

## VESTAL TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION MINUTES

MONDAY, JUNE 20, 2016

Board Attendance: Supervisor Schaffer; Board Members: Messina, Agneshwar, Fitzgerald

Absent: Majewski

Also Attending: Town Attorney David Berger, Town Engineer Vern Myers, Human Resource Officer Nancy Olmstead, Town Clerk Emil Bielecki and approximately 40 people from the general public.

Supervisor Schaffer **convened the Work Session at 6:00 PM.**

### **6:00 PM Girl Scouts Troop 30245 - Discuss “No Smoking” in the parks.**

Approximately 15 girls from the Girls Scout Troop 30245 gave short statements to the Board as to why smoking should be banned in the Town parks. Some of the reasons are as follows:

- Many have experienced second hand smoke and they chose to work on this project because it is not healthy, especially for the kids.
- Second hand smoke can cause asthma attacks.
- Banning smoking in parks promotes a positive health message and a cleaner and safer environment.
- Smoking causes 16 kinds of cancers. Tobacco kills almost ½ million people each year in the US.
- Second hand smoke contains over 7,000 chemicals, including 69 cancer causing agents. Children exposed to second hand smoke are at an increased risk of various health issues. According to the Surgeon General, there is no safe level of second hand smoke.
- The annual health care cost in NYS caused by smoking exceeds \$8 billion, of which Medicare pays \$5.4 billion.
- Seeing people smoking in places like parks makes children feel as if it’s normal behavior and perhaps not so bad. 90% of smokers start smoking by age 18. Smoking does not fit in parks.
- Cigarette butts are not biodegradable and are toxic to the earth. Also, they can cause wildfires. Little kids pick them up and put them in their mouth.
- In 2013, 74% of Broome County residents surveyed thought that smoking should be restricted or eliminated in public parks and 88% felt the building entryways should be smoke free.
- The Tobacco Free Broome and Tioga program can help the Town of Vestal with press releases, press conferences, providing outdoor signs, reminder cards and brochures.

Upon completion of their statements, the girls presented the Board with a petition with over 400 signatures in support of making Vestal parks, playgrounds and athletic fields smoke free.

Cornell Cooperative Extension Community Educator for Advancing Tobacco Free Communities Lisa Weston-Bialy stated that her organization can help the Town to implement the tobacco free policy through various promotional activities.

Each of the Board members thanked the Girl Scout Troop for their courage and persistence in presenting their case for banning smoking in Vestal parks. Councilwoman Agneshwar encouraged the group to also consider other tobacco related products such as chewing tobacco and perhaps e-cigarettes.

Supervisor Schaffer stated that he would put this topic on the agenda for discussion at a future Work Session and asked the group if they were willing to come back if needed. All responded affirmatively.

### **COMMITTEES**

**7.1 PUBLIC WORKS (FITZGERALD/Majewski)** – no items were brought for consideration.

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MONDAY, JUNE 20, 2016

### 7.2 FINANCE (AGNESHWAR/Fitzgerald)

1. Warrants: 2016-23, 2016-23B, 2016-23E, 2016-24, 2016-24E

OK-This item will be placed on the Agenda for a vote at the next Regular Meeting of the Town Board.

2. Request to authorize the Business Office to pay ZMK Construction the sum of \$38,958.16 for emergency repair work to sewer lines conducted from 4/28 – 5/9/16 on King Street. The events leading to this repair constituted a public emergency exempting this work from the competitive bidding requirements in accordance with Section 103(4) of the General Municipal Law.

OK-This item will be placed on the Agenda for a vote at the next Regular Meeting of the Town Board.

3. Request to pay \$712.50 Town Attorney David Berger for billable hours for the month of May 2016.

OK-This item will be placed on the Agenda for a vote at the next Regular Meeting of the Town Board.

### 7.3 PERSONNEL (MESSINA/Majewski)

1. Request to authorize Museum Director Cheresse Wiesner-Rosales, Museum to hire Tracy Hanna as a part-time clerk to start on June 18, 2016 at a rate of \$9.00 per hour.

OK-This item will be placed on the Agenda for a vote at the next Regular Meeting of the Town Board.

2. Discuss staffing in the Parks Department.

Supervisor Schaffer stated that the Parks Superintendent could not meet with the Board as scheduled but has submitted a letter concerning his staffing needs for the Parks Department. After a brief discussion, Councilwoman Agneshwar suggested that the Board reschedule to meet with Parks Superintendent Jim Bukowski at the next work session on July 11<sup>th</sup>. The Board agreed.

Human Resource Officer noted that Mr. Bukowski's plan includes bringing back a retired employee for seasonal mowing. Supervisor Schaffer indicated that if specific details about this request are provided to the Board by tomorrow, he may place the item on the agenda for consideration at Wednesday's Regular Meeting.

### 7.4 PLANNING & ZONING (MESSINA/Agneshwar)

1. Request for Timber Harvest Permit to be issued to Daniel Newman, (the original request was on April 13, 2016). At the Board's request, Mr. Newman submitted additional information as to the approximate number of trees to be cut within the 300' buffer at the property on 4225 Fuller Hollow Road. On the 6 acres in question (red on the attached map), there will be approximately 40 trees removed (about 7 trees per acre).

Councilwoman Messina stated that she reviewed this information and discussed it with Code Inspector Lincoln Ellis. It appears that the conditions which the Board set for the issuance of this timber permit have been met and no further action is required from the Board.

### 7.5 PUBLIC SAFETY (FITZGERALD/Messina) – no items were brought for consideration.

## VESTAL TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION MINUTES

MONDAY, JUNE 20, 2016

### 7.6 ADMINISTRATION (MAJEWSKI/Messina)

1. Request to amend the Vestal/Conklin Intermunicipal Agreement for Dog Control Services by adding a new section reading as follows:

*“Within thirty (30) days written notice, either party may terminate this agreement.”*

Town Clerk Emil Bielecki noted that this amendment was inserted into the Intermunicipal Agreement that was approved by the Conklin Town Board. It is a minor adjustment which should not cause any concern. If the Vestal Town Board accepts this amendment, both Towns will have adopted the same version of the agreement. This Agreement should provide us with a framework for cooperation in the delivery of an important service at a reduced cost.

**OK**-This item will be placed on the Agenda for a vote at the next Regular Meeting of the Town Board.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

#### 1. Community Use of Municipal Facilities Policy

Supervisor Schaffer presented the policy to the Board, as amended. He answered several questions and hearing no further concerns, stated that the policy will be placed on the agenda for the next Regular Meeting of the Town Board on Wednesday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

#### 2. Proposed Gas Card System for the Purchase of Fuel for Town Vehicles

After analyzing our situation, Town Engineer Vern Myers feels that contracting with an outside vendor for fueling services (using a gas card system) is the best solution for the Town. **Update on 06/20/16:** Town Engineer Vern Myers stated the Request for Proposal (RFP) is almost complete and needs to be reviewed by the Comptroller before being presented to the Board.

### NEW BUSINESS

Human Resource Officer Nancy Olmstead stated that 2 members of the Planning Board have terms that are expiring on July 7, 2016. The Chairman of the Planning Board is recommending that both members, Edward Zimmer and Madeleine Cotts, be reappointed. No one expressed opposition to the reappointments and the Board agreed to vote on the motion at the next Regular Meeting.

### **SUPERVISOR ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

1. The Vestal Museum Presents: “Vestal Goes to War” - An exhibit of the Vestal Historical Society’s Military collection items from local families and the families of the Vestal Historical Society.
  - ♦ **July 16** – George Cummings presentation depicting one of General Clinton’s Soldiers from the 1779 Sullivan Clinton Campaign 1PM.
  - ♦ **Traveling exhibit “Civil War”** from The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History June 4 – July 6.
  - ♦ **Traveling exhibit “War and Disability”** from The Museum of DisABILITY History July 6 - July 30.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Messina, seconded by Supervisor Schaffer, to adjourn the meeting. Carried unanimously. **The meeting was adjourned at 6:48 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Emil Bielecki, Town Clerk