

VESTAL TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION MINUTES

MONDAY, JULY 11, 2016

Board Attendance: Supervisor Schaffer; Board Members: Agneshwar, Majewski, Fitzgerald
Absent: Messina

Also Attending: Town Attorney David Berger, Town Engineer Vern Myers, Human Resource Officer Nancy Olmstead, Town Clerk Emil Bielecki and 5 people from the general public.

Supervisor Schaffer **convened the Work Session at 6:00 PM.**

UPCOMING PUBLIC HEARING

July 13, 2016 at 6:00 PM: Petition for Establishment of **Consolidated Sewer District No. 1, Extension No. 158.**

PETITIONER: Timothy & Nancy Stephenson

BCTMP: 173.19-2-18, ADDRESS: 1236 Main Street

COMMITTEES

7.1 PUBLIC WORKS (FITZGERALD/Majewski)

1. Request from Melody and Gregory McGuire to pay \$2,850.00 to replace a designer sidewalk at 313 Vandervort Avenue which was damaged when a tree was cut down by the Town.

Town Attorney David Berger asked the Board to discuss this matter in Executive Session because there is a possibility of litigation.

2. Request from Xiao Fang at 101 Southwood Drive to consider adjusting a high water bill due to a leak in a pipe.

Councilwoman Fitzgerald stated that the Water Department investigated this case and recommends that the Board not entertain the request. Supervisor Schaffer noted that the policy of the Joint Sewage Treatment Plant is not to provide the Town with credits in these types of cases. Unless the JSTP changes its policy, the Town will not reduce sewer bills for water that went through the meter, regardless of the circumstances.

By consensus, the Board decided to take no action on this request.

3. Request from Andrew Strouthes for a reduction in the sewer bill at 1104 Hillside Drive. The increased bill was due to a water leak but the water did not go into the sewer.

Councilwoman Fitzgerald noted that, according to the Water Department, there is a floor drain in the basement and the water could have gone in the sewer system.

By consensus, the Board decided to take no action on this request.

4. Discuss an offer by Jeff Gregg to donate the property at 501 Pierce Hill Road to become annexed to and part of Arnold Park.

Councilwoman Fitzgerald and Councilman Majewski both stated that the location and steepness of the

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property make it unattractive as an addition to Arnold Park.

Supervisor Schaffer noted that this property could still be of value to the Town to shore up a section of Pierce Hill Road.

After a brief discussion, the Board asked Town Engineer Vern Myers to contact the property owner to determine his willingness to either donate the land to the Town or to grant the Town an easement for potential road related use.

5. Request from Water & Wastewater Superintendent Scott Groats to award the bid for water analysis (laboratory testing) to the single bidder as follows: Microbac Laboratories, 3821 Buck Dr. Cortland, NY 13045.

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

6. Request from Town Engineer Vern Myers for the Town Supervisor to sign the Two Rivers Greenway Sign Project Supplemental Agreement #2. Monies were added for the additional cost of construction and construction inspection.

Town Engineer Vern Myers stated that this additional spending was approved previously. The Town's share of the cost will be proportionally split with all of the participating municipalities.

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/Fitzgerald)

1. Warrants: 2016-25, 2016-25E, 2016-25L, 2016-26, 2016-26E, 2016-27, 2016-27E

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

2. Request to pay \$2,398.60 to Woit Engineering & Consulting for professional services in the Moody vs. Town of Vestal case through January 31, 2016.

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

3. Request to pay Town Attorney David Berger \$762.50 for billable hours in June 2016.

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

7.3 PERSONNEL (MESSINA/Majewski) – no items were brought for consideration.

7.4 PLANNING & ZONING (MESSINA/Agneshwar)

1. Request from Vestal Girl Scout Event Coordinator Kristen Duff to use the Library parking lot on September 18 and November 11, 2016 for parking of cars while the girl scouts are on a bus trip outing.

Supervisor Schaffer stated that if the space is available, the cars should be parked in the area that is

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normally being used for student parking. That would be least disruptive. The Board agreed to approve this request with that as a condition.

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

2. Request authorization for the Town Attorney to draft a local law to rezone 4629 – 4729 Vestal Parkway E from Residential Area-2 family (RA-2) to Transitional Neighborhood (TN) with publication on July 27, 2016 for a Public Hearing to be held on August 10, 2016. The applicant is the Northstar Group, LLC.

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 (FITZGERALD/Messina) – no items were brought for consideration.

7.6 ADMINISTRATION (MAJEWSKI/Messina)

1. Request from Recreation Planner Sue Jastran to approve the hiring of laborers for various summer camps and activities as listed in her memo to the Town Board dated July 7, 2016. All employee pay rates are budgeted items and background checks have been completed.

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

NEW BUSINESS

1. Supervisor Schaffer stated that he has received a request from a representative of Park Outdoor Advertising to resubmit an application for a gateway sign on Stewart Road. This application was denied by the Board last year.

After a brief discussion, there appeared to be no support from the Board to reconsider this application. Supervisor Schaffer stated that he would discuss the matter with the Town Attorney and respond to the applicant accordingly.

2. Supervisor Schaffer informed the Board that Police Chief John Butler made conditional offers of employment for 2 police officers. If all the conditions are met, the Board will be asked to approve the hiring at a future meeting.

3. Town Attorney David Berger commented on the recent efforts by the Town to deal with several problem properties. He stated that the Town can ultimately demolish a property, but there is a process that needs to be followed. The process initiates with the request to the Town Engineer to inspect the property. If the Town Engineer declares that a health and safety hazard exists, the Board would schedule a public hearing and could order that the property be demolished. If it gets to that point, the Town would have to pay for the cost of the demolition.

Several Board members referenced the property on Rita Road as being a target for such action. Supervisor Schaffer noted that there may be a potential buyer for this property but if that does not materialize the Board may need to proceed with the condemnation process as described by the Town Attorney.

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Proposed Gas Card System for the Purchase of Fuel for Town Vehicles

After analyzing our situation, Town Engineer Vern Myers feels that contracting with an outside vendor for fueling services (using a gas card system) is the best solution for the Town. **Update on 07/11/16:** Town Engineer Vern Myers stated that he has completed a draft Request for Proposal (RFP) and will present it to the Board as soon as it has been reviewed by the Comptroller, who is out of the office for a few days.

SUPERVISOR ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Vestal Museum Presents: “Vestal Goes to War” - An exhibit of the Vestal Historical Society’s Military collection items from local families and the families of the Vestal Historical Society.

- ♦ **July 16** – George Cummings presentation depicting one of General Clinton’s Soldiers from the 1779 Sullivan Clinton Campaign 1PM.
- ♦ **Traveling exhibit “War and Disability”** from The Museum of DisABILITY History July 6 - July 30.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

ADOPTED Ayes 4 Agneshwa, Majewski, Fitzgerald, Schaffer
Nays 0 Absent 1 Messina

Resolved the Board enter into Executive Session to discuss the following topics:

- Negotiation request from the Police Benevolent Association (PBA)
- Litigation: Jones code enforcement case, UHS property tax case
- Potential litigation concerning sidewalk damage at 313 Vandervort Ave.

The time was 6:35 PM.

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

ADOPTED Ayes 4 Agneshwar, Majewski, Fitzgerald, Schaffer
Nays 0 Absent 1 Messina

Resolved the Board leave the Executive Session and **adjourn the Work Session. The time was 7:31 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,
Emil Bielecki, Town Clerk