

VESTAL TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION MINUTES

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 06, 2017

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

Also Attending: Town Attorney David Berger, Town Engineer Vern Myers, Town Clerk Emil Bielecki and 5 people from the general public.

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

COMMITTEES

7.1 PUBLIC WORKS (FITZGERALD/Majewski)

1. Request to accept an award from the NYS Department of Health in the amount of \$49,998.00 for RFA # 16953: Drinking Water Fluoridation Component 2: Implementation Projects–Round 3.

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

7.2 FINANCE (AGNESHWAR/Fitzgerald)

1. Warrants: 2017-04, 2017-04A, 2017-04E, 2017-04M, 2017-05, 2017-05A, 2017-05E

OK – This item will be placed as a ‘Receive and File’ on the Agenda for the next Regular Meeting.

2. Request to authorize, subject to permissive referendum, the issuance of a bond not to exceed \$205,000 to pay the cost of the purchase of highway equipment; publication date of February 15, 2017.

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

3. Request to authorize resolution of intent regarding the temporary expenditure of Fire District general fund monies prior to the proposed sale and issuance of general obligation bonds and/or notes of the Vestal Fire District in the aggregate principal amount not exceeding \$250,000 in connection with the planning the construction of a new fire station.

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

7.3 PERSONNEL (FITZGERALD/Agneshwar) – no items were brought for consideration.

7.4 PLANNING & ZONING (MESSINA/Fitzgerald)

1. Request from Assistant Scoutmaster Jeffrey Wood for Boy Scout Troop 225 to use the library parking lot from November 18 thru December 24, 2017 for the 2017 Christmas tree sale.

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

2. Request from CEIS to install a gateway sign at 965 Vestal Parkway West.

3. Request from Jax Signs to install a gateway sign at 4657 Vestal Parkway East.

4. Request from 4733 Vestal Parkway East LLC to install a Gateway sign at 4733 Vestal Parkway East.

5. Request from CEIS to install a gateway sign at 400 North Main Street.

VESTAL TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION MINUTES

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 06, 2017

Supervisor Schaffer stated that in view of the fact that there may be potential litigation concerning the approval of gateway signs, the Town Attorney has advised the Board that the discussion of above items 7.4-1 thru 7.4-5 should occur in Executive Session.

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

7.6 ADMINISTRATION (MESSINA/Majewski)

1. Request from Recreation Planner Sue Jastran to sell a 1999 Chevrolet Venture Van through auction.

Supervisor Schaffer stated that the Recreational Planner is working closely with the Parks Department to place this vehicle for sale on the Auctions International site.

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

2. Request from Town Clerk Emil Bielecki to discuss dog control services.

Town Clerk Bielecki stated that the Town of Conklin's decision to cancel the Inter-municipal Agreement for dog control services, effective March 1, 2017 has left us in a difficult position. The agreement worked very well for Vestal in providing us with 24/7 dog control services by a very competent employee. Although we are looking to other towns for the possibility of entering into a similar agreement, we do not have anything lined up. At this time, we have no choice but to hire a dog control officer as a part-time employee. This position is currently an hourly wage position under the CSEA bargaining unit. The job of providing dog control services is a 24/7 obligation that does not fit well into a standard per hour compensation schedule. In working closely with the Human Resource Director and the Town Supervisor, we have determined that it would be in the Town's best interest to compensate the Dog Control Officer on a flat salary rather than on a per hour basis. The recommended pay would be an annual salary of \$28,000 for the performance of specific services. Human Resource Director Olmstead has approached CSEA about this proposal. If CSEA agrees with this change, I will be recommending to the Board that Tarah Tripp be hired as a part-time Control Officer at an annual salary of \$28,000. Tarah is currently providing the dog control services to the Town of Vestal under the Intermunicipal Agreement with the Town of Conklin. Under the agreement, we pay the Town of Conklin \$30,000 per year for Tarah's services. If we hire Tarah, we will still be looking to further reduce our costs by sharing her services with another municipality.

After a brief discussion, the Board determined that some of the bargaining unit issues concerning this position needed to be addressed in Executive Session.

RECEIVE AND FILE

1. Letter dated January 30, 2017 from the Town of Conklin terminating as of March 1, 2017 its Intermunicipal Agreement with the Town of Vestal for Dog Control Services.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Approval of travel/meal allowance for attendees to NYS Association of Towns Conference February 19-22, 2017. Supervisor Schaffer favors a higher reimbursement rate for New York City training conference but that decision was postponed until the next meeting so the entire Board has an opportunity to weigh in on the matter.

Update on 2/6/17: After a review of the of the meal reimbursement rates in the Employee Handbook and a general discussion of the higher costs in New York City, the Board determined that attendees to the NYS Association of Towns Training Conference should be compensated for meals and incidentals

VESTAL TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION MINUTES

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 06, 2017

expenses at the rate established by the Federal General Services Administration (GSA) and calculated for each attendee by the Director of Human Services Nancy Olmstead.

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

2. Anthony Folk’s proposal to hold the Southern Tier Enduro Mountain bike race at Jones Park in June 2017. This item was removed from the Regular Meeting agenda on 1/25/17 for further discussion.

Update on 2/6/17: Supervisor Schaffer noted that the sponsor of the proposed event is a for-profit entity and the Town cannot give away the use of a Town facility. He and several Board members agreed that this event could be well received by the community but we need to be careful how we go about it because it would set a precedent for other groups who may also want to use park land for staging events.

Anthony Folk from the Hockey Shop, the sponsor of the proposed bike race, stated that it is unlikely that this event would turn of profit, but agreed to donate any profit to a charitable cause acceptable to the Town.

Town Attorney Berger stated that there may be other options on how to structure the terms for staging this event. Supervisor Schaffer asked the Town Attorney to review the potential options and report back to the Board and the applicant.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Referencing a letter from the NYS Association of Towns concerning the Governor’s proposal to tie State aid for local governments to the Legislature’s approval of an efficiency mandate called the *Countywide Shared Services Property Tax Plans.*, Supervisor Schaffer expressed strong opposition to the increasingly complex and wasteful mandates from the State. Local governments are already under tremendous strain from the mandatory tax cap and continue to make progress in sharing resources and services. They do not need additional mandates or directives from the State or the County.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

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

Resolved the Board enter into Executive Session to discuss the following:

- Applications for gateway signs in view of potential legal challenges.
- Negotiations concerning the hiring of a Dog Control Officer.

The time was 7:11 PM.

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

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

Resolved the Board leave the Executive Session and **adjourn the meeting. The time was 8:38 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,
Emil Bielecki, Town Clerk