

VESTAL TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION MINUTES

MONDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2015

In Attendance: Supervisor Schaffer, Board Members: Majewski, Fitzgerald, Messina and Agneshwar

Also Attending: Town Attorney David Berger, Human Resource Officer Nancy Olmstead, Town Clerk Emil Bielecki and 5 members of the general public.

Supervisor Schaffer **convened the Work Session at 6:08 PM.**

6:10 Insurance Consultant Doug Bulman – Medicare Advantage Plans

Mr. Bulman distributed a chart that compares the cost of various items under the Excellus Medicare Plan to the MVP Gold Anywhere and the Out of Area PPO plan. The Excellus Plan is what the Town currently uses to cover the Medicare eligible retirees. When the plans are compared in totality, the MVP Plan appears to be very competitive. By switching to the MVP Plan, the Town would realize annual savings in the range of \$60,000.

Comptroller McKane noted that the actual savings may be reduced somewhat because more of our retirees will go into the 'out of area' category.

Both Comptroller McKane and Mr. Bulman stated that if the Board decided to switch to the MVP Plan for 2016, it would need to be approved quickly so as to provide adequate time for the completion of the enrollments.

Several Board member expressed concern about supporting the switch to the MVP Plan before getting answers to a few questions not adequately addressed in tonight's presentation. Town Attorney Berger advised that the Board can approve the changeover to MVP at the Regular Meeting on October 14th contingent upon getting satisfactory answers to the stated concerns at a to-be-scheduled meeting with a representative from MVP. The Board agreed to that approach and Comptroller McKane was asked to prepare the language for the resolution.

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

COMMITTEES

7.1 PUBLIC WORKS (MAJEWSKI/Fitzgerald)

1. Request from Town Engineer Gary Campo to approve paying an invoice from Allis Development in the amount of \$7,240 for an emergency repair of a 4' creek storm pipe that runs across Murray Hill Road through the Chabad House parking lot. The repair work will be paid out of the Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) funds.

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

7.2 FINANCE (AGNESHWAR/Messina)

1. Warrants: 2015-40, 2015-40E, 2015-41, 2015-41E

OK – This item will be placed as a 'Receive and File' on the Agenda for the next Regular Meeting.

2. Request to pay \$980.65 to U.S. Legal Support for transcripts of Lt. Gerald Mullins and Chief John Butler in the Hicks v. Town of Vestal litigation.

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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3. Request to authorize Town Supervisor John Schaffer to sign a 3 year renewal agreement with Communication Management Associates to promote the lease/license of Town of Vestal properties and rights of way for wireless communication.

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

4. Request to pay \$237.50 to Town Attorney David Berger for September 2015 billable hours.

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

5. Request from Police Chief John Butler to increase retired Sgt. John Mestre's hourly rate to \$40.00 per hour when called to the station to provide services as an investigative Hispanic interpreter. His services are used infrequently and are paid out of line A3120-4000 (professional services).

Supervisor Schaffer noted that he looked into this and found that the average hourly rate for comparable interpreter services in this area is \$32.50. He is suggesting that the hourly rate for this individual be increased instead from \$30 to \$35. He discussed this with the Police Chief and that is acceptable to him. The Board, by consensus, agreed to the \$35 rate.

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

7.3 PERSONNEL (FITZGERALD/Majewski) - no topics were addressed under this Committee

7.4 PLANNING & ZONING (MESSINA/Fitzgerald)

1. Discuss a request from James Warneck to purchase a parcel of Town owned property at 310 Rayelene Drive (Tax ID No 205.08-2.1) for \$500.00. This parcel used to be the location of a Town pump station which has since been torn down.

Town Attorney Berger stated that prior to selling the parcel, the price should be reviewed by the Assessor and the Town Attorney should certify that the Town no longer needs this property.

Councilman Majewski stated that the owners of the 4 properties which abut this parcel should all be given the opportunity to bid on the purchase of all or a portion of this parcel. The Board agreed and asked the Town Attorney to send a letter to these property owners to determine their interest in purchasing this parcel from the Town.

2. Request from Town Engineer Gary Campo for the Board to consider the following resolution pertaining to the use of NY Rising funds and Town funds:

The Town of Vestal is interested in working with NY Rising with regards to the relocation of the Vestal Emergency Squad, Vestal Police and Vestal Court to the old Lourdes building at 1020 Vestal Parkway East.

The Town of Vestal agrees to provide funding to cover all costs for a complete project in the amount needed which exceed the funding level provided through NY Rising.

The Town understands that the other previously selected projects included in the NY Rising Community Reconstruction Plan will no longer be funded.

Town Attorney Berger asked the Board to table the discussion of the above item until the next Work Session so that he can research a number of issues that need to be addressed prior to any Board action.

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3. Request from Walsh & Sons Construction Corp. to rezone 4109 Vestal Road (BCTMP# 159.09-1-17) from Transitional Office (TO) to Multiple Residence (RC). The applicant wishes to rezone the vacant parcel to build 2 multiple family dwellings.

Supervisor Schaffer stated that there are a number of questions that need to be addressed concerning this rezoning request. He will invite the applicant to attend the Work Session on October 26th.

4. Request authorization to publish a Notice of Public Hearing for Local Law C, a local law to amend the Code of the Town of Vestal Sections 18-24, 23-42, and 23-45 concerning requirements to extend Town utilities across the frontage of private properties. The notice is to be published on October 28, 2015 with the Public Hearing to be held on November 18, 2015.

Town Attorney David Berger noted that this local law is in response to changes that were made in the NYS Building and Construction Code.

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

5. Discuss changes to the Code Department Fee Schedule for 2016, as proposed by Code Director Mark Dedrick.

Supervisor Schaffer stated that even with these proposed increases in fees, we are still below levels that most other municipalities are charging.

Councilwoman Agneshwar expressed concern that these fee increases are ‘nickel and diming’ our residents and may be adding to the burdens we place on our businesses.

Councilman Majewski noted that the proposed change for residential buildings > 3000 sq. ft. is confusing. He will ask the Code Department for clarification prior to the Regular Meeting.

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

7.5 PUBLIC SAFETY (MAJEWSKI/Agneshwar)

1. Request from Fire Chief David Harrington for authorization to standardize the brand of hose to All-American Snap-Tite HFX Hose with Storz Connection for all sizes of hose, as outlined in a memo to the Board of Fire Commissioner dated September 28, 2015.

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

7.6 ADMINISTRATION (MESSINA/Agneshwar) - no topics were addressed under this Committee

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. **Wash Bay at the Highway Department** (in response to the EPA field audit)

The proposal is still under review and the Board is waiting for additional information from the Town Engineer about how other municipalities are handling this situation and about a revised cost estimate.

Update on 1012/15: There is no change in the status of this item.

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2. Community Use of Municipal Facility Policy

Supervisor Schaffer noted in addition to the issues at the Library location, the Board will also need to look at outside user issues at some of the other Town Facilities. He expects the Board to resume the discussion of this topic after the completion of the work on the 2016 budget.

3. Gas Card System for the Purchase of Fuel for Town Vehicles

As per the discussion with the representatives from the Mirabito Fuel Group, the Town will prepare the bid specifications for a contract to purchase fuel from an outside vendor through the use of a gas card system. **Update on 10/12/15:** There is no change in the status of this item.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion of Councilman Majewski, seconded by Councilwoman Agneshwar, the following was

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Majewski, Agneshwar, Fitzgerald, Messina, Schaffer
Nays 0

Resolved the Board enter into Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue concerning a specific employee in the Police Department. The time was 7:09 PM.

On a motion of Councilwoman Agneshwar, seconded by Councilwoman Messina, the following was

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Majewski, Agneshwar, Fitzgerald, Messina, Schaffer
Nays 0

Resolved the Board leave Executive Session and **adjourn the Work Session. The time was 7:30 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,
Emil Bielecki, Town Clerk