

VESTAL TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, JULY 05, 2017

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

Also Attending: Town Attorney David Berger, Town Comptroller Laura McKane, Human Resources Director Nancy Olmstead, Town Clerk Emil Bielecki and 3 people from the general public.

Supervisor Schaffer **convened the Work Session at 5:00 PM.**

COMMITTEES

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

7.2 FINANCE (AGNESHWAR/Fitzgerald)

1. Warrants: 2017- 26, 2017-26E

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

2. Request from Recreation Planner Sue Jastran to accept a \$1,000 donation from the Wayne S. Rockwell Revocable Trust to the Vestal Town Band. This donation is to be used for something the band needs, such as a PA system or music.

Councilwoman Messina asked Town Comptroller Laura McKane for assurance that the donation would be spent on items that the Band needs. Comptroller McKane responded that the funds would be directed according to the instructions from the Recreation Planner. The Band is treated as a Recreation program.

Town Attorney David Berger noted that the Vestal Town Band is not a Town government entity and care should be exercised in how we interact with it in financial matters.

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

3. Request from Town Comptroller Laura McKane to adopt the revised Town Investment Policy, dated June 21, 2017.

Comptroller McKane noted that the revised policy is based on the State Comptroller model policy and it updates important changes. Supervisor Schaffer noted that he was pleased that we are updating the policy to stay current with new regulations.

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

4. Request from Town Comptroller Laura McKane to adopt a Driver Fuel Card Policy to be signed by individuals who receive a Driver ID (or PIN number) authorizing them to fuel Town vehicles or equipment.

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 from Director of Human Resources Nancy Olmstead to authorize Police Chief John Butler to fill a vacancy by hiring Michelle Tuetken as a Police Officer effective July 24, 2017. As per the PBA collective bargaining agreement Officer Tuetken’s hiring rate of pay will be \$64,311.00. Such appointment is conditional on the satisfactory completion of the required psychological exam, physical

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exam and drug test.

Councilwoman Fitzgerald noted that this officer is very motivated and should be a good addition to our Police Department. She attended the Police Academy on her own time and her own resources.

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

2. Request from Recreation Planner Sue Jastran to hire Cheerleading, Soccer, Baseball and Basketball Camp Staff as indicated in her memos to the Town Board dated June 26 and June 29, 2017.

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 Matthew Karp with Wagner Millwork LLC for the Town Board to approve timber harvesting within 300 ft. of an RA-1 District on a pending Timber Harvesting Permit for the following parcel: 100 Sheedy Road (BCTM#190.01-2-2) owned by Campo Properties, LLC.

Town Attorney Berger stated that the Board is not approving the Timber Harvesting Permit but reviewing the request to harvest timber within the 300 ft. area adjoining an RA-1 as per as per the Code of the Town of Vestal, Chapter 6, Article V, Division 2, Section 6-168(c).

Supervisor Schaffer noted that most houses in the adjoining RA-1 district sit back a ways and the selective harvesting should not be a problem. The harvesting is being conducted on a selective cutting basis, with trees being cut chosen by the forester.

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

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

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 before the Board selects additional locations for gateway signs from the submitted applications, it needs to clear up the issue of what constitutes a gateway sign. It is his opinion, based upon professional advice, that two panels in a V-shaped configuration should be defined as one gateway sign. That definition fits the spirit of the law.

Councilwoman Fitzgerald agrees with Supervisor Schaffer but noted that if we are to use this definition, the owner of the existing gateway sign at the Vestal Parkway/African Road intersection (who paid for 2 sign applications) should be reimbursed for one of them.

Councilwoman Messina also agreed that 2 panels in a V-shaped configuration should be defined as one gateway sign.

Councilwoman Agneshwar stated that she supported the Vestal Parkway/African Road sign installation with the understanding that it was 2 signs. She checked the panels and each side is displaying separate messages. The Board should not be arbitrarily changing the interpretation of gateway signs for future

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applicants.

Councilman Majewski stated that he supports the original interpretation that each panel is a separate gateway sign.

2. Employee Handbook changes

This is work in progress.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

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

Resolved the Board enter into Executive Session to discuss labor negotiations with the Police Benevolent Association (PBA). The time was 5:19 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 5:48 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,
Emil Bielecki, Town Clerk