

## **Regular Meeting of the Vestal Town Board October 11, 2017**

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 October 11, 2017.

### **TOWN BOARD PRESENT:**

**Supervisor Schaffer**  
**Councilman Majewski**  
**Councilwoman Fitzgerald**  
**Councilwoman Messina**  
**Councilwoman Agneshwar**

**ALSO ATTENDING:** Town Attorney David Berger, Town Clerk Emil Bielecki, 1<sup>st</sup> 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:

Supervisor Schaffer introduced the Broome County Director of Purchasing, Tyler West, to give a brief summary of the County's fiscal situation and spending priorities. The following are highlights of Mr. West's presentation:

- The County is in a difficult financial situation. The 5.5 million dollar fund balance in 2015 is gone.
- The proposed 2018 County Budget has a 1.8% increase. 49 positions were unfunded. We are doing the same work with less people.
- The County is targeting public health issues, particularly as it pertains to the opioid epidemic. Additional resources are being directed to a new drug treatment center at the old Broome Developmental location. Public safety spending is also increasing. A new health coordinator position has opened up new grant funding opportunities.
- A new literacy program will offer every newborn a free library card.
- 40 miles of roads are slated for improvement.
- \$ 9 million has been spent on a 300 acre development near the airport. The area is shovel-ready for development.
- The County website is undergoing a major upgrade.
- A new program to assist veterans is being created.
- The County will benefit from the additional \$20 million Greater Binghamton Fund that will be made available through the Economic Development Council.

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Supervisor Schaffer and Councilwoman Agneshwar asked what the \$20 million grant will be earmarked for and if Vestal will be able to apply for some of that grant money. Mr. West replied that the money will be available to the whole Greater Binghamton area which includes Vestal. The money is not earmarked per se but will be allocated through the Economic Development Council. He would get back to the Board with additional details as to how this money will be spent.

Councilman Majewski expressed concern that the new opiate treatment center will bring in a large influx of people from out of the area who will decide to stay. Mr. West stated that access to the treatment program will have a built in preference for local residents and the goal is to return the participants back into society as productive citizens.

Councilwoman Messina asked for more clarity regarding the 300 acre development near the airport. Mr. West acknowledged that the County has not been a good steward of this area and is now looking to attract business there. Revitalizing the area could also help us attract more commercial flights to the airport. We are working on getting more commercial flights to the airport.

A speaker from the audience asked if we have a figure on how much we have spent on opiate addiction in the last few years. Mr. West explained that verifying a number would be difficult because there are many departments that are spending money on different aspects of this epidemic. But we know that the figure is growing.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

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

Resolved the Minutes of the Regular Meeting on September 27, 2017 are approved.

### **PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

A speaker stated that she is advocating for the Richards Ave./Tharpe St. neighborhood which has been flooded by the Choconut Creek and wonders what is being done to alleviate future problems. State Line Creek has flushed debris to the mouth of the creek which is obstructing the flow. If this area could be opened up, it would resolve a lot of the problem. Supervisor Schaffer explained that this is a slow process. We have been given permission to remove some trees from the river but we do not have permission to go into State Line Creek. He was not aware of the

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situation on State Line Creek but he would look into it with the Town Engineer. DEC has become more accommodative so perhaps we can address this particular situation. On a less positive note, there is no public money available to fix the damage on the private properties.

A speaker complained about the number of single family homes in the Stair Development that are being rented to students. People are renting out their homes and are not keeping up with the maintenance on the properties. Also, people are parking cars on their lawns and she wonders if that is legal. Supervisor Schaffer noted that up to 5 unrelated individuals can live in a single dwelling unit. He asked the speaker to provide the exact addresses so that our Code Department could look into it. It was also noted that it is legal to park on a lawn.

A speaker asked about the status of the 2018 budget preparation. Supervisor Schaffer responded that the Tentative Budget is completed and the Board has been meeting regularly to review it line by line. He expects that the Board will be able prepare a Preliminary Budget that keeps the tax levy under the state mandated cap.

A speaker asked for additional information about the CDBG grant for a new Emergency Medical Services (EMS) building. Supervisor Schaffer responded that the location of the building is to the east of the Vestal Library. The state is giving us the land. The entrance and exit to the building will be in front of the library. The current EMS building in Twin Orchards will be owned by the Town.

### **RESOLUTIONS & MOTIONS**

#### **Tax Certiorari Case Stipulation of Settlement for 3149 Burris Rd.**

**R210-17** On a motion of Councilwoman Agneshwar, seconded by Councilman Majewski, the following resolution was

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

Resolved to authorize the Town Attorney to sign a **Stipulation of Settlement** for the following Article 7 Tax Certiorari cases filed in Broome County entitled:

**For My Children vs. The Assessor** of the Town of Vestal, NY and the Town of Vestal, NY Index Nos., 2015-1064, 2016-1096, 2017-1951 as follows:  
Tax ID 158.15-1-21

1. For tax years 2015/2016, the total assessment on 3149 Burris Road from \$190,000 to \$162,500

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2. For tax years 2016/2017, the total assessment on 3149 Burriss Road from \$190,000 to \$162,500
3. For tax years 2017/2018, the total assessment on 3149 Burriss Road from \$190,000 to \$162,500

Roll Year	Assessment	FMV	STIP AV	Change in AV From Prior Year	School Tax	Town/County Tax	Town Refund
2015-16	\$190,000	\$190,000	\$162,500	-\$27,500	\$4,305.69	\$2,457.14	\$124.15
2016-17	\$190,000	\$190,000	\$162,500	-\$27,500	\$4,297.95	\$2,474.00	\$120.70
2017-18	\$190,000	\$190,000	\$162,500	-\$27,500	\$4,297.95	\$NA	\$NA

\* Town = General and Highway

**TOTALS \$244.85**

The Town Attorney and Business Office are authorized and directed to take all necessary steps to implement this resolution.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

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

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

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

**FINANCE: Agneshwar/Fitzgerald**

**Receive and File: Warrant Reports** 2017- 39, 2017-39E, 2017-40, 2017-40E

**Budget Transfers dated July – September 2017**

**R211-17** Authorization for Deputy Town Comptroller Nick Angeline to perform the **Budget Transfers dated July – September 2017** as attached to his memo to the Town Board dated 10/4/17.

**September 2017 Billable Hours for Town Attorney**

**R212-17** Authorization for the Business Office to pay \$387.50 to Town Attorney David Berger for September 2017 billable hours.

**Vestal Police Department to Accept a Technology Grant**

**R213-17** Authorization for the Vestal Police Department to accept a **technology grant** in the amount of \$9,000.00 from the Broome County District Attorney's Office.

**END OF CONSENT AGENDA**

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**CHAIR COMMENTS AND UPDATES**

Councilman Majewski expressed kudos to the Vestal Police Department for quickly apprehending a man who was accused of running a real estate scam on Craigslist.

**SUPERVISOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- A Public Notice has been published that the Town of Vestal intends to submit an application for the NYS Community Development Block Grant Recovery Program (CDBG-DR) funds to construct a new EMS Facility immediately west of the Route 26 and Vestal Parkway intersection. A copy of the application is available for review in the Town Clerk's office. All citizens are encouraged to submit their views and proposals to the Town of Vestal by October 20, 2017.
- A reminder to the residents not to put out anything but leaves during the Leaf Pickup season. Any other debris poses a risk to the machinery that is being used to pick up the leaves.

**OLD BUSINESS**

The following resolution was adopted at the October 2, 2017 Town Board Work Session:

**R209-17** On a motion of Councilwoman Messina, seconded by Councilman Majewski, the following was

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

Resolved for **Police Officer Colby Taber**, who was ordered to active duty in the Virgin Islands on September 15, 2017, to remain on the Town payroll with full pay and benefits through September 29, 2017.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion of Councilwoman Messina, seconded by Councilman Majewski, the meeting was adjourned at 6:34 PM. Carried unanimously.

Approved by \_\_\_\_\_  
Emil J. Bielecki, Town Clerk