

## **Regular Meeting of the Vestal Town Board April 24, 2019**

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 April 24, 2019.

### **TOWN BOARD PRESENT:**

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

**ALSO ATTENDING:** Town Attorney David Berger, Town Clerk Emil Bielecki, and 8 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 Fitzgerald, the following resolution was

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

**Resolved** the Minutes of the Regular Meeting on April 10, 2019 are approved.

### **PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

A speaker stated that he received a Tri-County Farm Trail brochure from State Senator Akshar which features two farms in Vestal. These farms will be open to the public during the upcoming Farm Weekend on May 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>.

A frequent speaker at Board meetings expressed his opinion on a number of topics. A summary of his questions and comments is as follows:

- He objects to the reappointment of Mark Minoia as Town Assessor and the hiring of staff who he deems to be unqualified.
- When is Town going to increase the income limits for seniors to qualify for property tax reductions?
- He opposes the proposed creation of a Planned Development District (PDD) on Bunn Hill Road. The neighborhood doesn't want it.
- The Board should act to establish term limits.

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- Absenteeism by certain Board members continues to be a problem that should be dealt with.
- He considers the cost of the engineering work on the Meeker Road Bridge and the construction of a new EMS building to be excessive.
- The Fire Department is volunteer and should not have any employees paid by the Town.

Supervisor Schaffer noted that he has answered these same questions many times but will provide answers only to new questions posed by this speaker.

A speaker noted that portions of Underwood Road have been paved and asked if the rest of the road will be done. Supervisor Schaffer responded that additional paving work on Underwood Road is scheduled for this year.

### **RESOLUTIONS & MOTIONS**

#### **Snow and Ice Agreement with Broome County for the Year 2019**

Councilwoman Fitzgerald noted that she asked the Highway Superintendent to come to a Work Session prior to the Board voting on this agreement. Supervisor Schaffer responded that it was too late to try changing this agreement for this year but assured the Board that the Town still benefits financially under the current terms of the agreement. The Highway Superintendent will still be invited to attend the next Work Session to talk about changes that may be considered for future years. Councilman Majewski stated that despite some reservations with this agreement, he will vote for it but future agreements should have an escalator clause to increase the payments by at least 3% a year.

**R063-19** On a motion of Councilwoman Messina, seconded by Councilman Majewski, the following resolution was

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

**Resolved** to authorize Town Supervisor John Schaffer to sign the **Snow and Ice Agreement** with Broome County for January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019.

#### **Memorandum of Understanding with Broome County Land Bank**

Supervisor Schaffer stated that the installation of a *Welcome to Vestal* sign at this gateway location will serve as a useful promotional tool and thanked Town Clerk Emil Bielecki for his work on this project as a member of the Land Bank Advisory Committee.

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**R064-19** On a motion of Councilwoman Messina, seconded by Councilman Fletcher, the following resolution was

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

**Resolved** to authorize Town Supervisor John Schaffer to sign a *Memorandum of Understanding* with the **Broome County Land Bank** to develop 1625 Pearl Street into a Town gateway.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

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

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

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

**FINANCE: Messina/Majewski**

**Receive and File**

- **Warrant Reports:** 2019-15, 2019-15C, 2019-15E, 2019-16, 2019-16E

**PERSONNEL: Majewski/Fitzgerald**

**Appointment of Kenneth Darrow as Senior Clerk**

**R065-19** Approval for Town Assessor Mark Minoia to appoint **Kenneth Darrow** as a *Senior Clerk at the CSEA, Grade 3* rate of \$15.07 per hour with the retroactive effective date of April 15, 2019.

**PUBLIC SAFETY: Messina/Fletcher**

**Fire Department Chicken Barbeque Fundraiser**

**R066-19** Approval from the Board of Fire Commissioners for the **Vestal Fire Department Membership and Auxiliaries Station 1's Chicken BBQ** (catered by Phil's Chicken) to be held on June 15, 2019 at the Tractor Supply Parking Lot. Coverage time will be from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm and a sign-in sheet will be used to track personnel at this event.

**Approved New Members of the Vestal Fire Department**

**R067-19** Authorization from the Board of Fire Commissioners to approve new members as follows:

- **George Basila** as a member of the Vestal Fire Department at Company No 1.
- **Todd Ingersoll** as a member of the Vestal Fire Department at Company No 3.

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**Town of Vestal Towing/Wrecker Policy and Procedures**

**R068-19** Approval of the updated **Town of Vestal Towing/Wrecker Policy and Procedures** as attached to Police Chief John Butler's memo to the Town Board dated April 12, 2019.

**ADMINISTRATION: Fitzgerald/Messina**

**Accepted Funds from the Lower Tracy Creek Cemetery Association**

**R069-19** Authorization for the Town Clerk to accept a check in the amount of \$5,827.52 from the **Lower Tracy Creek Cemetery Association** for the maintenance of the abandoned Lower Tracy Creek Cemetery.

**Conveyance Town Acceptance of Lower Tracy Creek Cemetery**

**R070-19** Authorization for the Town Supervisor to sign the **Cemetery Conveyance Town Acceptance Resolution** for the Lower Tracy Creek Cemetery.

**Maintenance Contracts for Abandoned Cemeteries for 2019**

**R071-19** Authorization to approve the **2019 maintenance contracts for abandoned cemeteries** as follows, and for the Town Attorney to prepare same:

**John Donlin**

412 Delano Avenue	Rounds Cemetery (Front Street)	\$325.00
Vestal, NY 13850	Crumm Road Cemetery	\$425.00
	Vestal Rd. Cemetery	<u>\$325.00</u>
		<b>\$1,075.00</b>

**Matthew Husband**

275 Sheedy Road	Bunn Hill Cemetery (Jensen Road)	\$ 475.00
Vestal, NY 13850	Vestal Center Cemetery	\$1,525.00
	Lower Tracy Creek Cemetery	<u>\$ 700.00</u>
		<b>\$2,700.00</b>

The amounts are unchanged from last year. Lower Tracy Creek Cemetery has been added this year. The maintenance of abandoned cemeteries is a statutory obligation of the Town.

**END OF CONSENT AGENDA**

**COMMITTEE CHAIR COMMENTS AND UPDATES**

Councilwoman Messina announced that as part of the upcoming Police Memorial Week, there will be a memorial church service at 3:00 PM on Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at the St. Vincent Blessed Sacrament Church in Vestal.

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**SUPERVISOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **Fire Department Open House (Recruitment Day)** All Stations will be Open on Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, Noon – 3:00 PM. Come see what we have to offer!
- **Reminder on Brush Pick-Up!** – Please place brush and branches at the curb and not in the road to prevent clogging of drains and other hazards.

**OTHER NEW BUSINESS**

**Defensive Driving Course for Town Employees and Fire Fighters**

Supervisor Schaffer stated that this is a routine approval of the Defensive Driving Course that we are phasing in as a mandatory requirement for employees who routinely drive Town Vehicles.

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

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

**R072-19      Resolved** to approve a **Defensive Driving Course** (sponsored by Liberty Mutual Insurance) on May 15<sup>th</sup> at Town Hall from 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. for the benefit of town employees and members of the Vestal Fire Department at no cost. This course is mandatory for those who routinely drive Town vehicles. This requirement is being phased in over a three year period which began in 2017. The course is also open to retirees and family members of employees at a cost of \$25 per person. Registration must be made by May 8<sup>th</sup> and thereafter the course is open to others at this cost as space permits.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion of Councilman Majewski, seconded by Councilwoman Messina, the meeting was adjourned at **6:23 PM**. Carried unanimously.

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