

## VESTAL TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION MINUTES

MONDAY, JUNE 26, 2017

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

Also Attending: Town Attorney David Berger, Human Resource Director Nancy Olmstead, Town Clerk Emil Bielecki and 4 people from the general public.

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

### **6:00 PM Beck Group to discuss request to rezone 2500 Vestal Parkway E.**

Catherine Cornelius and Ethelyn Enos of The Beck Group presented the Board with a proposal to rezone the parcel at 2500 Vestal Parkway E from Residential Office (RO) to General Shopping (C-1). The property is owned by Dr. Kamodia who was unable to attend this evening. The following are highlights of the comments made by The Beck Group representatives:

- The rezoning request is for the specific purpose of allowing a Tom & Chee franchise to operate out of the Komodia property instead of The Beck Group property, as approved by the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA). That franchise is hesitating opening at the approved location due to poor visibility.
- We have seen transitional zoning move to C-1 in a number of locations within the vicinity of the property at 2500 Vestal Parkway E.
- This low impact development would be beneficial to the residential and commercial neighborhood surrounding this property.
- The ingress to the development would be from the existing ingress into Metro Plaza.
- The parking and egress plan would be the same as the one approved for Dr. Kamodia in 2008.
- The Tom & Chee operation would be a good use of the property and fit with the residential surroundings.

Councilwoman Agneshwar asked about the history of Tom & Chee. Ms. Cornelius stated that this a restaurant franchise. They have been in business for about 5 years and currently have 32 locations.

Town Attorney David Berger reminded the Board of the potential long term impact of the rezoning. Tom & Chee may be a low impact operation, but if they don't make it, the C-1 zoning stays with the parcel and will be open to whatever other uses that are permitted under that zoning classification.

Supervisor Schaffer stated that no decision will be made at this time and he wants to bring in the Town Engineer to provide input as the Board reviews this request.

## **COMMITTEES**

### **7.1 PUBLIC WORKS (FITZGERALD/Majewski)**

1. Request from Water/Wastewater Superintendent Scott Groats for the Board to approve quotes received for new Fluoride equipment and to purchase the equipment with water fund balance in the amount of \$29,847.45 from J.C. Smith, 345 Peat Street, Syracuse, NY 13210.

Councilwoman Fitzgerald stated that according to Superintend Groats, we were awarded a \$50,000 grant that requires us to make this expenditure to start the project. This money would later be reimbursed to the fund balance account.

Town Attorney Berger recommended that Comptroller McKane be consulted on how to properly write the motion for the approval of this expenditure.

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**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 Parks Department to mount a Book Enjoyment Box on the Rail Trail with a design as submitted by Jackie Stevenson as a Girl Scout Silver Award project. The box will be located near the Myrtle Street Playground and Pavilion.

**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: 2017-24, 2017-24E, 2017-25, 2017-25E

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

2. Request from Vestal Museum Director Cherese Wiesner-Rosales to accept a grant in the amount of \$1,100.00 from The Community Foundation of South Central NY.

As stated in a memo from the Museum Director, this grant is for a Native American Festival in conjunction with the Vestal Public Library to run on September 16, 2017.

**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)

1. Request authorization for Code Officer Mark Dedrick to hire Steven Cortright as a provisional Building & Code Inspector to work in the Code Department effective July 10, 2017 on a full-time basis at the CSEA rate of \$20.05 per hour. Such appointment is conditioned on satisfactory results of the background check and pre-employment drug test.

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

**7.4**     **PLANNING & ZONING** (MESSINA/Fitzgerald)

1. Request from Russell Swanger to hold an event at the Miradore Events Center on Saturday, August 26, 2017 from 2 pm to 9 pm.

Several Board members and the Town Clerk raised a number of questions concerning the staging of this event. The major concerns were whether this property was properly zoned to stage this type of activity and whether this event was consistent with the tax exempt status of this property. Supervisor Schaffer stated that the decision on this request would be delayed to give the Board additional time to consult with Code Director Mark Dedrick and perhaps to get additional information from the applicant.

**7.5**     **PUBLIC SAFETY** (MAJEWSKI/Messina)

1. Request from Chief of Police John Butler to transfer a 2007 Ford Taurus (VIN#1FAFP53U27A164135) with 60,000 miles (formerly #320) and a 2013 Chevrolet Tahoe (VIN#1GNLC2E01DR292968) with 172,000 miles to the Code Department.

In a memo from Police Chief Butler, it was noted that the 2007 Ford Taurus has already been replaced in the fleet and the vehicle has surface rust and needs some maintenance. The 2013 Tahoe is a two-wheel drive and is not conducive to winter driving.

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

**7.6**     **ADMINISTRATION (MESSINA/Majewski)** – no items were brought for consideration.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**1. Gateway Signs – discuss ranking sheets for sign applications**

Supervisor Schaffer stated that the Board would not be addressing this item at this meeting.

**2. Employee Handbook**

Supervisor Schaffer stated that changes are still under review and the Board would be addressing this topic at a future meeting.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

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

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

- Negotiations with the School District concerning the collection of school taxes.
- Review of applicants for the Planning Board.

The time was 6:48 PM.

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 leave the Executive Session and **adjourn the meeting. The time was 7:16 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Emil Bielecki, Town Clerk