

**VESTAL TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION MINUTES**  
**MONDAY, MARCH 24, 2014**

In Attendance: Supervisor Schaffer, Board Members Fitzgerald and Messina.  
Absent: Councilman Majewski

Also Attending: Town Attorney David Berger, Human Resource Officer Nancy Olmstead, Town Clerk Emil Bielecki, Fire Chief Pat McPherson and six members of the community.

**WORK SESSION:** Supervisor Schaffer convened the meeting at 6:00 PM.

**UPCOMING PUBLIC HEARING**

4/9/2014 – Local Law B Amending Vestal Code to Permit Electronic Gateway Signs

**COMMITTEES**

**7.1 PUBLIC WORKS**

1. Request from Town Engineer Gary Campo to authorize the Supervisor to sign agreement authorizing the implementation and funding for the Two Rivers Greenway Sign Project.

Councilwoman Fitzgerald noted that this project is funded 80% by the State and 20 % by the Town.

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

2. Request from Highway Superintendent Brock Leonard to advertise highway materials bid on April 2, 2014 to be received on April 11, 2014 at 2:00 PM.

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

**7.2 FINANCE**

**1. Warrants** – 2014 11, 11E, 12, 12E, 12L

**OK -** This item will be placed on the Agenda as a Receive and File item at the next Regular Meeting.

2. Request to pay Town Attorney, David Berger \$1075.00 for billable hours for February 2014.

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

3. Request for Town Supervisor John Schaffer to sign agreement with Myers Oakwood Properties to renew the lease for 133 Front Street for one year, term to run from April 1, 2014 – March 31, 2015.

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

**7.3 PERSONNEL**

**1. Discuss a 211 waiver application** for Chief of Police John Butler.

Human Resource Officer Nancy Olmstead noted that the waiver application process is the same as in previous years. The Board needs to pass a resolution authorizing the submission of the waiver application. The application and supporting documents are submitted to the State Civil Service

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Commission but there is no assurance that the waiver will be granted. The waiver request and the job status of the Police Chief are two separate issues. If the waiver is denied, the Police Chief would not be able to collect his full pension and would perhaps need to make some decisions concerning his status with the Town. The application needs to be submitted shortly but it could be withdrawn at a later date if warranted.

Supervisor Schaffer stated that the Board received a letter from the Vestal Police Supervisors Association which addresses a number of issues that the union has with the submission of this waiver. This letter just arrived this afternoon, but a quick reading of it revealed a number of erroneous statements. He asked the Board to review the letter but recommended that the Board proceed with voting on the resolution to authorize the submission of the waiver application. No Board member objected.

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

**2.** Request from Human Resource Officer Nancy Olmstead to amend Resolution 058-14 (amending Sections 805 & 807 of the Employee Handbook) to correct an error.

Human Resource Officer Nancy Olmstead noted that there was an error that was discovered in the language of Section 807 that was adopted by Resolution 058-14. It needs to be corrected. She provided the corrected version, as amended on March 24, 2014, for the Board's review.

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

**3.** Request to re-appoint Nina Versaggi to a four year term on the Town of Vestal Historic Preservation Commission.

Human Resource Officer Olmstead noted that this member's appointment expired at the end of 2013. The re-appointment would take effect immediately and end on December 31, 2017. Even with this reappointment, the Historic Preservation Commission will still have one vacancy.

**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**

**1.** Request from Wendy's Walk for Kids to hold a Gance's Catering Fundraiser on April 25, 2013 at the library parking lot.

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

**2.** Request from Vestal Marching Band "Band Aides" to hold a Brooks Chicken Barbeque Fundraiser on May 25, 2014 at the library parking lot.

**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**

**1.** Request from Patrick McPherson, Fire Chief to approve Jason Atkinson as a new member of Company Number 3 and Jeffrey Arnott as a new member of Company Number 4.

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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.

2. Request from Police Chief John Butler to grant an unpaid internship for the summer of 2014 to Samuel Warner, a student in the Criminology Program at SUNY Cortland.

Town Attorney Berger noted that the applicant needs to sign the Town's Volunteer Participation Waiver.

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

### 7.6 ADMINISTRATION

1. Request from IT Director Dan Williams to advertise for Wireless Point to Point (PTP) Upgrade on April 2, 2014, with bid opening on April 21, 2014.

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

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. **Letter requesting seat on the Joint Sewage Treatment Plant Board** – After a brief discussion, the Board consensus was to authorize the Supervisor to send a letter to the Mayors of the City of Binghamton and the Village of Johnson City requesting the amending of the municipal cooperation agreement so as to allow the outside users of the Joint Sewage Treatment Plant to appoint a non-voting member to the Joint Sewage Treatment Plant Board.

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

2. **Local Law regarding Best Value Bidders** – Supervisor Schaffer stated that we should continue to evaluate the merits of adopting such a local law and wants to discuss it again when Councilman Majewski is present.

3. **Awarding contract for the Operating Engineers Uniforms** – Supervisor Schaffer acknowledged that the Town needs to review and reassess this whole program, but for now, this needs to be approved so that items can be ordered as per the collective bargaining agreement.

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

4. **Schedule Meeting with Fire Department** – Supervisor Schaffer stated that this request is to meet as the Board of Fire Commissioners to hear a presentation about Station 4. The presentation is expected to last about 1 hour. The meeting has been scheduled in the Town Board room on Monday, April 7, 2014 at 5:00 PM. The Town Clerk will notify the media about the meeting.

### NEW BUSINESS

Supervisor Schaffer advised the Board that he has been able to negotiate a reduced price of \$18,000 to purchase the property at 512 Front Street but there is no agreement at this time.

Councilwoman Fitzgerald stated that she favors purchasing this property because the Town needs it for parking but feels that the purchase price could be reduced further.

The Board agreed to continue the negotiations with the property owner.

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**SUPERVISOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Winter Parking Hours** – December 1st - March 31st. No parking on Town and County streets and highways between the hours of 2:00 AM and 6:00 AM.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

**ADOPTED** Ayes 3           Fitzgerald, Messina, Schaffer  
              Nays 0           Absent 1       Majewski

Resolved the Board enter into Executive Session to discuss the ongoing labor negotiations with the Operating Engineers. The time was 6:50 PM.

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

**ADOPTED** Ayes 3           Fitzgerald, Messina, Schaffer  
              Nays 0           Absent 1       Majewski

Resolved the Board leave Executive Session and adjourn the Work Session. The time was 7:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Emil Bielecki, Town Clerk