

VESTAL TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION MINUTES

MONDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2017

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

Also Attending: Town Attorney David Berger, Town Engineer Vern Myers, Code Officer Lincoln Ellis, Director of Human Resources Nancy Olmstead, Town Comptroller Laura McKane, Deputy Comptroller Nick Angeline, Payroll and Benefits Clerk Vinnie Griggs and Town Clerk Emil Bielecki

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

Supervisor Schaffer announced that Broome County Executive Jason Garnar will be attending the Regular Meeting on October 11th to give a presentation on the status of the County budget.

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:

- Contract negotiations with Jax Signs Inc.
- Pay and benefits for an employee deployed to active duty by the National Guard.

The time was 5:02 PM.

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 leave the Executive Session and **resume the open Work Session, The time was 5:40 PM.**

Police Officer Taber to Remain on Town Payroll while on Active Duty

Clerk's Note: Although this item was discussed in Executive Session, it was noted in the open meeting that the authorization for the pay and benefits is to apply through the last pay period and the issue will be revisited at a later date when the length of the deployment is known with more certainty.

R209-17 On a motion of Councilwoman Messina, seconded by Councilman Majewski, the following was

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

Resolved for Police Officer Colby Taber, who was ordered to active duty in the Virgin Islands on September 15, 2017, to remain on the Town payroll with full pay and benefits through September 29, 2017.

Review of the 2018 Tentative Budget

Comptroller Laura McKane stated that the 2018 Tentative Town Budget has been filed with the Town Clerk and noted that the tax levy amount is slightly higher than what was shown to the Board in the budget documents that were distributed last week. She also noted that the minimum wage in New York State is going to \$10.40 per hour effective December 31, 2017. This will have some budgetary impact.

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Highway Department

The Town Board engaged Comptroller McKane in a review of various line items in the Highway Department budget. A number of line item reductions were identified by the Board and recorded by the Comptroller for potential inclusion in the Preliminary Budget. The proposed line item reductions (primarily in paving materials and equipment lines) totaled approximately \$56,000.

Supervisor Schaffer stated that a reason for some of the recommend budget reductions was the inability of local blacktop suppliers to provide enough materials this year. Comptroller McKane noted that all unused funds in this year's Highway budget would go into the Highway fund balance and could not be transferred directly into the 2018 Highway operating budget.

Parks Department

The Town Board engaged Comptroller McKane in a review of various line items in the Parks Department budget. Comptroller McKane noted that positions that were requested by the Parks Department were not included in the Tentative Budget but that the overtime line was increased. Several line item reductions were identified by the Board and recorded by the Comptroller for potential inclusion in the Preliminary Budget. The proposed line item reductions (primarily in materials such as grass seed and top soil) totaled approximately \$13,000.

Code Department

The Town Board engaged in a lengthy discussion about the proposals to lease or purchase vehicles as well as a large format printer and a copier. It was agreed that this topic will need to be revisited at a future meeting. One line item reduction was identified by the Board and recorded by the Comptroller for potential inclusion in the Preliminary Budget. A proposed line item reduction of \$500 was made in the mowing line.

Supervisor Schaffer stated that he is continuing to explore the feasibility of hiring a grant writer and a fleet manager.

The meeting was **adjourned at 7:48 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,
Emil Bielecki, Town Clerk