

VESTAL TOWNBOARD WORK MINUTES
MONDAY, MAY 20, 2019

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

Also Attending: Town Attorney David Berger, Director of Human Resources Nancy Olmstead, Town Comptroller Laura McKane, ZBA Chairman Jennifer Kakusian and Town Clerk Emil Bielecki.

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

6:00 PM Presentation on Municipality Insurance

Christopher Hutchings from Smith Brothers Insurance presented a proposal to renew the Town's Municipal Insurance with New York Municipal Insurance Reciprocal (NYMIR). Mr. Hutchings stated that The Partners Insurance Agency, which has served the Town for over 50 years, has merged with Smith Brother Insurance, but will continue to be a locally owned and operated Independent Agency. The Town of Vestal has insured with NYMIR for 24 years. NYMIR is a program that was created for municipalities by municipalities. Although the annual premium of approximately \$116,000 is an increase of about \$2,500, NYMIR has added a lot of coverage including:

- Blanket Building & Contents coverage increased from \$44,527,877 (2018) to \$46,137,810 (2019)
- Inland Marine (other than auto physical damage) increased from \$7,367,798 (2018) to \$8,001,504 (2019)
- Auto Physical Damage on Inland Marine increased from \$2,668,354 (2018) to \$5,880,455 (2019). Inland Marine includes Agreed Value Valuation in event of loss.
- Business Automobile policy includes 7 additional vehicles in 2019.

Town Comptroller Laura McKane noted that the NYMIR premium came in significantly lower than the two other quotes and recommends that the Town renew the coverage with NYMIR.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

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

Resolved the Board enter into Executive Session to discuss the status of a contract employee. The time was 6:15 PM.

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

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

Resolved the Board leave the Executive Session and resume the Work Session meeting. The time was 6:43 PM.

COMMITTEES

7.1 PUBLIC WORKS (FITZGERALD/Fletcher)

1. Request from Water/Wastewater Superintendent Scott Groats to approve advertising on May 23, 2019 for Rano Tank Rehabilitation and repainting with opening June 10, 2019 – this will be advertised by the engineering company.

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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7.2 FINANCE (MESSINA /Majewski)

1. Warrants: 2019-19, 2019-19B, 2019-19C, 2019-19E, 2019-20, 2019-20B, 2019-20E

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

2. Discuss Municipality Insurance Quotes

After a brief discussion, the Board expressed support for the renewal of the Town's Municipal Insurance with the New York Municipal Insurance Reciprocal (NYMIR) for the term of 5/29/19 thru 5/29/20. The servicing agent is Smith Brothers Insurance, LLC (formerly known as The Partners Insurance Agency).

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 Director of Human Resources Nancy Olmstead to authorize Parks Superintendent Jim Bukowski to hire as follows:

- a) Jacob Spellane as a seasonal Laborer effective May 13, 2019 at the rate of \$11.10 per hour.
- b) Zachary Cook as a seasonal Laborer effective May 16, 2019 at the rate of \$11.10 per hour.
- c) Justin Groats as a seasonal Laborer effective as soon as possible at the rate of \$11.10 per hour.
- d) Matthew Thrasher as a seasonal Laborer effective as soon as possible at the rate of \$11.10 per hour.
- e) Trevor Gerdus as a seasonal Laborer effective as soon as possible at the rate of \$11.10 per hour.

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

2. Request from Recreation Planner Sue Jastran to hire Playground Instructors and Tennis Instructors as indicated in her memo to the Town Board dated May 16, 2019.

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) – no items were brought for consideration.

7.5 PUBLIC SAFETY (MESSINA/Fletcher)

1. Request from Police Chief John Butler to purchase and install a new evidence tracking system (the BEAST) from the sole provider, Porter Lee Corporation, in the total amount of \$9,186.46.

In a memo to the Town Board, Police Chief John Butler wrote that this system is being used by several agencies in the area and it fits our needs. The money for the new evidence system will be taken from line A3120-4389 (miscellaneous grant line).

Town Attorney Dave Berger noted that the motion to approve this purchase and installation should state that *the Town Board has accepted the justification from the Police Chief and the manufacturer for selecting the sole source provider.*

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

2. Request from the Vestal Fire Department for approval to accept the following Fire Departments for usage of the Fred Singer Training Site at a cost of \$200 per day:

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- Towanda, Fire Department - May2, 2019
- Chenango Bridge Fire Company – May 11, 2019
- Monroe Hose Fire Company – June 2, 2019

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

7.6 ADMINISTRATION (FITZGERALD/Messina)

1. Request from Vestal Museum Director Cheresse Wiesner-Rosales to accept the following grant checks:

- \$1850 from the Chenango County Arts Council for the Second Saturday music night.
- \$900 from the Community Foundation of South Central NY for the Third Annual Haudenosaunee Festival.

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

2. Request from Town Clerk Emil Bielecki to approve Harold Vincent Griggs III to provide dog control assistance when the Dog Control Officer is not available at the rate of \$40.00 per call. A Town vehicle, whenever, available, will be used for responding to the call-outs.

Town Clerk Emil Bielecki praised the Dog Control Officer for providing 24/7 coverage with minimal assistance. We provide coverage that is unmatched by surrounding municipalities at a lower cost.

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

NEW BUSINESS

- Town Attorney Dave Berger stated that in order to assist the Town in litigation settlement negotiations pertaining to the pending certiorari case brought by the owner of 105 W. Sheedy Road, we need to hire a professional appraiser to appraise the property. He recommends that we hire Kenneth G. Frommer to appraise the property located at 105 W. Sheedy Road (Vestal Park Nursing and Rehabilitation Center), tax map parcel 189.12-1-41.22, at a cost of \$11,500.00. We have used Mr. Frommer in the past and feel that he is the most qualified and will do this project at a most reasonable cost.

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

- Town Supervisor John Schaffer stated that he has been approached about the possibility of doing an update to the Town of Vestal maps that we provide to the public at no cost. The project was initially done over 10 years ago. If the Board is interested in hearing more about it, he will have the person come to discuss the project. There will be no cost to the Town if we do this update. Hearing no objection, the Supervisor stated that he would schedule a presentation at a future Work Session.
- Town Supervisor John Schaffer stated that there are four properties in the Town that have been deemed as dangerous structures which need to be demolished. All four of the properties were eligible for FEMA buyouts but the owners opted not to take them. Two of the properties are privately owned and two are owned by banks. He is working with the Code Department and other

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Agencies to get the demolitions completed. Town Attorney Dave Berger noted the need to get a clear titles to the properties and advised that we should also reach out to the County about placing liens on the properties.

The Work Session was adjourned at 7:16 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Emil Bielecki, Town Clerk