superintendent - discuss purchase of equipment**

Highway Superintendent Brock Leonard provided information about the 1999 bucket truck. This truck was an Army surplus purchase and continues to serve us well. However, the bucket unit is in bad shape and is not worth repairing. His mechanic has found a used bucket in Alabama which we can purchase for about \$8,000. This is a 47 foot high bucket unit and is in good shape. The price is very attractive. He is asking the Board for approval to purchase this bucket unit with the money coming from the highway scrap metal account. It is anticipated that the shipping cost will be about \$1,000.

Several Board members asked questions about the bucket unit and wanted a firmer price for shipping. After a brief discussion, the Board consensus was to authorize this request for approval at the next Regular Meeting on May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**6:15 pm – Mark Mushalla (M Squared) – Summer Festival**

Mark Mushalla, the managing partner of M Squared, the lessee of the Coal House, presented a proposal to host a multi-day event on the Rail Trail that would try, in a measured way, to replicate the old Front St. Days/Vestal Festival. The event would begin on the evening of Friday, July 19<sup>th</sup> with a featured Rail Trail Relay that would require the closing of the Trail for the duration of the relay. On Saturday, July 20<sup>th</sup>, the proposed Vestal Festival would feature various vendors in the vicinity of the Coal House and a number of yet to be determined activities. A pony ride is one event being considered.

Councilman Majewski suggested that some of the proceeds from such an event should be donated toward causes that would benefit the Vestal community.

Town Attorney Dave Berger noted that all of the appropriate liability insurance needs to be in place for the event and that any closing of the Rail Trail should be carefully evaluated in light of the fact that this event would be hosted by a private entity on a public facility.

Several Board members expressed support for proceeding with the proposed Vestal Festival on the Rail Trail and asked the Town Attorney to draft a resolution to authorize such for the Board's consideration at the next Regular Meeting on May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**6:30 pm – Virginia Wood, Museum Director - discuss vacancy at the Vestal Museum**

Vestal Museum Director Virginia Wood notified the Board that the current museum curator is leaving at the end of May. She is asking for authorization from the Board to hire a new curator.

Supervisor Schaffer noted that as of now, over 50% of the Museum budget is spent. He is wondering where the money will come from to pay for this new curator.

Virginia Wood responded that she is anticipating the receipt of a grant from the New York State Arts

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Council. This grant would be used to pay for staffing. Although unanticipated issues have delayed the awarding of this grant, she still expects that it will come through in June. If the grant is not awarded, she would reduce the Museum staffing to 3 days a week from the current 4 days a week.

Town Attorney Berger and Human Resource Director Nancy Olmstead suggested that the Museum consider filling the duties of a curator through an independent contractor rather than an employee.

Supervisor Schaffer recommended that that Board hold off any action on this until the Work Session on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. He asked that prior to that meeting, the Museum Director provide the Board with a more detailed plan of action for staffing the Museum within this year's budget and to update the Board on the status of the anticipated grant.

### **6:45 pm – Fire Chief Pat McPherson - discuss rescue vehicle project**

Fire Chief Pat McPherson informed the Board that the Fire Department has worked hard to re-evaluate the rescue vehicle project and to re-work the specs. He would like the Board to authorize going out to bid for a rescue vehicle under the newly prepared specifications. This would allow them to formulate a much more specific cost estimate. The Town will not be obligated to accept the bids, but the process will help to determine how to proceed.

Councilman Milkovich asked Fire Chief McPherson what price he is anticipating for the rescue vehicle, noting that the voters had already rejected the earlier referendum to purchase a rescue vehicle. Chief McPherson responded that he is reluctant to put a price tag on it but that he is keenly aware of the need to come in with numbers that are lower than what was rejected by the voters.

### **UPCOMING PUBLIC HEARINGS**

May 22, 2013 - Water/Sewer Extension for 1405 Campus Drive

### **UPCOMING BIDS**

May 28, 2013 – FEMA Buy-out Home Demolitions

### **COMMITTEES**

#### **7.1 PUBLIC WORKS**

1. Request from Scott Groats, Water Superintendent, to award water analysis (laboratory testing) to the lowest bidder Benchmark Analytics, Inc. for the bid price of the \$40,102.17

**OK-**This item will be placed on the Agenda for a vote at the next Regular Meeting of the Town Board.

2. Request from Scott Groats, Water Superintendent to award Pipe Bursting to the lowest bidder Jones Specialty Services Group for the bid price of \$383,830.00

**OK-**This item will be placed on the Agenda for a vote at the next Regular Meeting of the Town Board.

3. Request from Scott Groats, Water Superintendent to award Water Main Replacement for Katherine Lane (\$30,800.00), Lewis Street \$30,800.00), George Street \$25,300.00), Vestal Parkway East \$42,900.00) to the lowest bidder Vacri Construction for a total of \$129,800.00

**OK-**This item will be placed on the Agenda for a vote at the next Regular Meeting of the Town Board.

4. Request from Scott Groats, Water Superintendent to award Cortland Drive Sanitary Sewer Replacement to the lowest bidder Vacri Construction for the bid price of \$37,400

**OK-**This item will be placed on the Agenda for a vote at the next Regular Meeting of the Town Board.

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5. Request from Suzanne Russo to lower sewer portion of the bill for 349 Birch Street in the amount of \$507.52. The home was broken into and copper pipe was stolen. The water was left on, causing flooding and damage.

**OK**-This item will be placed on the Agenda for a vote at the next Regular Meeting of the Town Board.

6. Request from Robert Napoletano for a reduction in his water/sewer bill for 323 Torrance Ave in the amount of \$4230.96, a ruptured solder joint was the cause of the higher consumption. According to Councilman Marnicki, the property owner is a 'snowbird' who discovered the leak upon returning back from a long absence.

**OK**-This item will be placed on the Agenda for a vote at the next Regular Meeting of the Town Board.

### 7.2 FINANCE

1. **Warrants** - 2013- 18, 18E, 19, 19E, 20, 20B, 20E

**OK** - This item will be placed on the Agenda as a Receive and File item at the next Regular Meeting.

2. Motion to rescind Resolution 133-13 and reapprove a resolution supplementing the bond resolution dated December 12, 2012 authorizing an additional \$150,000 bonds of the Town of Vestal. This was approved on May 8, 2013 but was not advertised within a required deadline.

Supervisor Schaffer and Town Clerk Bielecki explained that due to an oversight, the publication of the notice of adoption of this resolution was not done within the required timeframe necessitating the Board to rescind the previous resolution and adopt a new one.

**R145-13** On a motion of Councilman Majewski, seconded by Councilman Marnicki, the following resolution was

**ADOPTED** Ayes 5 Majewski, Fitzgerald, Milkovich, Marnicki, Schaffer  
Nays 0

Resolved to rescind Resolution 133-13 and adopt a Resolution supplementing the Bond Resolution (R365-12) dated December 12, 2012 authorizing, subject to **Permissive Referendum**, the issuance of an **additional \$150,000 bonds** of the Town of Vestal, Broome County, New York, to pay a portion of the cost of the purchase of equipment for construction and maintenance purposes, in and for said Town.

This supplement to the Bond Resolution dated December 12, 2012, will allow us to finance the purchase of the loader and roller that the Board approved **April 24, 2013 (R110-13)** for the Highway Department.

### 7.3 PERSONNEL

1. Request from Scott Groats, Water Superintendent to approve the hiring of Samuel Warner as summer help at a rate of \$8.25 per/hr. with a start date of 5/28/13. The budget line to be used is W8340-1034. The request also requires a transfer of \$5000.00 from W8310-2240.

Councilman Majewski noted that the money to cover this hiring will come from an equipment line that has adequate excess to cover this transfer.

**OK**-This item will be placed on the Agenda for a vote at the next Regular Meeting of the Town Board.

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### **7.4 PLANNING & ZONING**

1. Discuss resident's request to use property as a campsite for seasonal use.

Several Board members noted that this is a reoccurring problem at this location. The Code Department has reviewed this request and determined that it is not a permitted use. The consensus of the Board is to support the determination of the Code Department.

### **7.5 PUBLIC SAFETY**

1. Request from Patrick McPherson, Fire Chief to approve Michael Behr becoming a member of Station 4

**OK**-This item will be placed on the Agenda for a vote at the next Regular Meeting of the Town Board.

2. Request from Fire Chief Patrick McPherson for approval from the Board of Fire Commissioners to advertise for bids on the Rescue 32-1 Project on June 5, 2013 to be opened on June 28, 2013 at 2pm.

**OK**-This item will be placed on the Agenda for a vote at the next Regular Meeting of the Town Board.

### **7.6 ADMINISTRATION**

1. Request from Dan Williams, IT Director to transfer \$5752.97 from contingency line to A5132.2100 line to purchase Highway Department Security Camera system. The camera system was approved for purchase on April 24, 2013.

Councilman Majewski noted that the Board previously approved the installation of this security system but did not specify where the funding was coming from.

**OK**-This item will be placed on the Agenda for a vote at the next Regular Meeting of the Town Board.

2. Request from Dan Williams, IT Director for keys to be made for Plexicomm to our remote site locations that they service which include Andrews Tower, Coal House, Castle Gardens, Well 42, Sheedy Booster, West Hill and Ross Hill.

**OK**-This item will be placed on the Agenda for a vote at the next Regular Meeting of the Town Board.

### **RECEIVE AND FILE**

1. DEC required annual report relating to storm water management.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Supervisor Schaffer announced that the Binghamton-Johnson City Joint Sewage Treatment Plant has imposed a rate increase on the outside users after stating that no increase would be coming. At this late stage, this action is unacceptable and he plans to fight it. He is meeting with other outside users this Friday and will keep the Board updated on the progress.

2. Supervisor Schaffer stated that he has invited representatives from Community Electronic Informational Signage (CEIS) to make a brief presentation to the Board at the June 3<sup>rd</sup> Work Session. They will be asking the Town to consider the placement of digital information signs that could be used to alert and inform citizens when needed. These signs would be subsidized by advertising and would be at no cost to the Town.

3. Supervisor Schaffer stated that he has received a letter from the Tracy Creek Memorial Church thanking the Town for allowing them to use the Library parking lot for the church's 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary event. The letter also notes that the cooperation from Museum Director Virginia Wood enabled the event to promote both entities.

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- Supervisor Schaffer noted that an estimate for the value of the proposed Nursing Home facility has been established (\$26,640,000) and that, contrary to some reports in the media, the Town has been very cooperative in working with the developer to bring this project to fruition.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

**1. Procurement Policy** – on hold

**2. Hazard Mitigation Plan** – on hold

**3. Review changes to Scrap Metal Policy** – Supervisor Schaffer stated that will put this item on the agenda for the Work Session on June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**4. Town Supervisor John Schaffer to sign temporary easement with Roma & Roma LLC** – Town Attorney Dave Berger reiterated that this piece of Town land has inadvertently been used by the owner of the adjacent property for years. The Town does not need this land but this easement is necessary to protect our interests now that the Section 2 expansion of the Rail Trail will run alongside of this stretch of land.

Councilman Majewski feels that the property owner should compensate the Town for granting this easement.

**OK**-This item will be placed on the Agenda for a vote at the next Regular Meeting of the Town Board.

### SUPERVISOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### Library Events

- Friends of the Vestal Library Public Book Sale is on June 1, 2013 9am-2pm. Bag sale starting at 1pm. Volunteers are needed to help set up and work the sale. Contact Jim or Scott at 754-4244 if interested
- Friends Yoga every Friday at 5-6pm. Chair yoga; 6-7:30pm. Yoga class; \$5.00

#### Museum Events

- Kids summer garden projects planned; June 8, July 13, Aug 10. Free
- Museum doing NY State "Pathways through History" June 1, 2, 8, 9. Special hours. Free

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion of Councilman Marnicki, seconded by Councilwoman Fitzgerald, the following was

**ADOPTED** Ayes 5 Majewski, Fitzgerald, Milkovich, Marnicki, Schaffer  
Nays 0

Resolved the Board enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing 1) CSEA labor negotiations 2) a personnel matter specific to a Town employee 3) an item of potential litigation. The time was 7:39 PM.

On a motion of Councilwoman Fitzgerald, seconded by Councilman Marnicki, the following was

**ADOPTED** Ayes 5 Majewski, Fitzgerald, Milkovich, Marnicki, Schaffer  
Nays 0

Resolved the Board leave the Executive Session and adjourn the Work Session. The time was 8:27 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Emil Bielecki, Town Clerk