

VESTAL TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION MINUTES

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2015

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

Also Attending: Town Attorney David Berger, Human Resource Officer Nancy Olmstead, Town Clerk Emil Bielecki and 2 members of the general public.

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

BID OPENINGS

The following sealed proposals for **Water Appurtenances** were received by the Town Clerk and opened at 2:00 PM on September 9, 2015:

HD Supply Waterworks 183 Corporate Dr., Binghamton NY 13904	\$83,253.40
Everett J. Prescott, Inc. 241 Farrell Rd., Syracuse NY 13209	\$96,575.00
Ferguson Waterworks 6050 Drott Dr., East Syracuse, NY 13057	\$108,921.94

COMMITTEES

7.1 PUBLIC WORKS (MAJEWSKI/Fitzgerald)

1. Request from Town Engineer Gary Campo for the Board to authorize and the Supervisor to sign the first amendment to the original Subrecipient Agreement which relates to the NY Rising Funds for the Robert Street project. The agreement is for \$130,076.00.

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 Gary Campo for the Board to approve and the Supervisor to sign the Supplemental Agreement No. 1 with NYSDOT regarding the Two Rivers Greenway Signage Project at a cost of \$275,416.00 and to retro-actively authorize for bidding on 9/16/15, with bid opening on 10/13/15 at 2 PM.

Supervisor Schaffer noted that our Town Engineer is the coordinator for this project. The State will reimburse the Town 80% and each involved municipality will reimburse the Town their 20% share.

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

7.2 FINANCE (AGNESHWAR/Messina)

1. Warrants: 2015-35, 2015-35E, 2015-36, 2015-36E, 2015-37, 2015-37E

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

2. Request from Comptroller Laura McKane authorizing the Chairperson of the Board of Fire Commissioners to sign the 2015/2016 Service Fee Agreement with Penflex permitting them to provide the Vestal Fire District actuarial and administration services for the Service Award Program (*LOSAP*). The base fee is \$3,100 (a \$100 increase from last year) and the total estimated fees are

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\$6,500.

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

3. Request to pay \$1597.50 to Town Attorney David Berger for billable hours for the month of August, 2015.

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

4. Request from Comptroller Laura McKane for authorization to execute a renewal agreement with Lifetime Benefits for basic dental coverage. On October 1, 2015, the administrative fee on the plan will increase by 2.5% to \$2.82 per subscriber per month.

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

7.3 PERSONNEL (FITZGERALD/Majewski)

1. Request from Human Resource Officer Nancy Olmstead for authorization to schedule flu/pneumonia vaccine clinics in Town Hall for employees, retirees with Town benefits and adult dependents who participate in the Town health insurance program at a cost of \$22 per flu shot and \$78 per pre-ordered pneumonia shot.

Human Resource Officer Nancy Olmstead noted that offering this service to the eligible participants in our health insurance program through Lourdes provides convenience and does save some money.

Councilman Majewski asked if we are again going to have issues with the type of strain flu shots that we will be administering. Human Resource Officer Olmstead replied that she will make that information available to everyone. If anyone has a question about the benefits of one type of vaccine over another, they should seek answers from their doctor.

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 (MESSINA/Fitzgerald)

1. Discuss the request from Town Engineer Gary Campo to modify the Town Code concerning the connections to the public water and sewer system. As per the change to the NYS Building Code, we no longer have the authority to “force” the connections. The proposal is that the Town Code be modified to include the following:

a. If the public sewer or public water is within 100’ of the property line, then the new residential home shall extend the Town’s utility across their frontage.

b. If the public sewer or public water is within 500’ of the property line, then the new commercial building shall extend the Town’s utility across their frontage.

Several Board members expressed confusion as to what is actually being proposed by Town Engineer Campo. Town Attorney Berger noted that these changes will need to be made by a local law and he will get together with Mr. Campo to get a better understanding of his proposal. He will advise the Board accordingly.

2. Request from the Southern Tier Home Builders & Remodelers Association to hang banners on the Route 201 bridge that go over the Route 434 for the 2016 Home & Garden Show on April 9 & 10, 2016. The banners would be hung the week of March 21-25, 2016 and be taken down the week of April 11, 2016.

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Several Board members questioned why this request came to the Town when the location of the proposed banners is on a State highway. Also, all agreed that no authorization would be granted for the use of Town equipment or personnel to install these banners. Town Attorney Berger stated that he would contact NYS DOT to seek clarification as to what is being asked of the Town.

7.5 PUBLIC SAFETY (MAJEWSKI/Agneshwar)

1. Request from Fire Chief David Harrington to sell at auction a 2000 Ford Excursion, VIN #1FMNU43S7YEB17485, with 69,658 miles.

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

2. Request from Fire Chief David Harrington to accept Lauren Eaton as a new member of Fire Department at Company No. 1.

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

7.6 ADMINISTRATION (MESSINA/Agneshwar)

1. Request from the Town Court for authorization to submit for a grant from the Justice Court Assistance Program for an air conditioning unit, a TV monitor for the lobby and new wireless headsets. The request is for the maximum available amount.

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 for authorization to hire staff for Fall Teen Basketball and Family Swim as listed in a memo dated September 2, 2015. All employee pay rates are budgeted items in the 2015 budget and background checks have been completed.

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

NEW BUSINESS

1. In a memo to Councilman Majewski, Water & Sewer Superintendent Scott Groats has recommended that the Board award the bid for Water Appurtenances to the low bidder, HD Supply of Binghamton. The bid price is \$83,252.40. The bid will be for one year from the date of the contract. It is not anticipated that the whole amount will be used.

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

2. Supervisor Schaffer, with the Board's approval, requested the Town Attorney and the Town Clerk to prepare a resolution authorizing the procedural actions that would enable the Board to vote on a local law to override the tax cap for the coming fiscal year.

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

3. Councilman Majewski stated that the Vestal Fire Department is requesting authorization to hold the 2nd annual Firefighter 5k Challenge on the Rail Trail (Coal House) on Saturday, September 26, 2015 at 11:00 AM. This 5k run is a fundraiser to benefit Vestal Fire Company # 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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4. Supervisor Schaffer informed the Board that he has been approached by a person who is interested in developing the site of the former Joseph Coury Furniture Store on the Vestal Parkway. He will try to schedule the person to address the Board at a future Work Session.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Kopernik Tower

The Acting County Director of Emergency Services, Ray Serowik, has stated that the County is still committed to construction the communication tower at the Kopernik Observatory location. He expects to soon have the results from an RFP concerning this project and will work with the Town to proceed with the planned upgrades to the communications network. **Update 9/14/15:** According to Supervisor Schaffer, the project is still in limbo.

2. Gas Card System for the Purchase of Fuel for Town Vehicles

Update 9/14/15: The proposed changeover is on hold until the Board is able to coordinate a time to meet with a representative from the Mirabito Group to discuss the details.

3. Proposed Wash Bay at the Highway Department (in response to the EPA field audit)

Update 9/14/15: The proposal is still under review and the Board is waiting for additional information from the Town Engineer about how other municipalities are handling this situation and about a revised cost estimate.

4. Community Use of Municipal Facility Policy

Update on 9/14/15: Supervisor Schaffer noted in addition to the issues at the Library location, the Board will also need to look at outside user issues at some of the other Town facilities. He expects the Board to resume the discussion of this topic after the completion on the work on the 2016 budget.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

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

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

- Library CSEA contract negotiations
- Tyrrell v. Town of Vestal litigation

The time was 6:45 PM.

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

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

Resolved the Board leave Executive Session and **adjourn the Work Session. The time was 7:12 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,
Emil Bielecki, Town Clerk