

**VESTAL TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION MINUTES**  
**MONDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2014**

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

Also Attending: 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 6:02 PM.**

**COMMITTEES**

**7.1 PUBLIC WORKS**

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

Councilman Majewski noted that FEMA has allowed about \$230,000 for the design and construction.

**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 to arrange for the installation of two 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.

Supervisor Schaffer stated that he favors moving the Emergency Operation Center (EOC) to the Library because it is one of the few Town buildings that were not affected by the recent floods. Also, using the Library location for our backup servers will allow us to be up and running within 15 minutes during an emergency.

**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:** 2014-50, 2014-50E

**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 to pay \$6425.00 to Orrick for professional services rendered to ensure the Town’s timely volunteer compliance with the terms of the Municipalities Continuing Disclosure Cooperative Initiative (MCDC).

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

**3.** Request 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.

Town Clerk Emil Bielecki noted that the Vestal Veterinary Hospital continues to provide the Town with excellent service at a reasonable cost.

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

4. Request from the Health Care Oversight Committee to add Excellus's smoking 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.

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

5. Request from 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.

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

### **7.3 PERSONNEL**

Councilman Majewski informed the Board that he and Councilwoman Fitzgerald participated in the interview of a candidate for the Fire Inspector position. They will be asking the Board to discuss this matter in Executive Session.

### **7.4 PLANNING & ZONING**

1. Request from Vestal High School Health Teacher Sue Darpino to hold a 5k Race, "The Running of the Bears", on March 21, 2015. The race would 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.

Town Attorney David Berger stated that it is important that the following language be included as part of the motion: The race will be insured by Team Hopeful and by the Vestal School District. In addition, all runners will be required to sign waivers releasing the Town from liability.

**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 for the Board of Fire Commissioners to acknowledge and accept the results of the Fire Chief and Station Chiefs elections as follows:

- Fire Chief – David Harrington
- Station 1 Chief –
- Station 2 Chief –
- Station 3 Chief –
- Station 4 Chief –

Town Clerk Emil Bielecki noted that the results from the Station Chief elections will be available tomorrow. Supervisor Schaffer asked that the results be e-mailed to the Board members.

**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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**7.6**    **ADMINISTRATION** - no items were discussed from this Committee.

**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 12/15/14:** Supervisor Schaffer stated that he sent an e-mail to County Emergency Services Director Brett Chellis but has not yet received a response.

**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 12/15/14:** The invitation for the Town Board to tour the Union Center Fire Station was rescheduled for 6:30 PM on Tuesday, December 16, 2014.

**1. 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 12/15/14:** Town Attorney Berger stated that he is evaluating the complex procedures that regulate the sale of park land. He will send the prospective buyer the large manual of regulations to determine if he still wants to proceed with trying to acquire this land.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Town Attorney David Berger presented for Board review a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Town and the Vestal 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. He is asking the Board to authorize the Supervisor to sign the MOU.

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

2. Supervisor Schaffer stated that he is continuing to explore the feasibility of establishing fees for issuing special permits which allow the use of temporary storage trailers. There is considerable work involved in issuing these permits and a fee in the range of \$100-\$150 would be reasonable. He is asking the Board to give some thought to his recommendation. This item will be carried into 2015 as 'unfinished business.'

Town Attorney Berger noted that any change in the fee structure could be done by Board resolution.

3. Supervisor Schaffer informed the Board that he has received an e-mail from a member of the Vestal Senior Citizen Center claiming that she is being bullied by the organization. He would like some Board input as to whether this is something that we should be involved with.

Town Attorney Berger noted that the Senior Center is not a part of Town government and we should not get involved with the management of this organization. However, we do provide some funding to the organization, so if the Town is not happy with what they are doing, it can cut back or eliminate the funding.

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Several Board members expressed concern about the alleged activity and indicated a willingness to look into it. Supervisor Schaffer stated that he would express the Board's concern to the president of the organization.

**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 Fitzgerald, seconded by Councilwoman Messina, 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 negotiations with the Police Supervisors bargaining unit.
- To discuss the qualifications of a specific candidate for the Fire Inspector position.

The time was 6:38 PM.

On a motion of Councilman Majewski, 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 7:20 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Emil Bielecki, Town Clerk