

## VESTAL TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION MINUTES

MONDAY, MAY 5, 2014

In Attendance: Supervisor Schaffer, Board Members Majewski and Messina. Absent: Fitzgerald

Also Attending: Town Engineer Gary Campo, Town Attorney David Berger, Human Resource Officer Nancy Olmstead, Town Clerk Emil Bielecki and Fire Chief Pat McPherson

**Supervisor Schaffer convened the meeting at 6:00 PM** and noted that Councilwoman Fitzgerald is absent due to a family medical issue.

### **6:00 PM Tony Signorelli – New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) to discuss State Route 434 (Vestal Parkway) repaving and new pavement marking layout.**

Mr. Signorelli informed the Board that DOT will be resurfacing all of Route 434 (Vestal Parkway). This is a good project which needs to be done. As part of all projects of this nature, DOT must comply with the provisions of the Complete Street Act, an initiative which requires that transportation projects also accommodate pedestrian and bicycle traffic. Over the years, a number of right-hand turning lanes have been installed on Route 434 at a time when there was much less development and pedestrian traffic. At many of the intersections, these right turn lanes create dangerous situations for bicyclists and pedestrians. To comply with the Complete Streets initiative, most of those right hand turn lanes will be eliminated with the exception of a few at the busiest intersections.

The Board engaged Mr. Signorelli in a discussion about a number of the specific intersections that are slated to be altered as part of this resurfacing project. Mr. Signorelli took note of the comments.

Councilwoman Messina and Councilman Majewski both expressed general opposition to eliminate most of the right hand turning lanes. They feel that the changes will create more traffic congestion and will result in an increase in traffic accidents. Mr. Majewski asked DOT to provide him with the vehicular and pedestrian counts that were used to make the decisions on the right hand turning lanes. He feels that pedestrian traffic on Route 434 is minimal and should be directed to use the Rail Trail.

Supervisor Schaffer asked if all of the shoulders would also be milled to provide a continuous smooth surface. Mr. Signorelli was not certain but promised to get back with an answer. Additionally, Supervisor Schaffer noted that the some State road projects have poor traffic controls and asked that this issue is addressed with the contractor who is selected for the Route 434 resurfacing job.

## **COMMITTEES**

### **7.1 PUBLIC WORKS**

**1.** Request from Town Engineer Gary Campo to advertise for installation of concrete curb at High Ave. and Evergreen, to advertise on May 21, 2014, for opening on May 27, 2014.

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

**2.** Discuss removal of home at 1708 Vestal Road, deemed as unsafe by the Code Department.

Town Engineer Gary Campo stated that although this home sustained extensive damage in the flood, it was not included in the buyout. The owner of the property cannot be located at this time. There is little (short of demolition) that the Town can do to make the property safer. If the Town ultimately demolishes the home, it would have difficulty collecting for the expense.

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Town Attorney David Berger cautioned the Board that there is a somewhat lengthy process which the Town must go through to get to the demolition stage. The Board must accept the findings of the Town Engineer that this is an unsafe structure, issue an order and hold a public hearing. **The Board authorized the Town Attorney to prepare an appropriate resolution** for the next Regular Meeting.

3. Request from Town Engineer Gary Campo to advertise for bids for construction of a new pavilion at Arnold Park, advertising on 5/14/14, with bid opening on 6/9/14.

In response to several questions from the Board, Town Engineer Gary Campo provided some details of the project. The current pavilion will be torn down and will be replaced with a structure almost identical to the Pavilion # 3. It will have electric service. This item is in the capital budget.

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

4. Request from Water Superintendent Scott Groats to refund Gary Mosher \$17.00 for overpayment of his utility account at 436 Crescent Lane.

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

5. Request from Water Superintendent Scott Groats to advertise for bids on William Street, High Avenue and Tulane sanitary sewer projects on May 14, 2014 with bid opening on May 20, 2014.

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

6. Request for Local Law "C" of the Year 2014 to be published on May 21, 2014 with a public hearing to be held on June 25 at 6pm: A Local Law Amending Chapter 18 Sewer and Sewage Disposal

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

7. Request for Local Law "D" of the Year 2014 to be published on May 21, 2014 with a public hearing to be held on June 25 at 6:15pm: A Local Law Amending Chapter 23 Water.

Town Attorney Berger explained that the proposed Local Law C has to do with the responsibility of the property owners in the installation of sewer laterals and Local Law D establishes a new fee for utility account changes.

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

### 7.2 FINANCE

1. **Warrants** – 2014-17, 2014-17E, 2014-18, 2014-18E

**OK** - This item will be placed on the Agenda as a Receive and File item at the next Regular Meeting.

2. Request pursuant to the provisions for Section 55 of the Town Law, to authorize the expenditure from the General Reserve Fund of up to \$18,000 for the purchase of real property located at 512 Front Street Vestal, NY. This is subject to a Permissive Referendum.

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

3. Request to transfer \$2,875 from A7140.3002 and up to \$9,125 from A1990.4322 to Field Maintenance, line A7140.4090 for Parks Department to purchase infield mix in lieu of grills for

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Arnold Park.

Supervisor Schaffer stated that he needed clarification from the Comptroller as to the where the money should be transferred from. Also, he is looking to use savings from the Board vacancy to fund additional summer help for Parks. The new information will be shared with the Board.

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

4. Request from Deputy Town Comptroller Pam Fitzgerald to make final budget transfers that were needed to cover 2013 budget deficits, as per memo and attachment dated May 1, 2014.

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

### 7.3 PERSONNEL

1. Request from Parks Superintendent Jim Bukowski to establish the following pool of seasonal employees and hire as soon as available and within the budget set for 2014 summer help. The pay rate will be \$8.50 an hour: Christopher Newins, Devin Mullins, Anthony Pittari.(all are Vestal residents) In the event this pool of names is exhausted and there is need to hire from outside of this pool, the Parks Superintendent will submit such names to the Board for approval before hiring.

Human Resource Office Nancy Olmstead noted that these are all returning workers who are in college.

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

2. Request from Water Superintendent Scott Groats to re-hire Samuel Warner as summer help at the rate of \$8.50 per hour to start on May 28, 2014.

**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

1. Request from Vestal Historical Society to use the library parking lot for a Doug's Fish Fry on June 20, 2014 and October 3, 2014 from 11am to 6pm.

**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

1. Request from the Fire Department for retroactive approval for the following to use the Fred Singer Training site for a payment of \$100 each: Great Eastern Balloon Association – April 25, 2014; Whitney Point Fire Department – May 3, 2014.

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

### 7.6 ADMINISTRATION

1. Request from Recreation Planner Sue Jastran to hire back playground instructor and swimming pool directors as indicated in her memo dated May 1, 2014.

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

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

#### 1. Local Law "E" regarding Best Value Bidders

Town Attorney Berger noted that the draft local law has been distributed to the Board. Supervisor Schaffer stated that it will be discussed at the next Work Session.

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### 2. Removal of “no parking” signs from Vandervort Avenue

Supervisor Schaffer stated that based upon his review, most of the signs can now be removed; however, a few of the signs still needs further review. Councilman Majewski will talk to some residents in the area. The information gathering will continue.

### 3. Advertising and Selling of two 1990 3kw generators (Water Dept.)

The Water Superintendent sent out notices to determine if anyone internally has a need for this equipment. Councilman Majewski will speak with the Water Superintendent to determine the next course of action.

### 4. Town of Vestal FOG Control Program (Fats, Oils and Grease) – under review.

### 5. The California Grill Hill Thrill Charity Run

The Board is waiting for the organizer of the event to come back with additional information.

### 6. Kopernik Tower

Town Attorney Berger stated that this project was put on hold with the understanding that the County would install a larger tower at the location. It now appears that the County is not doing anything to advance this project and we may need to step back in with our original plan. When this project was put on hold, the Town was close to finalizing an agreement with the Kopernik Observatory, but there are some issues that need to be discussed with the IT Director before we put this back on the table.

### NEW BUSINESS

Supervisor Schaffer asked that the Board consider establishing a per event fee for special events which the Board authorizes on the Rail Trail. There are additional Town costs associated with these special events and a modest fee would help offset some of these costs. He recommends a flat fee of \$100 per event but would like additional input from the Board members.

### SUPERVISOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Archaeology dig at Castle Gardens site will be discussed on May 21 at Vestal Library, 6-7 pm. Public is welcome.
2. Vestal Museum “Archaeology in Vestal” is open Wednesday–Friday 10-5 and Saturday 10-3. Admission is free.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

**ADOPTED** Ayes 3 Fitzgerald, Majewski, Messina, Schaffer  
Nays 0 Absent 1 Fitzgerald

Resolved the Board enter into Executive Session to discuss a grievance filed by the PBA bargaining unit. The time was 7:36 PM.

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

**ADOPTED** Ayes 3 Fitzgerald, Messina, Majewski, Schaffer  
Nays 0 Absent 1 Fitzgerald

Resolved the Board leave Executive Session and **adjourn the Work Session. The time was 8:06 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Emil Bielecki, Town Clerk