

VESTAL TOWNBOARD WORK SESSION MINUTES
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 09, 2019

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, Police Chief John Butler, Fire Chief David Harrington, Assistant Fire Chiefs John Paffie and Ron Birdsall, Town Clerk Emil Bielecki and 1 person from the general public.

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

6:00 PM: Police Chief John Butler to discuss creation of Police Captain position

Police Chief John Butler addressed the Board with a request to reinstate the Police Captain position in the 2020 budget year. This position was eliminated in 2007. Chief Butler noted that the position was eliminated when the department was undergoing a significant restructuring during a difficult period. At that time the department had 33 officers. Today, we have 39 officers. The suggested annual pay for the position would be \$108,366 with no call in pay. No additional overtime pay is anticipated. Chief Butler stated the following reasons for why the Captains position should be reinstated:

- The department has grown to 39 officers requiring additional supervisory duties
- There is a chain of command issue which cannot be discussed in a public session
- The Captain would oversee both the road and investigative units
- Adding a Captain position would enable improved supervisory coverage on the busy 3 to 11 shift and would enable the department to staff the weekends with an upper level officer.

Chief Butler noted that if the Board approves the Captain position, he would like to fill it at some time in the spring of 2020.

After a brief discussion about the staffing issues in the Police Department, the Board consensus was to authorize the Police Chief to proceed with the reinstatement of the Police Captain position.

6:15 PM: Fire District Budget presentation of the Proposed 2020 Budget

Town Comptroller Laura McKane provided the Board with the initial requests for the 2020 Fire District Budget. She noted that the increases in appropriations continue to be driven largely by the multi-year commitment to increase the capital reserves so as to eventually eliminate the need borrow for future capital projects and go to a pay as you go system. A summary of the amounts requested in the initial 2020 budget and their impact on the tax levy is as follows:

2020 FIRE DISTRICT - INITIAL BUDGET PROJECTION										
	2019 Taxes Raised	2019 Rates @ Full Value	2019 Adopted Budget	2020 Initial Appropriations	Non-RPT Rev. Excluding Approp FB	Appropriated Fund Balance & Reserves	Real Property Taxes to be Raised	2020 Projected Tax Rates	% Change 2019Final Tax Rate to 2020 Initial	Increase per \$1,000 of Assessment
Fire Gen. Fund	\$1,413,064		\$1,423,514	\$1,562,147	\$26,000		\$1,536,147			
Less Foam Dist	\$17,000		\$17,000	\$24,000			\$24,000			
Fire District Wide	\$1,396,064	\$0.7350	\$1,406,514	\$1,538,147	\$26,000	\$0	\$1,512,147	\$0.7925	7.82%	\$0.0575
			% Change in Spending							
			9.7%							
			% Increase in Spending (without Foam District)			% Increase in Levy without Foam District				
			9.4%			8.3%				

Assessed Value 2019 for 2020 Levy = \$1,909,591,310
Using only \$1,908,000,000 in the calculation in anticipation of revisions

Tax Increase Home with a \$100,000 AV
\$5.75

VESTAL TOWNBOARD WORK SESSION MINUTES
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 09, 2019

Comptroller McKane also noted that the Fire Department is requesting the creation of a Building and Ground Capital Reserve Fund. That would require a mandatory referendum. She also distributed and discussed an updated spreadsheet of the 5-20 year capital spending projections.

Fire Chief David Harrington engaged the Board in a line by line review of the largest increases and decreases in the proposed 2020 Fire District Budget. He asked the Board members to fully review the proposed budget and submit any questions they may have about the budget through the Comptroller by the end of this week. The proposed 2020 Fire District Budget needs to be adopted and filed with the Fire District Secretary by September 24th.

UPCOMING PUBLIC HEARINGS

Reopen Public Hearings pending receipt and review of the 239 l & m reports:
Local Law C – Rezoning of 113 Brooks Ave
Local Law D – Rezoning of 136 Vestal Parkway East

COMMITTEES

7.1 PUBLIC WORKS (FITZGERALD/Fletcher)

1. Request from Water/Wastewater Superintendent Scott Groats to refund Lori Ann Curtis \$75.93 for a credit balance on her utility account at 420 Lagrange Street.

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

7.2 FINANCE (MESSINA /Majewski)

1. Warrants: 2019-35, 2019-35E, 2019-36, 2019-36E

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

2. Request for Town Supervisor John Schaffer to sign an “Inter-municipal Agreement” with Broome County for the Shared Equipment Program.

Town Attorney David Berger noted that the Inter-municipal Agreement that he reviewed is blank as to what equipment we plan to share. He is recommending that the affected department heads be given an opportunity to provide input into the process before the agreement is signed. Supervisor Schaffer agreed and stated that he would reach out to the department heads to get a list of the items that we plan to share.

3. Request for Town Supervisor John Schaffer to sign the Stop DWI Overtime Patrol Agreement with Broome County for the period 1/1/19 to 12/31/19.

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) – no items were brought for consideration.

7.4 PLANNING & ZONING (FLETCHER/Fitzgerald)

1. Request from Cindy Cowden to hold the Binghamton University sponsored Wenzel Memorial Sprint Triathlon on October 6, 2019 partially on Town roads.

VESTAL TOWNBOARD WORK SESSION MINUTES
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 09, 2019

Cindy Cowden, the coordinator of the triathlon, explained that the majority of the race course is on the campus but park of the bike route will run on Rt. 434, Murray Hill Rd., Lehigh Ave. and Washington Ave. The bike portion of the race is expected to run from 8:00 am – 10:30 am on Sunday morning. She is currently speaking with DOT for a temporary lane closure of the east bound turning lane from the campus entrance to the corner of Murray Hill Rd. and of the south bound land of Murray Hill Rd. from Rt. 434 to the entrance of the ITC building on Murray Hill Rd. Also, she has been in contact with the Vestal Police Department to secure coverage for the Vestal roadways. The triathlon is in honor of an alumnus who died in the line of duty in the Middle East conflict and it is expected to become an ongoing event. The number of participants is capped at 120, but the organizers would be happy with 40 to 50 participants the first year.

Councilman Majewski noted that there are several houses of worship along the path of the bike race that may have services at that time of this event and wondered if these organizations were contacted about this event. Councilwoman Fitzgerald asked if any of the residents along the route of the bike race will be notified of the event. She, and other Board members, are particularly concerned about Lehigh Ave. Ms. Cowden responded that she has reached out to the religious organizations but not to any of the residents in the area. She agrees that notifying the residents of Lehigh Ave. would be a good idea.

Town Attorney David Berger stated that the Town will be asking for an indemnification agreement and for proof of liability insurance naming the Town as an insured party.

After a discussion about the various aspects of the event, the Board agreed to approve the staging of the bike portion of this event on the Town roadways as identified in the provided map with the following conditions:

- The Town is named as an indemnified party in the waiver form signed by the participants
- Proof of liability insurance naming the Town as an insured party is provided.
- Meet all conditions set forth by the NYS DOT and the Vestal Police Department for the bike portion of the event
- Notify all residents on Lehigh Avenue about the bike portion of the event

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 Engineer Vern Myers to issue an Aquifer Permit, a Special Use Permit and a Service Station Special Permit to Enterprise Rent-A-Car at 2909-3001 Vestal Road.

According to Town Engineer Vern Myers, Enterprise Rent-A-Car is looking to move its operation from Stewart Road to a brand new facility on the corner of Vestal Road and the new Sycamore Road extension (where the current Amish Sheds business is). The following special permits will be required to be approved after a public hearing is held:

- Special Use Permit for a vehicle service station or a business dispensing gasoline
- Service Station Special Permit for a business with fuel storage.
- Aquifer Permit

If the special permits are approved, they will be submitting the full site plans for Planning Board review and approval.

VESTAL TOWNBOARD WORK SESSION MINUTES
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 09, 2019

The Board will authorize the Town Attorney to advertise on October 9, 2019 for a Public Hearing on October 23, 2019 regarding the above noted permits for Enterprise Rent-A-Car at 2909-3001 Vestal Road.

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/Fletcher) – no items were brought for consideration.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

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

Resolved the Board enter into Executive Session to discuss a medical issue of a specific employee. The time was 7:31 PM.

On a motion of Councilman Fletcher, 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 **adjourn the meeting. The time was 7:36 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,
Emil Bielecki, Town Clerk