

VESTAL TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION MINUTES
MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 2015

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

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

Supervisor Schaffer convened the Work Session at 6:00 PM

6:00 PM - Erick Webb, Northstar Group – Appeal to the Town Board to review the decision of the Vestal Historic Preservation Commission denying the granting of 12 Certificates of Appropriateness to demolish buildings (based on hardship) located in the Rivercrest Historic District.

Eric Webb, the Property Manager of the Northstar Group appealed to the Board to overrule the decision of Vestal Historic Preservation Commission which denied granting Certificates of Appropriateness to demolish 12 homes within the Rivercrest Historical District. According to Mr. Webb, the 12 homes which they want to demolish are all in significant states of disrepair. It is uneconomical to repair these homes to achieve a reasonable rate of return.

Supervisor Schaffer stated that he does not understand why this area was ever designated as a Historic District. There is nothing unique or historical about these homes and the towpath has been altered by construction activity to the point that it is nothing more than a ditch. The homes should be demolished to eliminate the blight and the safety issues.

Several Board members asked about what impact this review would have on the towpath. Town Attorney Berger stated that this was a separate issue. The Board is now being asked only to review the Historic Commission's decision to deny the granting of 12 Certificates of Appropriateness. The granting of the Certificates of Appropriateness would allow the Northstar Group to apply for permits to demolish the homes.

After a brief discussion about the Rivercrest area and the condition of the properties in question, the Board, by consensus, decided to grant the appeal to override the decision of the Historic Commission and directed the Town Attorney to prepare a letter of the decision for Board review and approval at the Regular Meeting on Wednesday, February 11th.

6:30 PM – Review of Capital Improvement Projects for 2015.

Supervisor Schaffer asked the Board to do a final review of the items that have been recommended for funding under the 2015 Capital Improvement Budget. If the Board adopts the Capital Budget as presented, the bonding resolutions will need to be approved to finance the projects.

The Board agreed to vote at the next Regular Meeting on adopting the Capital Improvement Budget for 2015 as follows:

VESTAL TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION MINUTES

MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 2015

PROPOSED PROJECTS	DEPT	<u>2015</u>
Voiceover IP Phone System	IT	\$ 125,000
Computer Replacement - PCs and Laptops	IT	\$ 27,000
		<u>\$ 152,000</u>
Dump Trucks/Plow/Sander (2)	Highway	\$ 488,000
Road Reconstruction	Highway	\$ 750,000
		<u>\$ 1,238,000</u>
EQUIPMENT:		
Pickup Truck with Plow	Parks	\$ 56,000
Large Volume Mower	Parks	\$ 82,000
Zero Turn Mower	Parks	\$ 15,000
IMPROVEMENTS:		
Sportside Bathroom	Parks	\$ 50,000
Park Shop Improvements	Parks	\$ 10,000
		<u>\$ 213,000</u>
Library - Roof Membrane	Engineering	\$ 100,000
Maintenance Dept. Vehicle	Engineering	\$ 36,000
		<u>\$ 136,000</u>
Police Cars (added \$ for bonding costs)	Police	\$ 150,000

COMMITTEES

7.1 PUBLIC WORKS (MAJEWSKI/Fitzgerald)

1. Request from Broome County for the Town Board to take action to standardize the spelling of Kimble/Kimball Road so as to resolve the confusion which currently exists.

Councilwoman Fitzgerald noted that this has been a longstanding issue that may have started as early as the 1930's when portions of the road were deeded to the Town with different spellings of the name. It appears that the prevalent spelling of the road is Kimble, although some of the property records use Kimball. According to the Town Engineer, the County would like the Town Board to pass a resolution designating the chosen spelling of the road.

Town Attorney Dave Berger suggested that if the predominant spelling of the road is Kimble, the Board should establish that as the official name but continue to recognize that the road is also known as (a/k/a) Kimball. He does not feel that the change will cause problems in real estate transactions because properties are identified by multiple means and name inconsistencies are fairly common.

After a brief discussion, the Board asked the Town Attorney to draft a resolution stating that the official name of the road is Kimble but that it is also known as Kimball.

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

VESTAL TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION MINUTES

MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 2015

2. Request to authorize Town Supervisor John Schaffer to sign SPEDES (State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) permit from DEC for the septic system at Arnold Park.

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

3. Request to advertise for bids for Uniforms for Operating Engineers on February 11, 2015, with bids to be opened on March 12, 2015.

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

4. Request to authorize Town Supervisor John Schaffer to sign the Contract Renewal - DPW: Snow and Ice Agreement with Broome County.

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

5. Request from residents of 209 Elizabeth Street to lower the sewer bill by \$687.70 due to issues with water usage in July 2014. ** This request was submitted prior to the Board's change of policy concerning sewer bill reimbursements on September 10, 2014.

Councilwoman Fitzgerald noted that she carefully reviewed this case and feels that the problem was caused by carelessness of the property owners in watering the lawn. The reimbursement was denied by the Water Superintendent and that decision should stand.

Supervisor Schaffer noted that the Board, prior to September, 2014, reviewed (on a case by case basis) requests for sewer bill adjustments if the water did not enter the sewer system. He suggests that Town consider providing partial relief to the property owner.

Town Attorney Berger reminded the Board that it is under no obligation to take up these requests.

After a brief discussion, the Board decided not to take any additional action on this request and asked the Supervisor's office to inform the property owners accordingly.

6. Request from Water Superintendent Scott Groats to approve a fund balance transfer to W8340-4060 (Operating expense and supplies) of the current 2015 budget in the amount of \$20,000.00 for the purchase of water hydrants.

Councilwoman Fitzgerald, citing a memo from Water Superintendent Scott Groats, noted that we receive much better pricing by ordering a larger quantity.

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

7. Request to authorize Town Supervisor John Schaffer to sign agreement with HAAS Landscaping Architects regarding the Two Rivers Greenway Signage Project (PIN 9753.89).

Several Board members expressed concern about what this project would actually rename and how it would impact our Rail Trail network. Supervisor Schaffer stated that he would **put this item on hold** so that the Board members could speak to the Town Engineer to get their questions answered.

VESTAL TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION MINUTES
MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 2015

8. Discuss the approval of a Letter of Intent stating that the Town of Vestal would supply water to the Village of Endicott, if the availability would not adversely affect the Town's customers. The Village Endicott is working to secure NY Rising funding to update the water connection between the Town of Vestal and the Village.

Councilwoman Fitzgerald noted that the improved water connection would only be used in emergency situations. There would be no cost to the Town to do this upgrade.

After a brief discussion, the Board instructed the Town Attorney to draft a letter of intent in support of this project as put forth by the Village of Endicott and authorized Town Supervisor to sign the said letter.

7.2 **FINANCE** (AGNESHWAR/Messina)

- 1. Warrants:** 2015-02, 2015-02A, 2015-2EA, 2015-03, 2015-03A, 2015-03E, 2015-4LA, 2-15-04L, 2015-04E, 2015-04, 2015-04A, 2015-04M

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

2. Request for authorization to renew the Town's membership in the Greater Binghamton Chamber of Commerce for 2015 and to transfer \$210 from Contingency line A1990.4322 to A6410.4060 for payment of the dues.

Councilwoman Agneshwar stated that she supports the Town's membership in the Chamber of Commerce but is skeptical about some the other organizations that the Town belongs to. She would like to review all of the Town's affiliations to determine if they are truly beneficial to the Town.

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

3. A Resolution authorizing the cost of the purchase of police cars, in and for the Town of Vestal, Broome County, New York. At Maximum estimated cost of \$150,000 and authorizing the issuance of up to \$150,000 Bonds of said Town to pay the cost thereof.

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

4. A Resolution authorizing the cost of the purchase and installation of a new telephone system and computer equipment, for the Town of Vestal, Broome County, New York. At Maximum estimated cost of \$152,000 and authorizing the issuance of up to \$152,000 Bonds of said Town to pay the cost thereof.

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

5. A resolution authorizing, subject to permissive referendum, the issuance of \$60,000 Bonds of the Town of Vestal, Broome County, New York, to pay the cost of the reconstruction of Town Park Facilities and Buildings, in and for said Town.

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

VESTAL TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION MINUTES
MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 2015

6. A resolution authorizing, subject to permissive referendum, the purchase of equipment for construction and maintenance purposes, in and from the Town of Vestal, Broome County, New York, at a maximum estimated cost of \$662,000, and authorizing the issuance of \$662,000 Bonds of said Town to pay the cost thereof.

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

7. A resolution authorizing, subject to permissive referendum, the reconstruction of roads throughout and in and for the Town of Vestal, Broome County, New York, at a maximum estimated cost of \$750,000, and authorizing the issuance of \$750,000 Bonds of said Town to pay the cost thereof.

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

8. A resolution authorizing, subject to permissive referendum, the issuance of \$100,000 Bonds of the Town of Vestal, Broome County, New York, to pay the cost of the reconstruction of Town Library Roof, in and for said Town.

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

9. A resolution authorizing the cost of the purchase of a mower for the Town of Vestal, Broome County, New York, at the maximum estimated cost of \$15,000 and authorizing the issuance of up to \$15,000 bonds of said Town to pay the costs thereof.

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) – no items were brought for the Board’s consideration.

7.4 PLANNING & ZONING (MESSINA/Fitzgerald)

1. Request from the Vestal French Exchange Club to hold a Doug’s Fish Fry Fundraiser on February 28, 2015 in the Library parking lot. An Indemnification Agreement is to be signed.

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

2. Request from Barb Taggart to hold The Pink Elk 5K Run/Walk on April 19, 2015 on Owego Road. Proceeds will go to Traci’s Hope and The Vestal Elks Veterans’ Committee.

Town Attorney Berger noted that the event organizers should sign the Town’s Indemnification Agreement and that all of the Town’s public safety agencies be consulted in the staging of this event.

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

3. Discuss establishing an application fee of \$125.00 for requests for Special Permits for Storage Container Units.

Councilwoman Agneshwar stated that this fee may not be appropriate because it appears to penalize a few businesses for doing well. Supervisor Schaffer and Councilwoman Messina responded that the fee

VESTAL TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION MINUTES
MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 2015

would be to help offset some of the additional time that is spent to review and monitor these special requests. Councilwoman Agneshwar indicated that she will discuss the rationale for this proposed fee with Code Officer Mark Dedrick.

4. Discuss establishing a fee of \$500.00 for Gateway Sign applications, collected at the time of application.

5. Discuss establishing a \$50.00 fee for requests for variances, appeals or other meetings with an appeals board, to be submitted at time of application.

Town Attorney Berger noted that the above proposed fees (3,4,5) can be implemented by resolution and that he would prepare one resolution to adopt the 3 new fees.

OK- The above items 3, 4 and 5 above will be placed on the Agenda as one motion for a vote at the next Regular Meeting of the Town Board.

6. Request to publish on February 11, 2015, a Notice of Public Hearing for a Vehicle Service Station Permit Public at 1214 Tracy Creek Road, with hearing to be held on February 25, 2015.

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 (MAJEWSKI/Agneshwar)

1. Request authorizing Town Supervisor John Schaffer to sign an Intermunicipal Police Tactical Team Cooperation Agreement with the Village of Johnson City and the City of Binghamton.

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 Museum Director Ramona Kacyvenski to apply for and accept up to \$1,000.00 in a grant from Broome County Arts Council to be used for a Bluegrass Concert Series this summer.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Kopernik Tower

In a meeting with the Broome County Emergency Services Director Brett Chellis (1/19/15), it was agreed that if the Town builds a tower at Andrews Road to County specifications, the County would proceed with the construction of a tower at the Kopernik Observatory location. The Town Engineer was instructed by the Supervisor to proceed with the preparation of the specs for the Andrews Road tower.

2. Purchase of Town parks land by Vestal Veterinary Hospital

The Town Attorney stated that the negotiations concerning this sale are ongoing.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Town Supervisor Schaffer noted that he frequently gets constituent complaints that taxes are too high. While he agrees in principal with that sentiment, he feels that the public could benefit from a

VESTAL TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION MINUTES

MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 2015

more detailed explanation of how the Town's taxes compare with other local municipalities. It would also be helpful if the public was given more information about how the tax dollars are allocated. He is asking the Board for approval to prepare a mailer to address these issues. This mailer would go out to all Vestal households.

After a brief discussion, the Board agreed that such an information piece may be helpful and authorized the Supervisor to proceed with its preparation.

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 1 thru March 31.

- The Vestal Police Department is inviting community members to attend the first annual 2015 Citizens Police Academy (CPA). This program will hold weekly 2 hour meetings (March 5 thru May 7) that will cover topics relevant to law enforcement and emergency services. Those interested can contact Sgt. Stace Kintner via email at skintner@vestalny.com

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

ADOPTED Ayes 4 Agneshwar, Fitzgerald, Messina, Schaffer
 Nays 0 Absent 1 Majewski

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

- To discuss items concerning the ongoing contract negotiations with the Police Supervisors bargaining unit.
- To discuss a litigation issue concerning the Police Department.

The time was 8:08 PM.

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

ADOPTED Ayes 4 Agneshwar, Fitzgerald, Messina, Schaffer
 Nays 0 Absent 1 Majewski

Resolved the Board leave Executive Session and **adjourn the Work Session. The time was 9:04 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,
Emil Bielecki, Town Clerk