

Regular Meeting of the Vestal Town Board October 9, 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 October 9, 2019.

TOWN BOARD PRESENT:

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

ALSO ATTENDING: Broome County Executive Jason Garnar, Town Attorney David Berger, Town Clerk Emil Bielecki, and 7 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:

County Executive Jason Garnar Speaks About 2020 Broome County Budget

Supervisor Schaffer introduced Broome County Executive Jason Garnar and welcomed him to Vestal. County Executive Garnar stated that he recently presented his budget address and is now taking the opportunity to visit municipalities throughout the County to highlight some of the major aspects of the 2020 County Budget and answer questions from the public. The County Executive noted the following items in his presentation:

- When he took office, the County had a budget deficit and was on the State's fiscal stress list. Today we have a \$6.5 million budget surplus which is expected to go to \$9 million by the end of the year and we are no longer on the stress list.
- The 2020 County Budget reduces taxes by 0.5 % with no job layoffs.
- We added 3 Sheriff Deputies and 6 Dispatcher positions to reduce their shifts from 12 to 8 hours.
- We are in the process of rebuilding the entire County Emergency Services Communication Network. When completed, the coverage will go from approx. 55% to 99.9%. The County will provide all the necessary communication equipment to the local emergency services agencies at no cost. All the agencies will now be able to talk to each other.
- We are building a new veterans facility at the former Vestal Hills Country Club location to consolidate and expand the services that we offer to our veterans.

Regular Meeting of the Vestal Town Board October 9, 2019

- We are retrofitting a portion of the former Sears store at the Oakdale Mall as a new location for our Workforce Development Office. There are about 4,000 job openings in Broome County. The new Workforce Office will have state of the art resources to help fill those positions.
- The Small Community Fund is again available to assist municipalities with financing various local projects.
- The Books for Babies program continues to be funded to stress the importance of reading to young children.
- The County continues to assist in the cleanup of eyesores and is moving in the right direction to attract economic development.

In response to various questions posed by the Board members as well as the public, County Executive Garnar shared additional information as follows:

- There will be a van available for veterans to more easily access the services at the new Veterans Facility. Gym facilities will also be available.
- Although the County is leasing only a portion of the old Sears store, there are other new tenants coming which should be well received---Lourdes health and daycare services and the popular Beer Tree microbrewery to name a few.
- The 4,000 job openings in the County span across numerous skill and education levels with the highest number of openings in the healthcare field.
- He is committed to retaining the existing sales tax sharing formula with the municipalities.

Supervisor Schaffer thanked County Executive Garnar for taking time out of his busy schedule to reach out to the local governments and their constituents.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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 Minutes of the Regular Meeting on September 25, 2019 are approved.

PRIVELEGE OF THE FLOOR

A speaker asked when the Juneberry Road Bridge will reopen. Supervisor Schaffer responded that the bridge is expected to reopen by the 1st of November.

**Regular Meeting of the Vestal Town Board
October 9, 2019**

RESOLUTIONS & MOTIONS

Re-Advertise Local Law G of the Year 2019

R183-19 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 the Town Attorney to **re-advertise Local Law G of the Year 2019** (Rezoning 2500-2520 Vestal Parkway East) on October 16, 2019 with the Public Hearing to be held on November 6, 2019.

Advertise for Bids on the Fire Department's Engines Project

R184-19 On a motion of Councilwoman Messina, seconded by Councilwoman Fitzgerald, the following resolution was

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

Resolved to authorize the Town Attorney to advertise for bids on the Fire Department's **Engines Project** on October 16, 2019 with the bid opening on November 12, 2019 at 2:00 PM.

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** – 2019-39, 2019-39E, 2019-40, 2019-40E
- **Town Clerk Monthly Report** – Sept. 2019. Local Shares Remitted: \$5,380.35

Lifetime Benefit Solutions Approved to Provide Flex Plan Administration

R185-19 Authorization for the Town Comptroller to sign the renewal agreement with **Lifetime Benefit Solutions** with the new administrative fee rate of \$4.85 PPPM, effective January 1, 2020.

**Regular Meeting of the Vestal Town Board
October 9, 2019**

Billable Hours for Town Attorney

R186-19 Authorization to pay \$125.00 to **Town Attorney David Berger** for the September billable hours.

PERMA Grant Awarded for Employee/Retiree Health Fair

R187-19 Authorization for the Comptroller to accept the **Public Employer Risk Management Association (PERMA)** grant awarded to the Town of Vestal in the amount of \$400.00 to assist with the *Employee/Retiree Health Fair* scheduled for October 23, 2019.

PERSONNEL: Majewski/Fitzgerald

Mark Tomko Re-Appointed to Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA)

R188-19 Authorization to re-appoint **Mark Tomko** to the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) for a term of January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2024.

Cholesterol and Glucose Testing Added to Employee/Retiree Health Fair

R189-19 Approval to authorize non-fasting cholesterol and glucose testing to be provided at the **Employee/Retiree Health Fair** which will be held on Wednesday, October 23, 2019 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm in the meeting rooms at the Vestal Public Library. These tests will be provided by United Health Services. The fee will be \$50 per hour for nursing services plus \$17 per test. The charges for these services will be paid from the health insurance fund.

ADMINISTRATION: Fitzgerald/Messina

Hired Staff for Recreation Programs

R190-19 Authorization for Recreation Planner Sue Jastran to hire family swim lifeguards, weight room attendants, and basketball and playground staff as indicated in her memo to the Town Board dated September 24, 2019.

RECEIVE AND FILE

- October 7, 2019 – Notification from the NYS Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) of an upcoming traffic signal replacement and intersection reconfiguration project located on Route 434 at Clayton Avenue. The work is scheduled to be done during the 2021 construction season. Comments and concerns regarding this project can be addressed to Project Manager Tim Bolender by mail at 44 Hawley Street, Binghamton, NY 13901, by telephone at (607)217-6318 or by email at Tim.Bolender@dot.ny.gov.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

**Regular Meeting of the Vestal Town Board
October 9, 2019**

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

A speaker noted that some Highway workers speed on Glenwood Road to get to work on time. Supervisor Schaffer responded that he would speak the Highway Superintendent about the speeding issue.

COMMITTEE CHAIR COMMENTS AND UPDATES

Councilwoman Messina announced that the Fire Expo held in Lowe's parking lot was a success. It was well attended. She would like to thank everyone who participated in the event, particularly Lowe's for providing space to stage the event and donating money from the sale of items in the parking lot to the Ladies Auxiliary.

SUPERVISOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

• **Monster Mash Halloween Party**

Saturday, October 19 from 1 PM – 3 PM at [Arnold Park](#).

- I announce with sadness that former Vestal Town Supervisor and community leader **Pete Andreasen** died this week. Pete was a hard and energetic worker and will be sorely missed. I ask for a moment of silence to remember and reflect on Pete's life and legacy.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion of Councilwoman Messina, seconded by Councilman Fletcher, the meeting was adjourned at 6:35 PM. Carried unanimously.

Approved by _____ Emil J. Bielecki, Town Clerk