

WORK SESSION
MONDAY, MAY 3, 2010

Present: Fran Majewski, David Marnicki, Patty Fitzgerald, David Berger, Nancy Olmstead, Emil Bielecki, Kathie Young.

Absent: Peter Andreasen, John Schaffer

WORK SESSION:

6:00 pm Becky Sedor – United Health Services - Workman's Comp - Managed Care Preferred Provider (PPO) –

Nancy explained that the Health Care Committee believes this is something that needs to be explored.

Becky Sedor came to explain the program to the Board. One of the advantages is that this program helps expedite workers comp and guides employees through the plan. This is the only way employers can direct the care of their workers. This program has been certified and has been proven to save a great deal of money.

This program takes the delays out of authorization and helps people recovery and get back to work. In cases of non emergencies, injured worker's are asked to call their staff nurses before seeking care and try to avoid emergency rooms which are very costly. Their physicians are urged to see urgent needs within one day and non urgent within five days. If they believe something is medically appropriate approval can be received within a short period of time. There are no lengthy waits for approvals. They are the employee's advocates.

This is a win for the employee and the employer. The cost is based on loss history to determine, based on averages, a base line. The Towns costs can be reduced by 50 percent but more commonly 80 to 90 percent.

Nancy: Many of our employees complain about getting authorizations for care. Only the carrier can approve care. This can take weeks and can involve much paperwork for the doctors. NYS has a lot of red tape.

Becky explained that they speed things up and guide the employees through the system even going to their doctors visits if necessary.

Nancy: If people come back to work faster the costs are less for the Town. There is also less in need for overtime to make up for their absence.

David Marnicki asked for a break down of costs.

Becky showed a graph representing costs for the City of Binghamton. Their costs dropped dramatically. This will lower our costs dramatically.

It is better to be on Worker's Comp than disability.

WORK SESSION
MONDAY, MAY 3, 2010

Nancy spoke with the City of Binghamton and they are very pleased with this program. They also manage for many companies in the area.

We average \$83,000 per year. We would save \$41 – \$66 thousand. She charges \$10,000 per year. There are no extra charges. This is a flat fee. If our injury rate were to spike, and show a trend over a few years, her fee may go up. If our rate goes down it can be lowered. We have no added paperwork to do. They will keep the Town apprised of our employee's status.

Once a person has been treated for 30 days they can opt out of this program however the Town would no longer be responsible for their medical bills.

The Unions must sign on for this program. This program should be a win/win for the Town and the employees.

Next Week – Loren Pratt from Comp Alliance will be in.

When all the Board is together a decision will be made.

COMMITTEES:

7.1 PUBLIC WORKS –

1. Request from **Walter Adams at 1604 Rita Road to reduce the sewer portion of his bill** in the amount of \$81.36. His garden hose was left on while he was on vacation, the water did not enter into the sanitary system. - OK

2. Assessor/Recreation Roof – Town Employees vs. Contractor Costs – this should be done in house. – Notify Town Engineer.

7.2 FINANCE –

1. Warrant Report - 2010 – 17 - OK

2. Request to pay invoice in the amount of \$184.00 from Empire Court Reporters for a transcript of Town of Vestal Zoning Board of Appeals hearing regarding Candlehouse Teen Challenge. – OK

7.3 EMPLOYEES –

WORK SESSION
MONDAY, MAY 3, 2010

7.4 PLANNING & ZONING –

1. Letter from Lisa Waltenbaugh requesting to donate a piece of land at 108 Meeker Road that she inherited from her father to the Town of Vestal. –

She should offer this to adjoining land owners. The Town Attorney will write a letter to her.

2. Noise Ordinance request from Benham Companies, LLC under “OLD BUSINESS” held over from April 26, 2010. – This was held over to see if they notified neighbors.

Code will be asked to call to get her response and notify the Board. (Student housing and Rivercrest area need first class letter.)

3. Authorize the Supervisor to accept sewer easement for the Buchta property at 512 Front Street. - OK

7.5 PUBLIC SAFETY –

1. Police request retro approval for the following training:

◆ Officers White and Burkhard to attend the ***Advanced Ultimate Training Munitions Instructor*** training to be held at the Binghamton Police Department. This training will be held from 08:30am to 4:00 pm April 30th, 2010. The cost of the training is:

Course Registration:	\$50.00 x 2 =	\$100.00
2 Lunches	\$15.00 x 2=	<u>\$ 30.00</u>
TOTAL NOT TO EXCEED		\$130.00

To be paid out of the departments training line. OK

RECREATION –

Patty Fitzgerald has not had a response from John Scott and John Fletcher of VYFL regarding payments to the Town toward land acquisition at Arnold Park. Patty requests that letters be sent to them requesting payment. – **The Comptroller will be asked to pull up her files. The Town Attorney will send a letter and attach supporting financial documentation.**

WORK SESSION
MONDAY, MAY 3, 2010

RECEIVE & FILE:

- ◆ Request from Binghamton-Johnson City Sewage Board to join our health coverage plan.
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Town Attorney David Berger: We were recently sued by the estate of a woman who died in a car accident in front of the Town hall. The Town Attorney would like to hire Attorney Gregory Gates at \$175.00 per hour. He is experienced in wrongful death suits. - OK

This will be approved at the May 12th Board Meeting.

SUPERVISOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- DEC website Draft Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement on the Oil, Gas and Solution Mining Regulatory Program – October 2009 ---
www.dec.ny.gov/energy
- Broome County Clerk's Office is holding a **Passport Fair** on Tuesday, May 18th from 11:00 am through 2:00 pm in the Vestal Town Hall Boardroom.

12. OTHER NEW BUSINESS:

13. OLD BUSINESS:

- Motion to establish the following regulation: (held over from 1/25/10)

Install a sign indicating **NO PARKING HERE TO CORNER** shall be erected on both the north and south sides of **Sheedy Road** 300 feet from the Route 26 South intersection. Additional signs indicating **NO PARKING ANYTIME** shall be erected every 50 feet on both sides of **Sheedy Road** proceeding back towards the Route 26 South intersection.

- The Public Hearing for the following was held on January 27th, 2010 and not acted upon.

Local Law "A" of 2010 – *A local law amending Chapter 5, Article V to Regulate Animated Signs*

- The following was tabled: Motion authorizing a Variance to the Noise Ordinance established in Chapter 24, Section 24-726 of the Town of Vestal Code Book, to Timothy Runkle of Benham Companies, LLC, to drill a recovery well along Vestal Parkway East in area front of Starbuck's at University Plaza. The drilling will be

WORK SESSION
MONDAY, MAY 3, 2010

performed at night due to traffic and the decibel level anticipated is between 75 and 125 (at the source) which allowed levels is 65 db daytime and 57 db nighttime. Work will be performed between the hours of 11:00 pm and 6:00 am tentatively scheduled May 9 – May 12, 2010. Safety procedures as required by NYS Department of Transportation and Federal OSHA Standards shall be used at all times.

- The Public Hearing for the following was held on April 28th, 2010 and not acted upon

Local Law “C” of 2010 – *A Local Law amending Chapter 23, “Water” of the Town of Vestal Code by Adopting a Fee Schedule for Services.*

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Councilman Marnicki and seconded by Councilwoman Fitzgerald to adjourn. Ayes: Marnicki, Majewski, Fitzgerald. Nays: None. Absent: Andreasen and Schaffer. The time was 7:18 pm.