

## VESTAL TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION MINUTES

MONDAY, APRIL 7, 2014

### **5:30 PM – Presentation to the Board of Fire Commissioners concerning Station 4.**

In the presence of the Fire Chief and most of the Officers of the Vestal Fire Department, Sean Foran, a Project Manager from the Hueber-Breuer Construction Company and Tim Bivens, from Bivens Architects, presented a power point presentation to the Board of Fire Commissioners (Schafer, Majewski, Messina, Fitzgerald) summarizing the recommendations and conclusions from the completed Station 4 Feasibility Study. The following recommendations and comments were highlighted:

- Demolish the current Station 4 building and build a new 14,000 sq. ft. single story Station at the same location.
- Build the new station to meet 'essential facility' code ratings.
- The approximate cost of construction would be \$230 per square foot. The total cost of the new facility would be approximately **\$4.5 million**.
- If the cost of the project is financed over 30 years at an assumed rate of 4%, the annual cost to the tax payers would be approximately \$15.75 per \$100,000 of assessed value.

Mr. Foran reminded the Board that Station 4 is of critical importance to the Town as a Fire Station and as the place where the Town goes to during emergencies. He also noted that if the Board of Fire Commissioners gives the go ahead to proceed with the project, Hueber-Breuer would coordinate the public education aspect in preparation of going to a referendum.

Several of the Fire Commissioner asked questions about the project. The Board of Fire Commissioners will continue its ongoing review of the Station 4 Feasibility Study.

### **WORK SESSION**

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

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

**Supervisor Schaffer convened the meeting at 6:28 PM.**

### **UPCOMING PUBLIC HEARING**

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

### **UPCOMING BID OPENINGS**

4/11/14 Highway Materials

4/21/14 Point to Point Wireless Upgrade

### **COMMITTEES**

#### **7.1 PUBLIC WORKS**

1. Request from Dianne Oaks to lower her sewage bill \$478.24, due to a broken pipe. The water did not enter the sanitary sewer system

**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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2. Request from Raymond Bonanno to be reimbursed for damage done to his driveway due to the town repairing Parkwood Road.

Supervisor Schaffer stated that the property owner has not submitted a bill for any damages but seems to feel that the Town should pay for some of the cost of replacing the driveway. That is not realistic. The Highway Department has agreed to install a berm at the end of the driveway. This should solve the problem and resolve the issue.

**7.2 FINANCE**

**1. Warrants** – 2014 13, 13E, 13M, 14, 14E

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

2. Request from Laura McKane for the Supervisor to sign agreement with Doug Bulman for Health Care Consulting beginning April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2016.

Supervisor Schaffer noted that the reason the contract has increased by 50% is that the agent did not get the anticipated commission from the insurance carrier. The commission request is under review and the Town would be reimbursed if the commission is paid.

3. Request for Supervisor to sign agreement with Susan Buchta to purchase 512 Front Street for the price of \$18,000.

Supervisor Schaffer noted that he tried to negotiate the price ever lower but it was rejected. He still feels this is a fair price and is probably lower than what it would cost if the Town tried to acquire the property under eminent domain.

Councilwoman Fitzgerald clarified that the property was never condemned but it is an eyesore in need of a lot of work. Councilwomen Fitzgerald and Messina expressed support for purchasing this property citing the need to provide adequate parking for the Town offices located next door.

Councilman Majewski called the Assessor's building a piece of junk and the Town should be focusing on relocating the offices rather than wasting the money on purchasing the property next door.

**7.3 PERSONNEL** – no items were brought for consideration by the Board

**7.4 PLANNING & ZONING**

1. Request from Tara Nadasky to organize "The Cali Grill Hill Thrill", a charity run to be held on the first or second weekend in September.

After a brief discussion, it was decided that the sponsor of this event should be invited to attend the Work Session on April 21<sup>st</sup> to provide additional details about the event.

2. Request from Broome County Woman's Republican Club to use the library parking lot for a fundraiser on May 3, 2014, featuring Gance's Catering.

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Councilwoman Messina noted that the funds are used for awarding scholarships to area high school students.

**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** – no items were brought for consideration by the Board

**7.6**     **ADMINISTRATION**

1. Request from Town Assessor to transition a current part-time clerk to a full time clerk.

According to a memo from the Town Assessor, this action would consolidate two part-time clerk positions (one of which is currently vacant, but funded) into a full time position. The current part-time employee who is expected to be offered the full time position is expected to waive the healthcare benefits. There are adequate funds in the Assessor’s budget lines to cover this position and no increase in the 2015 budget is anticipated in excess of any CSEA contractual obligations.

**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 Kinser Sherman as a Basketball Referee. Kinser was omitted on the original list.

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

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**1. Local Law regarding Best Value Bidders**

After a brief discussion, the Board determined that there are circumstances where it would be in the best interest of the Town to consider a bid on the basis of best value rather than lowest price. The Town Attorney will prepare a draft local law for the Board’s review at the next Work Session.

**SUPERVISOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has issued an Open Burning Ban from March 16, 2014 to May 15, 2014. Burn permits will not be issued during this time.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

**ADOPTED**   Ayes 4           Fitzgerald, Majewski, Messina, Schaffer  
                  Nays 0

Resolved the Board enter into Executive Session to discuss the following: labor negotiations with the Operating Engineers, update from the Town Attorney on the UHS litigation and a review of an Article 7 case. The time was 6:50 PM.

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

**ADOPTED**   Ayes 4           Fitzgerald, Messina, Majewski, Schaffer  
                  Nays 0

Resolved the Board leave Executive Session and **adjourn the Work Session. The time was 7:42 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Emil Bielecki, Town Clerk