

Regular Meeting of the Vestal Town Board May 21, 2014

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 May 21, 2014.

TOWN BOARD PRESENT:

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

ALSO ATTENDING: Town Attorney David Berger, Town Clerk Emil Bielecki, 1st Deputy Town Clerk Kathie Young and approximately 10 members of the community.

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:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

ADOPTED Ayes 4 Majewski, Fitzgerald, Messina, Schaffer
 Nays 0

Resolved the Minutes of the Regular Meeting on May 7, 2014 are approved.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR (Agenda Items Only)

A speaker feels that our sewer rates are twice the average of any communities around here and having a fixed rate, regardless of consumption, is unfair. The Town should provide online access to water and sewer accounts. The Town does not do an adequate job in maintaining water and sewer lines.

RESOLUTIONS & MOTIONS

Proposal From Keystone Associates for Floodwall Design

R136-14 On a motion of Councilman Majewski, seconded by Councilman Majewski, the following resolution was

ADOPTED Ayes 4 Majewski, Fitzgerald, Messina, Schaffer
 Nays 0

Resolved to authorize the Town Engineer to sign the **proposal from Keystone Associates**, to prepare plans for final design, bid plans and provide limited

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construction inspection services, for the installation of a flood wall behind Town Hall at a cost of \$16,145.00.

In June 2013, Keystone Associates did a feasibility report for the floodwall construction as required by FEMA. On April 11, 2014, NYS Emergency Services and FEMA authorized an additional \$230,256 in funding to construct the flood wall.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

ADOPTED Ayes 4 Majewski, Fitzgerald, Messina, Schaffer
 Nays 0

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

PUBLIC WORKS: Majewski/Fitzgerald

Credit for Sewer Bills

R137-14 Authorization for the Business Office to credit the sewer bill for the residence at **232 N. Meadowbrook Lane** in the amount of \$42.40 (8,000 gallons). The cause of the high water/sewer consumption was a broken hose bib. The water did not go into the town sanitary sewer system.

Credit Issued for Sewer Bills

R138-14 Authorization for the Business Office to credit the sewer bill for the residence at **237 Front Street** in the amount of \$667.80 (126,000 gallons). The cause of the high water/sewer consumption was a burst pipe inside the house. The water did not go into the town's sanitary sewer system.

R139-14 Authorization for the Business Office to credit the sewer bill for the residence at **620 Rano Boulevard** in the amount of \$296.80 (56,000 gallons). The cause of the high water/sewer consumption was a broken hose bib. The water did not go into the town's sanitary sewer system.

R140-14 Authorization to amend **R126-14** to advertise for bids on William Street, High Avenue and Tulane sanitary sewer projects on May 21, 2014 with bid opening on May 27, 2014.

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FINANCE: Messina/Majewski

Receive and File - Warrant Reports: 2014-19, 2014-19E, 2014-20, 2014-20B, 2014-20E

Billable Hours for Town Attorney

R141-14 Authorization to remit payment to the **Town Attorney for billable hours** for the month of April 2014 in the amount of \$1145.00 for 7 hours and 38 minutes.

PUBLIC SAFETY: Majewski/Messina

Station 1 to Hold a Chicken BBQ

R142-14 Approval from the Board of Fire Commissioners for Station 1 to hold a Chicken BBQ on Saturday, June 14th from Noon till 4 pm at the Tractor Supply Parking Lot on the Vestal Parkway, as well as approval for all day coverage time by the Membership and Auxiliaries. A sign-in sheet will be used to track personnel at this event.

Town Engineer to Sign and Submit Permit for Vestal 20K Run

R143-14 Authorization for Gary Campo, Town Engineering to sign and submit a *permit from NYSDOT* for special use on behalf of the *Triple Cities Runners Club*, sponsors of the **Vestal 20K Run**, and allowing them to use the Town of Vestal's present permit insurance for their June 21st, 2013 event. An Indemnification Agreement is to be signed.

Police to Purchase Flex Shield Ballistic Barriers

R144-14 Authorization for the Police Department to purchase six flex shield ballistic barriers for patrol officer safety purposes from sole provider *Patriot 3*. The total price of \$5,995.71 and will come from the asset forfeiture line A3120-2626R.

ADMINISTRATION: Fitzgerald/Messina

Walter to Maintain Cemeteries

R145-14 Authorization to sign a contract with **Phillip Walter** to maintain the following abandoned cemeteries for 2014:

Rounds Cemetery	\$325.00
Crumm Rd. Cemetery	\$425.00
Vestal Rd. Cemetery	<u>\$325.00</u>
	\$1,075.00

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The maintenance of abandoned cemeteries is a statutory obligation of the Town and is a budgeted item under line A8810-4060. Mr. Walter will replace a previously authorized contractor who backed out.

RECEIVE AND FILE:

- Vestal Fire Department Fire Advisory Board Meeting Minutes – 2014 04 21

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

COMMITTEE CHAIR COMMENTS AND UPDATES

Letter of Protest to Elected Officials Re: NYS DOT Work on Route 434

Councilman Majewski noted that the State DOT will be repaving all of Route 434 (Vestal Parkway). As part of that project, they will be removing most of the right turn only lanes, supposedly to improve the conditions for pedestrian traffic. In his opinion, this action will create numerous traffic hazards. He would like to send a letter to the DOT and our elected State officials expressing the Town's displeasure with this plan and ask that the project be put on hold until a thorough traffic safety study is done.

R146-14 On a motion of Councilman Majewski, seconded by Councilwoman Messina, the following resolution was

ADOPTED Ayes 4 Majewski, Fitzgerald, Messina, Schaffer
Nays 0

Resolved the to authorize the Supervisor to prepare a letter to NYS DOT, State Senator Libous, Assemblywoman Lupardo and Jack Williams (DOT) concerning our displeasure and safety concerns on the plan to resurface Route 434 and remove *Right Turn Only* lanes in various locations. We would ask for further review and safety study before DOT acts on this issue.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT

A speaker stated that the existence of the right turn lanes on Route 434 gives emergency services an area to push traffic to the side during responses. Also, DOT should consider additional sidewalks in some of the high pedestrian traffic areas. Councilman Majewski noted that one of the reasons given by DOT for favoring shoulders over sidewalks is that shoulders are always plowed but walkways many not be.

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A speaker reiterated his vehement opposition to the the three minute time limit for speaking at Town Board meetings. He has numerous issues with the Town that require more than the allotted time to address adequately.

A speaker asked how pedestrians will access the new Rail Trail from the old Trail. How will people cross Main Street? Supervisor Schaffer explained that there is now a light with a button at the intersection of Stage Rd. and Main St. which allows pedestrians to cross Main Street safely. Also, there will be a parking lot made available on the west end of the new trail in Castle Gardens.

A speaker feels that the creek next to the Town Hall needs to be widened at the end where the creek empties into the river. It is full of stone and limbs. Supervisor Schaffer noted that DEC will not allow us to address many of the issues existing in the creeks and they won't address them either.

SUPERVISOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- *Dangerous and Unsafe Building* Proceedings regarding **1708 Old Vestal Road** – A Public Hearing will be scheduled for June 11, 2014 at 6:00 PM.
- **Events at the Vestal Museum**
 1. June 7, 2014 – Ask an Archaeologist Day, artifact ID
 2. June 7, 2014 at 9am to 12pm – Folk Art Demo: Needle Tatting by Jacquie Chalmers, fiber artist.
 3. June 14, 2014 – ‘Archeology in Vestal’ Exhibit
 4. June 14, 2014 at 9am to 12pm – Folk Art Demo: Willow Weaving by Bonnie Gale, willow artist.

The Museum is open on Saturday at 10am to 3pm and on Wednesday thru Friday at 10am to 3pm.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion of Councilman Majewski, seconded by Councilwoman Messina, **the meeting was adjourned at 6:21 PM.** Carried unanimously.

Approved by _____ Emil J. Bielecki, Town Clerk