

VESTAL TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION MINUTES

MONDAY, APRIL 09, 2018

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

Also Attending: Town Attorney David Berger, Town Engineer Vern Myers, Director of Human Resources Nancy Olmstead, Town Comptroller Laura McKane, Town Clerk Emil Bielecki and 3 people from the general public.

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

COMMITTEES

7.1 **PUBLIC WORKS** (FITZGERALD/Majewski) – no items were brought for consideration.

7.2 **FINANCE** (MESSINA/Fletcher)

1. Warrants: 2018-13, 2018-13A, 2018-13E, 2018-14, 2018-14E

Councilman Majewski asked about the invoice from the Hospital for Animals. Police Chief Butler responded that it was a bill from the Cornell Animal Hospital for testing on dogs that have allegedly been poisoned in the Noyes Rd. neighborhood. The tests proved to be inconclusive but this is a continuing investigation.

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

2. Request to pay Michael J. Heenan \$1,075.00 for expert testimony in the Hicks v Town of Vestal, et al litigation.

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

3. Discuss renewal of Consulting Agreement with Douglas A. Bulman of the Bulman Agency LLC and Premier Consulting Associates, LLC from April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019.

Town Comptroller Laura McKane noted that the contract with Doug Bulman has an automatic renewal clause but that a new agreement is necessary because there are number of changes coming in the next couple of years that will warrant an expansion of the scope of services.

Mr. Bulman highlighted the following items in explaining the need for a new agreement:

- All components of our medical plan are due to go out to bid this year and next. This will involve a lot of prep work.
- Under the current plan, we are required to purchase the stop loss insurance and the administration services from them.
- The costs from Excellus for plan administration and for the drug plan are excessive. We need to break that bondage.
- This will be our first competitive bid in 10 years. We expect to achieve some savings.

Comptroller McKane noted that she omitted to give the Board a copy of the Business Associate Addendum which needs to be approved with the new agreement. The Business Associate Addendum details how we will handle protected health information (PHI) and information on high cost claimants for stop loss insurance proposals.

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Under the terms of the agreement the Town of Vestal agrees to pay the Consultant a fee of \$30,000 as compensation for the services listed therein.

Supervisor Schaffer stated that he would like to get rid of the copays under the drug plan. Doug Bulman noted that this will be looked into. We are also looking into expanding the wellness program.

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

7.3 PERSONNEL (MAJEWSKI/Fitzgerald)

1. Request from Recreation Planner Sue Jastran to hire summer camp directors, summer office assistant and playground instructor as noted in her memo to the Town Board dated April 3, 2018. All employee pay rates are budgeted items in the 2018 budget 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.

7.4 PLANNING & ZONING (FLETCHER/Fitzgerald)

1. Request from Jack McQuiston of the The Vestal Historical Society to hold a Doug's Fish Fry fundraisers in the library parking lot on June 8, 2018 and August 31, 2018 in the library parking lot. The monies from this fundraiser will be used to help with the support of the Vestal Museum's ongoing exhibits.

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 (MESSINA/Majewski)

1. Request from Fire Chief David Harrington to send one piece of Station 4 apparatus and members to the Binghamton's Memorial Day Parade on May 28, 2018.

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 David Harrington to approve the usage of the Fred Singer Training Site at a cost of \$100 per day as follows:

- 5 Mile Point Fire Company – April 22, 2018
- Nichols Fire Department - May 20, 2018

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

7.6 ADMINISTRATION (MAJEWSKI/Messina)

1. Request from Vestal Museum Director Cheresse Wiesner-Rosales to accept a \$1,000 grant from Broome County Arts Council for the upcoming theatrical production based on Vestal history.

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

RECEIVE AND FILE

- December 31, 2017 Vestal Justice Court Final Audit Report on Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures.
- Annual Report of the Vestal Fire District Service Award Program (LOSAP) as of January 1, 2018.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

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

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

- Labor negotiations with the Operating Engineers and CSEA bargaining units
- Tax certiorari case

The time was 6:24 PM.

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

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

Resolved the Board leave the Executive Session and **adjourn the meeting. The time was 8:12 PM.**

At the conclusion of the Work Session, Town Attorney Berger held a brief meeting with the Town Board that he categorized as *attorney-client privileged* communication.

Respectfully submitted,
Emil Bielecki, Town Clerk