

## VESTAL TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION MINUTES

MONDAY, MARCH 20, 2017

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

Also Attending: Town Attorney David Berger, Town Engineer Vern Myers, Human Resource Director Nancy Olmstead, Fire Chief David Harrington, Assistant Fire Chiefs Doug Rose and John Paffie, Fire Captain Chuck Paffie, Museum Director Cherese Wiesner-Rosales, Police Chief John Butler, Town Clerk Emil Bielecki and 9 people from the general public.

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

### **6:00 PM - Fire Department to discuss ladder truck replacement**

Fire Station 4 Chief John Paffie and Captain Chuck Paffie narrated a *Powerpoint* presentation entitled **Vestal Fire Department Ladder 32 Proposal**. Highlights of the presentation are as follows:

- A committee consisting of Fire Department members and an industry liaison was set up to study the proposed replacement of ladder truck 32.
- The current ladder truck is 32 years old and has numerous deficiencies: no pump or tank, unsafe front axle rating, lap belts only, serious corrosion throughout cab and body. It needs to be replaced.
- Numerous apparatus were explored with the goal of getting capabilities of safely doing more with less. A list of recommended options was developed.
- The committee recommends a rear mount platform aerial with 100+ foot ladder. The estimated cost is \$1.4 million and the estimated build time is 12-24 months.
- The project timeline requires that the Board of Fire Commissioners gives the approval to proceed to the public information meeting and referendum phases.

The Board members asked several questions about the mileage of the vehicle and how it is used. Fire Department members responded that the vehicle has about 24,000 miles but that is not the most important criteria to evaluate the vehicle. The aerial ladder truck is used primarily for large square footage structures. Assistant Chief Doug Rose noted that ISO standards call for ladder trucks to be available within certain distances. Based on ISO standards, we need a minimum of 2 ladder trucks. The resale value of the existing truck is probably quite low.

Fire Chief David Harrington noted that replacement of the ladder truck is in the 5 year capital plan which the Board approved. He encouraged all Board members reach out to the Fire Department to get all of their questions answered so that we can move to the next phase of the process to replace the ladder truck.

### **6:30 PM – Museum Director Cherese Wiesner-Rosales to discuss grant opportunity**

Vestal Museum Director Cherese Wiesner-Rosales stated that about 100 people a month come through the museum. We spend over \$20 thousand a year operating the museum. The museum could receive much more traffic and better serve the community if it were moved on the Rail Trail. Additional reasons we should move the museum are as follows:

- When the Emergency Squad moves behind the museum, it will create an unsafe area for museum patrons.
- The museum is currently not eligible for the National or State historic register, but if moved to the Rail Trail, it can become eligible and would be able to receive larger grants.

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The Hoyt Foundation has invited the Museum to apply for a \$70,000 grant to move the museum to the Rail Trail. She would like to get the Board's support for the project and authorization to apply for the grant. The total cost of the project has not yet been determined but preliminary estimates are in the \$200,000 - \$250,000 range. The museum and the Vestal Historical Society would try to secure the additional funding from private sources. The Town would be asked to contribute primarily in in-kind services.

Several Board members expressed concern about the final cost of this project and questioned if the funds could be raised privately. Town Engineer Myers cautioned that this is a complex project and completing it could take longer than the time frame specified by the grant.

After a lengthy discussion of the topic, all Board members agreed to support the initiative to move the Vestal Museum to the Rail Trail and to authorize the Museum Director to apply for the Hoyt Foundation grant to move the museum to the Rail Trail.

**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 (FITZGERALD/Majewski)**

**1.** Request from Water/Sewer Superintendent Scott Groats to approve the advertising and sale of department inventory with Auction International. The inventory items were identified as follows:

- Miscellaneous pieces
- 1989 Equipment Trailer
- 5th Wheel from freightliner dump truck
- Winch from freightliner dump truck

Councilman Majewski asked for a description of the miscellaneous pieces. The availability of these items should be circulated to all departments to determine if anyone else could use them internally. Councilwoman Fitzgerald will check with Water/Wastewater Superintendent Groats for additional details.

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

**2.** Request from Water/Sewer Superintendent Scott Groats to award the King Street Sanitary Sewer project to ZMK Construction of Apalachin, NY, the low bidder, in the amount of \$194,700.00.

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

**3.** Request from Highway Superintendent Rocco Turdo to award the Truck Accessory bid to Henderson Truck, the sole bidder, in the amount of \$137,100.00.

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

**4.** Request from Highway Superintendent Rocco Turdo to advertise on April 5, 2017 for Highway Materials bids with the bid opening on April 18, 2017.

**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 Town Engineer Vernon Myers to rescind Resolutions R047-17 and R048-17 regarding the Washington Drive Over Fuller Creek Bridge Rehabilitation Project and adopt new resolutions.

Town Engineer Vern Myers explained that these resolutions need to be rescinded and new ones approved because the State is now asking that a higher amount (\$119,000) be appropriated to cover both the preliminary and the final engineering/design work for the project.

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

6. Request from Francine Notte, Property Manager for Anthos Properties, to consider the reduction of a water bill at their apartment complex at 200 Rano Blvd. A separate letter was also sent to the Binghamton-Johnson City Joint Sewage Treatment Plant.

Supervisor Schaffer and several Board members noted that as a result of a change in policy at the Joint Sewage Treatment Plant, the Town no longer considers requests for reductions of utility bills due to accidental water usage that did not go into the sewer system. The Town Attorney was instructed to send a letter to the applicant stating that the Board will take no action on this request.

**7.2 FINANCE (AGNESHWAR/Fitzgerald)**

1. Warrants: 2017-10, 2017-10E, 2017-11, 2017-11E

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

2. Request from Town Comptroller Laura McKane to sign a contract for Town and Town Court audits with Inero & Company CPAs, LLP.

The fee for the services will be at the standard hourly rates plus out of pocket expenses. The gross fee will not exceed \$8,900 for the financial statement audit and \$3,750 for the justice audit.

**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 \$30.00 for the 2017 annual membership fee to the Broome County Association of Towns & Villages.

**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 \$740.00 to Pappas, Cox, Kimpel, Dodd & Levine for professional services 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.

**7.3 PERSONNEL (FITZGERALD/Agneshwar)**

1. Request from Director of Human Resources Nancy Olmstead to have the Town Board designate Conservation Advisory Commission (CAC) member Adam Flint as the CAC representative on the Environmental Management Council.

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

### 7.4 PLANNING & ZONING (MESSINA/Fitzgerald)

1. Discuss the sale of Magnolia Park.

Supervisor Schaffer stated that although the Town has publicized its interest to sell the Magnolia Park Property, to date, we have only received one purchase offer. He wants to sell the land but wants to impose some restrictions on its future use perhaps through a deed restriction. He is asking the Board for ideas on how to proceed from here.

Councilman Majewski stated that the park is no longer used because the Town is unwilling to improve the drainage on the property. The neighborhood is starting to get a new influx of younger homeowners and we should consider fixing up the park and reopening it.

Several Board members stated that the purchase price being offered may be too low and we should hold out for a higher price. Town Engineer Myers agreed, noting that the parcel has access to public water and sewer and is not landlocked.

Town Attorney David Berger asked the Board for time to research whether any federal or state money was used for the park. If so, we may have to replace this land with another comparable piece of land designated for park purposes. The State may have to approve the sale of this land and other such issues may arise.

### 7.5 PUBLIC SAFETY (MAJEWSKI/Messina)

1. Request to adapt the Town of Vestal Emergency Plan dated December 1, 2016.

Supervisor Schaffer noted that the emergency plan has already been signed by the Board in December 2016 but due to his oversight, it was not formally adopted by the Board. The only change that is being made to the December 2016 Emergency Plan is on page 8 the reference to the Vestal Nursing Center on Vestal Rd. is being removed and is replaced with the Vestal Park Rehabilitation & Nursing Center on Route 26 South.

**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/Majewski)

1. Request to award the Operating Engineers Uniform bid to Logowise, the sole bidder.

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

2. Request from Museum Director Cheresse Wiesner-Rosales to accept a \$1,000 grant from the Broome County Arts Council to write and produce a play entitled "Wildcat: The Vestal Train Wreck of 1901."

**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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**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Councilwoman Agneshwar asked the Board to consider using unpaid interns from Binghamton University for projects that could benefit the Town and perhaps serve as a goodwill gesture to improve the communication between the Town and the University. One suggestion was to use an intern to help set up a database of “zombie” properties in the Town. A brief discussion followed. Supervisor Schaffer stated that he would bring up the topic at an upcoming meeting with University leaders.
  
2. In response to concerns expressed by Councilman Majewski regarding flood risks posed by the recent record snowfall, Supervisor Schaffer stated that he is closely monitoring the situation. At this time, it appears that the forecasted weather conditions will produce a slow melt that should not create problems. Nonetheless, we now have an Emergency Plan which could be implemented to deal with such emergencies.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

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

Resolved the Board enter into Executive Session to discuss a labor negotiations issue concerning all Town contracts. The time was 7:50 PM.

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

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

Resolved the Board leave the Executive Session and **adjourn the meeting. The time was 9:15 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Emil Bielecki, Town Clerk