

## **Regular Meeting of the Vestal Town Board March 28, 2018**

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 March 28, 2018.

### **TOWN BOARD PRESENT:**

**Supervisor Schaffer**  
**Councilman Majewski**  
**Councilwoman Messina**  
**Councilman Fletcher**

**ABSENT: Councilwoman Fitzgerald**

**ALSO ATTENDING:** Town Attorney David Berger, Town Engineer Vern Myers, Town Clerk Emil Bielecki, 1<sup>st</sup> Deputy Town Clerk Kathie Young and approximately 20 members of the general public.

Supervisor Schaffer 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, Fletcher, Messina, Schaffer  
                 Nays 0      Absent 1      Fitzgerald

Resolved the Minutes of the Regular Meeting on March 14, 2018 are approved.

Supervisor Schaffer introduced **Deputy Broome County Executive Kevin McManus** who asked to make a brief presentation about the state of the County. Deputy County Executive McManus stated that he has been visiting towns throughout the County to provide a snapshot of where the County is and to improve the lines of communication. The theme for the next several years is *Building a Better Broome*. The highlights of the presentation are as follows:

- The clampdown on the County budget will result in a surplus this year.
- Fighting blight is a major priority. A number of long standing eyesores are being torn down.
- The employment situation is improving in the County and resources are being dedicated toward job retraining.
- The Greater Binghamton Fund is leveraging private investment with public money to spur economic growth.

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- We are addressing the opioid epidemic with the opening of a treatment center at the former Broome Developmental Center site. This was a bipartisan effort.
- The Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) are also being applied to assist both urban and rural communities.
- We have turned the corner and the County is headed in the right direction.

In response to number of questions from the audience and the Town Board, Deputy County Executive also made these additional comments:

- The Greater Binghamton Fund is focused on Johnson City, Endicott and Binghamton because those areas were earmarked by the Governor's office
- The new drug treatment center will serve Broome and the contiguous counties and residency requirements will be applied. The facility will have a 50 bed capacity but it can be scaled up or down depending on need. He will provide more details on how the residency requirements are being applied.\* We are also addressing the problem of people arriving from NYC to receive services.
- We are working hard to improve the operations at the airport. Our most recent success is bringing in Evolution Jets. The revenue will help to offset the approximately \$1 million per year we pay to subsidize the airport. We are also working to bring in additional commercial flights, particularly to Washington DC but we need a strong commitment from the business community to maintain a certain level of use.
- Our greatest need is in jobs that require technical skills and we are working with BU and BCC to train and retrain workers. However, we also have a problem with filling lower level job openings due to a poor work ethic and problems with passing drug tests.

**\*Town Clerk's Note:** In response to the posed question concerning residency, Deputy County Executive McManus sent an email with the following follow up comments:

- The treatment center is meant to serve Broome and contiguous counties, but it is our understanding that no one can be refused medical treatment. There are already centers around the state including Buffalo, Syracuse, Albany and New York City.
- While someone from outside the intended area can receive treatment, data suggests anyone using a treatment service returns to their county of origin (OASAS).

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**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

A speaker expressed concern about the abuse of parking spaces designated for the disabled, particularly at the Town Square Mall and the Vestal High School. He has called the police but the violators are often gone by the time the police arrive. He would like something to be done about it and wants to be involved in finding a solution to the problem. Supervisor Schaffer stated that he will address this issue with the Police Department and contact the speaker to involve him in the discussion.

A speaker asked if the \$800,000 in bonding is the only source of funds that is being applied to road repairs. Supervisor Schaffer replied that we also use money from the operating budget and the state's CHIPS program to work on roads. Road repair/reconstruction is a costly and ongoing process and we do our best to keep up within the limits of our budgetary constraints. The speaker also expressed support for converting to LED street lighting and asked where that project is going. Town Engineer Vern Myers explained that this funding will put the new LED lighting on all of the NYSEG poles (approx. 2,000). The 150 to 200 poles in the newer developments are owned by the Town and will be converted at a later date. We are now working with the NYSEG poles because it is the best course of action at this time to save some money.

A speaker, who tried to complain about the handling of an incident that he was involved in at Town Hall, was cut off from further comment on the subject by Supervisor Schaffer because this complaint was already fully investigated by the Police and found to be without merit.

A speaker noted that he likes the renovations being done in the Board room and expressed support for the conversion to LED street lighting. Also, he agrees that there is a problem with the handicapped parking and supports any effort to crack down on those who park in these spots without a valid disability parking tag.

**RESOLUTIONS & MOTIONS**

**ADOPT BOND RESOLUTIONS FOR VARIOUS CAPITAL PROJECTS**

**R074-18** On a motion of Councilwoman Messina, seconded by Councilman Fletcher, the following resolution was

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

Resolved to adopt the **Bond Resolutions dated March 28, 2018** as follows:

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- A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING, SUBJECT TO PERMISSIVE REFERENDUM: **THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE BARLOW PARK PLAYGROUND**, IN AND FOR THE TOWN OF VESTAL, BROOME COUNTY, NEW YORK, AT A MAXIMUM ESTIMATED COST OF \$85,000, AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$85,000 BONDS OF SAID TOWN TO PAY THE COST THEREOF.
- A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING, SUBJECT TO PERMISSIVE REFERENDUM, THE ISSUANCE OF \$800,000 BONDS OF THE TOWN OF VESTAL, BROOME COUNTY, NEW YORK, TO PAY THE COST OF THE **RECONSTRUCTION AND RESURFACING OF VARIOUS ROADS** THROUGHOUT AND IN AND FOR SAID TOWN.
- A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING, SUBJECT TO PERMISSIVE REFERENDUM, **ROAD AND PARKING LOT RECONSTRUCTION AT ARNOLD PARK**, IN AND FOR THE TOWN OF VESTAL, BROOME COUNTY, NEW YORK, AT A MAXIMUM ESTIMATED COST OF \$100,000, AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$100,000 BONDS OF SAID TOWN TO PAY THE COST THEREOF
- A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING, SUBJECT TO PERMISSIVE REFERENDUM, **THE PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT FOR MAINTENANCE PURPOSES**, IN AND FOR THE TOWN OF VESTAL, BROOME COUNTY, NEW YORK, AT A MAXIMUM ESTIMATED COST OF \$945,000, AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$585,000 BONDS OF SAID TOWN TO PAY PART OF THE COST THEREOF.
- A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE **PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF LED STREET LIGHTS**, IN AND FOR THE TOWN OF VESTAL, BROOME COUNTY, NEW YORK, AT A MAXIMUM ESTIMATED COST OF \$104,000, AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$104,000 BONDS OF SAID TOWN TO PAY THE COST THEREOF
- A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING, SUBJECT TO PERMISSIVE REFERENDUM, THE TOWN'S SHARE OF THE COST OF A **PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENT PROJECT ON CLAYTON AVENUE**, IN AND FOR THE TOWN OF VESTAL, BROOME COUNTY, NEW YORK, AT A MAXIMUM ESTIMATED COST OF \$66,000, AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$66,000 BONDS OF SAID TOWN TO PAY PART OF THE COST THEREOF.
- A RESOLUTION SUPPLEMENTING THE BOND RESOLUTION DATED JANUARY 25, 2017, TO AUTHORIZE, SUBJECT TO PERMISSIVE REFERENDUM, THE ISSUANCE OF AN ADDITIONAL \$75,000 BONDS OF THE TOWN OF VESTAL, BROOME COUNTY, NEW YORK, TO PAY A PORTION OF THE COST OF THE **RECONSTRUCTION OF TOWN HALL**, IN AND FOR SAID TOWN.

**Little Free Library Book Sharing Box Installation for Arnold Park**

**R075-18** On a motion of Councilman Majewski, seconded by Councilman Fletcher, the following resolution was

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

Resolved to authorize Stephanie Mitsakos, a Vestal resident and school counselor at Glenwood Elementary School, to install and maintain a *Little Free Library* at Arnold Park where children and adults can share free books. This authorization is subject to the approval of the Parks Superintendent as to location and installation method.

**Advertise for Bids - Lyndale Pump Package**

**R076-18**     On a motion of Councilwoman Messina, seconded by Councilman Fletcher, the following resolution was

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

Resolved to authorize the Town Attorney to advertise for bids for the **Lyndale Pump Package** on April 4, 2018 with the opening of the bids on April 23, 2018 at 2 PM.

**Resolution re: Police Chief Wages and Benefits**

Councilman Majewski stated that he would not support this action if it involved a contract. Town Attorney Berger noted that action was not contractual but was being made by a resolution.

**R077-18**     On a motion of Councilwoman Messina, seconded by Councilman Fletcher, the following resolution was

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

Resolved to adopt the following Resolution:

WHEREAS it has come to the attention of the Town Board that some inequities have developed since the passage of Resolution #375-11 regarding the pay and benefits of Police Chief Butler, now therefore the Board hereby amends the prior resolution and Resolves that

1. Beginning 1/1/2019 any increases to the Base Salary, when under the VPSA contract is a percentage increase, shall be calculated based upon his base pay, and not upon that of his next highest subordinate, and
2. Beginning 1/1/2019, the sick leave incentive benefit as set forth in the VPSA contract is an available benefit.
3. All other terms and conditions of the prior resolution remain unchanged.

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**CONSENT AGENDA**

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

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

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

**PUBLIC WORKS: Fitzgerald/Majewski**

**Scott Zaino Hired as Laborer in the Water/Wastewater Department**

**R078-18**     Approval for Water/Wastewater Superintendent to hire **Scott Zaino** as Laborer, effective Monday April 23, 2018, at the 2017 hourly rate of \$14.72 per hour, pending passing a drug and alcohol screening. A background check has already been performed. The salary will come from budget line item 8340-1020.

**FINANCE: Messina/Fletcher**

**Receive and File:**

- **Warrant Reports:** 2018-11, 2018-11E, 2018-12, 2018-12A, 2018-12E

**Agreements with Excellus for Stop Loss Insurance and Health Plan Admin.**

**R079-18**     Authorization for the Town Comptroller to sign the renewal agreements with **Excellus** for stop loss insurance and health plan administration from April 1, 2018 thru March 31, 2019.

**PUBLIC SAFETY: Messina/Majewski**

**Lease of Fred Singer Training Site**

**R080-18**     Approval from the Board of Fire Commissioners to accept the usage of the Fred Singer Training Site by **Monroe Hose Company** on May 6, 2018 at a cost of \$100 per day.

**RECEIVE AND FILE:**

- Minutes of the Fire Advisory Board Meeting on February 19, 2018.

**END OF CONSENT AGENDA**

**COMMITTEE CHAIR COMMENTS AND UPDATES**

- Councilman Majewski congratulated Police Chief Butler for holding the line on last year's budget. The 2017 police department budget was closed out with

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approximately \$180,000 left over.

**SUPERVISOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has issued a **ban on residential brush burning from March 16 through May 14**. Due to the lack of snow cover, and with rising temperatures forecasted for the coming weeks, conditions for wildfires could be heightened.
- All Vestal Fire Department Stations will hold a Recruitment Day on Saturday April 28<sup>th</sup> from Noon to 3PM. The fire stations will be open for anyone to visit and learn about becoming a volunteer. We always need volunteers.
- Last Saturday, he and Councilwoman Fitzgerald attended an advanced fire commissioner training course. Councilwoman Messina and Councilman Fletcher also attended training sessions recently. The Board of Fire Commissioners (Town Board) is dedicated to continuing education and training.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion of Councilwoman Messina, seconded by Councilman Majewski, the **meeting was adjourned at 6:43 PM**. Carried unanimously.

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