

VESTAL TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION MINUTES

MONDAY, DECEMBER 08, 2014

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

Also Attending: Comptroller Laura McKane, Town Attorney David Berger, Human Resource Officer Nancy Olmstead, Town Clerk Emil Bielecki and 5 members of the general public.

The Work Session was convened by Supervisor Schaffer at 6:00 PM.

6:00 PM Comptroller Laura McKane – Capital Improvement Projects

Comptroller McKane distributed an amended list of the proposed capital projects for 2015 as follows:

CAPITAL PROJECTS 2015

| PROPOSED PROJECTS | DEPT | <u>2015</u> | PPU | Estimated Principal | Estimated Interest |
|---|-------------|---------------------|-----|------------------------|-----------------------|
| VOIP Phone System | IT | \$ 125,000 | 5 | \$ 25,000 | \$ 1,250 |
| Computer Replacement - PCs and Laptops | IT | \$ 27,000 | 3 | \$ 9,000 | \$ 270 |
| | | <u>\$ 152,000</u> | | | |
| Dump Trucks/Plow/Sander (2) | Highway | \$ 488,000 | 12 | \$ 40,667 | \$ 4,880 |
| Road Reconstruction | Highway | \$ 750,000 | 10 | \$ 75,000 | \$ 7,500 |
| | | <u>\$ 1,238,000</u> | | | |
| EQUIPMENT: | | | | | |
| Pickup Truck with Plow | Parks | \$ 56,000 | 10 | \$ 5,600 | \$ 560 |
| Large Volume Mower | Parks | \$ 82,000 | 10 | \$ 8,200 | \$ 820 |
| Zero Turn Mower | Parks | \$ 15,000 | 5 | \$ 3,000 | \$ 150 |
| IMPROVEMENTS: | | | | | |
| Sportside Bathroom | Parks | \$ 50,000 | 15 | \$ 3,333 | \$ 500 |
| Park Shop Improvements | Parks | \$ 10,000 | 5 | \$ 2,000 | \$ 100 |
| | | <u>\$ 213,000</u> | | | |
| Library - Roof Membrane | Engineering | \$ 100,000 | 10 | \$ 10,000 | \$ 1,000 |
| Maintenance Dept. Vehicle | Engineering | \$ 31,000 | 3 | \$ 10,333 | \$ 310 |
| | | <u>\$ 131,000</u> | | | |
| Police Cars (added \$ for bonding costs) | Police | \$ 150,000 | 3 | \$ 50,000 | \$ 1,500 |
| | | <u>\$ 1,884,000</u> | | <u>\$ 242,133</u> | <u>\$ 18,840</u> |
| Principal Payments Being Retired in 2015 | | | | \$ 148,169 | \$ 2,223 |

Comptroller McKane and the Board members added additional commentary as follows:

- The Campus Drive Booster Station was not included in the capital projects and will be funded from other sources.
- Our phone system is experiencing serious problems and the cost of replacement is a rough estimate.
- The computer replacement will cover 35 computers. Supervisor Schaffer asked for a list of who has laptop computers.
- The trucks for Highway will replace ones that were acquired in 2001. Supervisor Schaffer noted that the new trucks will be double-axle and be able to carry heavier loads.
- The road reconstruction line is for projects that are done by outside contractors. The Highway Department also spends additional money on smaller road projects that are done in-house. The current amount spent on road reconstruction is still inadequate to get us fully caught up.
- The sportside bathroom is for Arnold Park. Supervisor Schaffer noted that another bathroom is needed on that side of the park because the other bathroom is too far away and inaccessible for many seniors. Councilman Majewski suggested that there may be private groups who use the parks that can assist us in completing this project.
- The park shop improvements are part of a multiyear plan to upgrade the old facility.

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- The request for vehicles in Parks was reduced to one because the other vehicle will be acquired from the Vestal Emergency Squad.

Comptroller McKane noted that if the capital projects are approved as shown, the additional debt service will add about \$100,000 to the 2016 Town Budget.

The Board will review the proposed capital projects plan for 2015 and discuss it again at the next Work Session.

COMMITTEES

7.1 PUBLIC WORKS

1. Request from Water Superintendent Scott Groats to advertise and sell on Auction International the following vehicles:

- 2005 Ford Ranger 4x4 VIN#1FTYR15EX5PA87181
- 2005 Chevy Silverado 1500 4x4 VIN#2GCEK19V451277024
- 2001 Ford F150 4x4 VIN#1FTRX18W31NB98000

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:** 2014-47, 2014-47E, 2014-47L, 2014-48, 2014-48E

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

2. Request to pay \$210.00 for Greater Binghamton Chamber of Commerce membership dues for 2015.

Councilman Majewski asked if we are getting any specific benefits from our Chamber of Commerce membership. Supervisor Schaffer noted that the most significant benefit appears to be their ability to promote the Town.

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

3. Request from Deputy Comptroller Pam Fitzgerald to make budget transfers as noted in memo dated November 25, 2014 from August 26, 2014 thru November 25, 2014.

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

4. Request authorization for Town Supervisor John Schaffer to sign the School Resource Officer Agreement (SRO) to cover from September 2014 thru June 2015.

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

5. Request to pay Town Attorney David Berger \$1535.00 for billable hours for the month of November 2014.

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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7.3 PERSONNEL

1. Discuss Town Board Meeting Schedule for 2015.

Human Resource Officer Nancy Olmstead reviewed the calendar of the proposed Town Board Meetings for 2015 and made several changes as recommended by the Board. The calendar, as amended, will be presented for adoption as part of the Organizational Agenda at the first Regular Meeting of the Town Board in 2015.

2. Discuss appointments to various advisory boards for 2015.

Human Resource Officer Nancy Olmstead reviewed the various town advisory boards to identify the existing vacancies and the members with terms expiring at the end of 2014. She is working with the advisory boards to help identify potential appointments for Town Board approval. At this time, the following individuals can be presented to the Town Board for re-appointment: Stephen Appel-CAC, Linda Green-CAC, Michael Restuccia-CAC, Mark Tomko-ZBA and Mary Lou Supa-Historic Preservation. An appropriate motion will be prepared for the Regular Meeting.

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

3. Request to approve the Tentative Agreement between the Town of Vestal and the Operating Engineers reached on November 24, 2014 and to authorize the Town Supervisor to sign the resulting collective bargaining agreement.

Human Resource Officer Nancy Olmstead noted that the contract makes changes in such areas as salary structure, out of title pay, uniform allowance and health insurance contributions. These changes will give the Town more flexibility in managing the workforce and will achieve some savings. The summary list of the specific changes will be provided.

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 Matt Huyck, Manager of Harbor Freight, to locate one storage trailer at their store location (124 Sycamore Road) from now until January 31, 2015.

It was noted that a completed SEQR Short Environmental Assessment Form was filed with the application and that approval should also require that at least one hand held 2 ½ pound fire extinguisher be mounted in the box.

Supervisor Schaffer suggested that the Board consider imposing a fee on the placement of temporary storage trailers. There is considerable work involved in processing these applications.

Town Attorney Berger noted that this new fee could be added by resolution.

The Code Department will be asked to review the whole current fee structure and make recommendations for any changes.

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 the Vestal High School German Club to use the library parking lot on January 10, 2015 for a Doug's Fish Fry fundraiser.

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 to place a "No Parking Here to Corner" sign on Murray Hill Road 50 feet north of the northwest corner of Washington Drive and Murray Hill Road.

Request amended by Board: add a time restriction on the sign to read '8:00 AM – 5:00 PM'

Several Board members expressed frustration with the constant stream of parking issues that arise in this neighborhood. The shortage and the cost of on-campus parking are resulting in more students parking in the neighborhood. Some residents want to keep students from parking in the area but are concerned about losing access to on-street parking for people who are visiting them.

Supervisor Schaffer stated that he will try to take a more consistent approach to the problem by having the police department evaluate each request to determine actual need.

2. Request from Fire Chief Patrick McPherson to approve the following new members:

| | |
|---------------------|------------|
| Colin Christmas | Station #2 |
| Asa Don Brown | Station #2 |
| Christopher Darling | Station #2 |
| Tyler Dingman | Station #3 |

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

3. Request from Fire Chief Patrick McPherson to approve Vestal Fire Department Membership for Stations 2's Firemen Breakfast on December 14, 2014, from 7 AM to 11:30 AM.

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

7.5 ADMINISTRATION

NEW BUSINESS

1. Comptroller McKane noted that there has been a substantial increase in the premium for the Medicare Blue PPO plan offered by Excellus (about 35%). The new cost is \$358.43 per contract per month. Nonetheless, she is recommending that the Board renew the plan and explore ways to offset the rising costs in the future.

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

2. Comptroller McKane stated that she has obtained quotes for the renewal of the Workers' Comp Insurance. Upon review of the submissions, she recommends that the Board enter into a two year contract with our current carrier PERMA to provide workers' compensation insurance coverage. In accordance with their proposal, the first year cost will be \$385,245 less a 2% discount if paid in full in January 2015. The second year costs are fixed depending on the loss ratio in year 1.

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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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Kopernik Tower

The Town is to submit to the County information about the users of the existing tower at Andrews Road so that bid specs could be prepared for the construction of a new tower at that location. IT Director Dan Williams has provided the requested information to the County.

Update on 12/8/14: Since there has been no response from the County since the initial meeting, Supervisor Schaffer stated that he would contact County Emergency Services Director Brett Chellis.

2. Replacement of Fire Station 4

The Town and the Fire Department are continuing to explore less costly alternatives for the replacement of the Station 4 building.

Update on 12/8/14: The Town Board was invited to tour a fire station in Union Center at 6:30 PM on Tuesday, December 9, 2014.

4. Purchase of Town land by Vestal Veterinary Hospital

In a letter dated 9/9/14, the Vestal Veterinary Hospital has submitted a formal bid of \$5,000.

Update on 12/8/14: Supervisor Schaffer asked Town Attorney Berger to provide an approximate time frame and cost for processing the sale of this park land.

4. Exemption to the Noise Ordinance for Emergency Generators: Section 27-726(g) (6) –

Generation of electricity during generator testing and power outages.

Update on 12/8/14: There is no consensus on the current Board as to whether it is necessary to adopt such legislation. This request will be taken up again next year by the new Board.

SUPERVISOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Winter Parking Reminder – Parking of vehicles is prohibited on all Town and County roads in Vestal between the hours of 2:00 AM TO 6:00 AM from December 1st through March 31st.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

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

Resolved the Board enter into Executive Session for the following purpose:

- To discuss a tax matter in the litigation with UHS
- To discuss a performance issue of a specific employee.
- To discuss issues connected with the hiring of a specific individual.

The time was 7:50 PM.

On a motion of Councilwoman Messina, seconded by Councilwoman Fitzgerald, 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 8:52 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,
Emil Bielecki, Town Clerk