

VESTAL TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION MINUTES
MONDAY, AUGUST 24, 2020

WORK SESSION

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

Also Attending: Town Attorney David Berger, Director of Human Resources Nancy Olmstead, Town Comptroller Laura McKane, Town Engineer Vern Myers, Town Clerk Debra Wallace

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

SUPERVISOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

UPCOMING PUBLIC HEARINGS

COMMITTEES

7.1 PUBLIC WORKS (ELLIS/Messina)

1. Request from Vern Myers, Town Engineer to authorize signing of four contracts with the low bidder JB Excavation Services for the FEMA funded streambank restoration projects on Choconut Creek.

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

2. Request from Vern Myers, Town Engineer to authorize signing the GOSR Community Reconstruction and Infrastructure and Local Government Programs – Contract Amendment and Change Order Request.

Town Engineer Vern Myers stated that there were two change orders for the EMS building project. One was updating the map parcel description and deed language when the land was transferred. The other change included Engineering and EMS to make changes after the 100% submission. Some of those changes were redesigning the rooms, select site demo and landscaping which will save about \$150,000. The final estimate should be done at the end of this month or early next month, with plans to bid the project in October with construction beginning next year.

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

3. Request from Vern Myers, Town Engineer to authorize John Schaffer, Town Supervisor to sign the NYS DOT Agreements for the Greenway Trail (Binghamton to Vestal).

Town Engineer Vern Myers stated that the Town will be responsible for lighting on the Greenway Trail from the Binghamton town line to Murray Hill for 25 years. There will be about 63 LED lights. It will be a significant cost, but if we don't sign, there will be no lights on the trail. It would be ok on the parkway, but the trail from top of Plaza Drive to Murray Hill, it will be dark. Myers stated that the project does replace the original water lines from Plaza Drive to the Binghamton town line, as well as replacing the sewer pipes from Plaza Drive to the entrance of University Plaza. Councilwoman Messina asked if the cost of the lights would be more or less than the cost of the sewer & water replacement. Myers stated it would be comparable. There would also be a new traffic signal at the entrance to University Plaza which would include full loops, pedestrian crossings and

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landings that would be beneficial to the Town's Forever Green land across the street. Councilwoman Messina believes that paying for the lights is the right thing to do and it will enhance our community.

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 /Fletcher)

1. Warrants: 2020 – 33, 33C, 33E, 34, 34E

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

2. Request that the Board of Fire Commissioners authorize \$275,000 raised to fund a building improvement reserve to instead be added to the fire apparatus and equipment capital reserve.

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

3. Request from Nick Angeline, Deputy Comptroller to approve budget transfers dated 8/24/2020 as indicated in memo.

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

4. Request from Laura McKane to authorize proceeding with Pickett Painting and authorize a budget transfer of up to \$19,500 from H0318.27100 (2018 Parks Improvements) to H0317.27100 (2017 Parks Improvements) and to transfer the related funding from H0318.5031 (Interfund Transfers) to H0317.27100.

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

5. Request from David Harrington, Fire Chief to approve transferring funds from line F3410.8404 Workman's compensation in the amount of \$9,000.00 and line F3410.4190 gasoline in the amount of \$2,500.00 to line F3410.2100 Operational Fire Equipment to cover the expenses of the new Gear Washer. This is to go in line with the PERMA Mini Grant that the Fire Department was awarded.

Councilwoman Fitzgerald asked which station will be receiving this. Supervisor Schaffer stated that it would be for Station 1.

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

7.3 PERSONNEL (FLETCHER/Fitzgerald)

1. Request to authorize Nancy Olmstead, Director of Human Resources to schedule an on-site flu and pneumonia vaccine clinic on October 21, 2020 from 1:00 to 3:00 at Town Hall. Eligible participants are Town employees, pre-Medicare eligible retirees with Town health insurance benefits and adult dependents who participate in the Town health insurance program. The clinic is to be provided by Lourdes Hospital at a rate of \$25 per flu vaccine

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and \$112 per pneumonia vaccines. Charges for eligible participants will be paid from the health insurance fund.

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

2. Request to authorize Debra Wallace, Town Clerk to hire Ann Kachmar as a part time Clerk at the rate of \$11.80 per hour effective September 1, 2020, she is expected to work as needed for tax collection purposes.

Town Clerk Debra Wallace stated that this is not a new hire. She has been working during previous tax seasons and will be working the month of September as needed.

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

3. Request to authorize Scott Groats, Water/Wastewater Superintendent to appoint Scott Shimer to the vacant position of Water Meter Reader and Repair Person effective August 29, 2020 at the Operating Engineer rate of \$25.20/hour. This is a civil service competitive position and Mr. Shimer’s appointment will be provisional.

Authorize Scott Groats, Water/Wastewater Superintendent to appoint David Calvasina to the vacant position of Sewer Maintenance Worker effective August 29, 2020 at the Operating Engineer rate of \$26.46/hour. This is a civil service noncompetitive position.

Authorize Scott Groats, Water/Wastewater Superintendent to appoint David Kilmer to the vacant position of Sewer Maintenance Worker effective August 29, 2020 at the Operating Engineer rate of \$26.46/hour. This is a civil service noncompetitive position.

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 (FITZGERALD/Messina)

7.5 PUBLIC SAFETY (MESSINA/Fletcher)

7.6 ADMINISTRATION (ELLIS/Fletcher)

RECEIVE AND FILE

- 57 Letters for a Walkway to SUNY

Councilwoman Sue Messina stated that she and Town Engineer went to see where they want to put a sidewalk. They decided it was unsafe to put in the walkway due to the bus traffic, blind turns and the road is too narrow. It is the school’s responsibility to make a safe way for kids to get back and forth from the BU Club. The Greenway Trail will be available for students to walk when the project is complete.

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Discuss vacation carry over

Director of Human Resources Nancy Olmstead stated that she sent an email out to Department Heads regarding employee vacation time. Three departments responded with concerns. The Police Department, the Water Department and the Highway Department. Some of the Department Heads are asking for direction. Police Chief Butler's concern is that they are only able to carry over 5 days and with 4 in the Academy and COVID-19, his overtime will be high. He is requesting a carryover of 10 days for his employees. Councilman Ellis asked if the Police Union agreed to push their negotiations off and Olmstead stated that negotiations will be discussed in Executive Session.

NEW BUSINESS

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

ADOPTED

Ayes 5 Fitzgerald, Messina, Fletcher, Ellis, Schaffer
Nays 0

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

Negotiations with PBA, VPSA, CSEA and Operating Engineers

The time was 7:11 PM.

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

ADOPTED

Ayes 5 Fitzgerald, Messina, Fletcher, Ellis, Schaffer
Nays 0

Resolved the Board leave the Executive Session and adjourn the meeting. The time was 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Debra Wallace, Town Clerk