

Regular Meeting of the Vestal Town Board December 17, 2014

The Regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Vestal, County of Broome and the State of New York was held at the Town Hall, 605 Vestal Parkway West, Vestal, NY on December 17, 2014.

TOWN BOARD PRESENT:

**Supervisor John Schaffer
Councilman Fran Majewski
Councilwoman Patty Fitzgerald
Councilwoman Sue Messina**

ALSO ATTENDING: Town Attorney David Berger, Town Clerk Emil Bielecki, 1st Deputy Town Clerk Kathie Young and 11 members of the general public.

The Supervisor called the Regular Meeting to order at **6:00 PM**, welcomed everyone and asked that all present join in the PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

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

Resolved the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Town Board on December 10, 2014 are approved.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR (Agenda Items Only)

A speaker asked for an explanation of the payment of \$6,245 to Orrick. Supervisor Schaffer responded that we had an audit from the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) that revealed some reporting deficiencies that the Town had to address. Orrick is our bond counsel and we needed to consult with them in replying to the SEC *Municipalities Continuing Disclosure Cooperation Initiative* (MCDC).

RESOLUTIONS & MOTIONS

MOU Between the Town and the Vestal Volunteer Emergency Services

R298-14 On a motion of Councilman Majewski, seconded by Councilwoman Fitzgerald, the following resolution was

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

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Resolved to authorize the Supervisor to sign a *Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Town and the Vestal Volunteer Emergency Services (VVES)* which sets forth an agreement to clarify some fiscal issues connected with the Town's recent acquisition of two vehicles from VVES.

Air Conditioning Units for Library and IT Computer Room

R299-14 On a motion of Councilman Majewski, seconded by Councilwoman Messina, the following resolution was

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

Resolved to authorize Town Engineer Gary Campo to arrange for the **installation of air conditioning units at a total cost of \$8,100**. One unit would be installed in the present server room in the IT building and one unit in the Library computer room. The funding for these installations will require the transfer of \$5,000 from line A1620.4110 and \$3,100 from line A9901.9002 into line A1620.4080.

Payment to Orrick for Professional Services Re: SEC Audit

R300-14 On a motion of Councilman Majewski, seconded by Councilwoman Messina, the following resolution was

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

Resolved to authorize Comptroller Laura McKane to pay **\$6,425.00 to Orrick for professional services** rendered to ensure the Town's timely voluntary compliance with the terms of the Municipalities Continuing Disclosure Cooperation Initiative (MCDC).

Acceptance of Election of Fire Chief and Station Chiefs

R301-14 On a motion of Councilman Majewski, seconded by Councilwoman Fitzgerald, the following resolution was

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

Resolved that the Board of Fire Commissioners acknowledges and accepts the results of the **Fire Chief and Station Chiefs** elections as follows:

- Fire Chief – David Harrington
- Station 1 Chief – Douglas Rose
- Station 2 Chief – William Stout
- Station 3 Chief – Ronald Birdsall
- Station 4 Chief – John Paffie

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CONSENT AGENDA

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

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

Resolved the **Consent Agenda** is approved as follows:

PUBLIC WORKS: Majewski/Fitzgerald

Advertise Bids for Town Hall Floodwall

R302-14 Authorization for Town Engineer Gary Campo to advertise for the construction of the **Town Hall Floodwall** on January 14, 2015 with bid the opening on February 23, 2015.

FINANCE: Messina/ Majewski

Receive and File

Warrant Reports: 2014-50, 2014-50E

2015 Agreement with Vestal Veterinary Hospital

R303-14 Authorization for Town Supervisor John Schaffer to sign an agreement with **Vestal Veterinary Hospital** to provide **dog boarding services and veterinary care** for 2015 under the same contract terms and fees as in 2014.

Add Excellus's Tobacco Cessation Program

R304-14 Authorization for the Health Care Oversight Committee to add Excellus's **tobacco cessation program** to the Town's health plan at a cost of \$.55 per contract per month (approx. \$1,100 per year) to begin in early 2015.

Testing provided by UHS at Health Fair

R305-14 Authorization for the Health Care Oversight Committee to arrange with **United Health Services (UHS)** to provide **non-fasting cholesterol and blood pressure testing** at the cost of \$17 for each test plus \$80 per hour, to be provided at the Health Fair on January 7, 2015. Based upon last year, the anticipated cost will be approximately \$1,000 and will be paid from the health insurance fund.

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PLANNING & ZONING: Messina/Fitzgerald

Vestal High School to Hold a 5k Race

R306-14 Authorization for Vestal High School to hold a 5k Race, “The Running of the Bears”, on March 21, 2015. The race will originate at the Vestal High School and run down Front Street and back. The School Resource Officer will work with the Police Department to assist in managing intersections and safety. This race will be insured by both *Team Hopeful* (a local organization which funds Prader-Willi Syndrome research and patient support) and the Vestal School District. In addition, all runners are required to sign waivers releasing the Town from liability.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

A speaker noted that he has come under criticism for supporting renewable energy such as wind turbines which are implicated in killing birds. In his opinion, cats, as well as drilling operations kill more birds than wind turbines.

A speaker expressed the following concerns and questions:

- Why was on-street parking removed on Murray Hill Road? Councilman Majewski responded that the parking ban was put in place at the request of Binghamton University to accommodate the new development in the area.
- How long will the temporary parking ban on Mansfield Road be in place? Supervisor Schaffer responded that we are trying various options to determine how best to address the complaints from the neighborhood.
- People parking at the crest of a hill near the 1400 block of Glenwood Road are creating a dangerous situation during inclement weather.
- Is the Board still considering a Road Ordinance? Supervisor Schaffer responded that a road ordinance is no longer necessary now that the state has banned hydraulic fracturing. Schaffer also noted that the Board’s decision not to undertake any major initiatives connected with gas drilling until the state made its determination has saved the Town a lot of time and money.
- Why was there a heavy police presence and a road block on Route 26 a few months ago? Supervisor Schaffer responded that the activity was from DEC agents checking for tagged deer.

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- The rip rap on the east side of the Meeker Street Bridge is shifting and eroding. There is a channel that runs down during heavy rains.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS AND UPDATES:

Councilwoman Fitzgerald thanked the Fire Department for their response to the two recent fires in Vestal.

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.
- Town of Vestal Offices Closed: December 25-26, 2014 and January 1-2, 2015.
- A thank you to Station 4 Fire Chief Paffie for organizing a tour of the Union Center Fire Station by the Town Board Members.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion of Councilman Majewski, seconded by Councilwoman Fitzgerald, the meeting was adjourned at 6:16 PM. Carried unanimously.

Approved by _____ Emil J. Bielecki, Town Clerk