

**VESTAL TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION**  
**MONDAY, MAY 19, 2014**

**WORK SESSION**

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

Also Attending: Town Attorney David Berger, Human Resource Officer Nancy Olmstead, Deputy Town Clerk Kathie Young and Fire Chief Pat McPherson and several members of the community.

**Supervisor Schaffer convened the meeting at 6:00 PM**

**6:00 PM** Brett Chellis, Broome County Director/Fire Coordinator and Elaine Miller, Broome County Planning & Economic Development Commissioner.

(Brett Chellis stated that they would like a conference call with IT Director Dan Williams and Town Attorney Berger concerning the Communications Tower at Kopernik.)

**Emergency Shelter Project at the Depot in Hillcrest, New York**

The county is ready to take title of the depot facility in Hillcrest. They would like to make part of this complex into a shelter to be used for housing in emergency situations. Because of code issues that became apparent during the 2011 flood, we need a new facility to house those displaced in emergencies.

Brett Chellis explained that this facility can be utilized for a variety of purposes such as:

1. Shelter for those displaced by emergency situations.
2. To stock pile emergency supplies now stored by the county and state. We have always had to wait for our supplies to come from Queensbury. The Red Cross will also have a section for their storage.
3. Public Safety County-wide training center. There will be classrooms, training towers, and burn buildings. Some will also be used for Police Officer training sites. This is not meant to replace our training center. The Police Academy may also be housed there.

Elaine Miller explained that a feasibility study is needed. There are many considerations for this kind of project. Engineering and architectural studies need to be done.

Councilwoman Messina recalled that there was concern about toxic chemicals at this site. Before any discussion she would like to know what that status is.

Noting that there has been extensive removal of chemicals and clean up on this property and that it has been given a clean bill from the EPA, Elaine Miller explained that the NEW YORK RISING initiative can be used if the Town directs \$100,000 from their allotment and directs it to this project. Johnson City, Endicott, Union, Conklin and City of Binghamton have all agreed to participate.

Councilman Majewski asked how much the County has in reserves now.

Elaine Miller – She did not know the amount of the reserves. Sales tax revenues are down 6 million dollars this year. We do not have the fund balance of the past. This is why the County's credit rating had been downgraded. It has now been upgraded. The amount of money that they are asking for is

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contingent on what the County receives from the New York Rising initiative.

Brett Chellis explained that a plus for this site is that there are two major roads to access it and it is central to this County. The railroad is the only down side but there is little train traffic to be concerned about.

Town Attorney David Berger – you will spend around a half million dollars on this study. Do you have the money to build? Will the funding come from bonding?

Elaine Miller made it clear that they would need grants.

Brett Chellis feels that this may be bonded in the County capital projects.

Supervisor Schaffer wants it clear that he will only support this if it is run by the County administration and not a single department head.

Councilman Majewski – Will you be coming back to us again for additional money? We don't have it. The two percent tax cap is draining our reserves.

Elaine Miller noted that the State and Homeland Security are very interested in this project as well. We know the Towns will have no more to give to this project.

The Board will look at this project and discuss it further.

**COMMITTEES**

**7.1 PUBLIC WORKS**

**1.** Request from Edward Tichenor to reduce sewer bill at 232 North Meadowbrook Lane in the amount of \$42.40, due to a broken hose.

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

**2.** Request from Laurie Haskell to reduce sewer bill at 237 Front Street in the amount of \$667.87 due to burst hose inside the house

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

**3.** Request from Sungdai Cho to reduce sewer bill at 620 Rano Blvd in the amount of \$296.80 due to a broken hose bib.

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

**4.** Request from Gary Campo, Town Engineer to sign proposal with Keystone to prepare plans for construction of a flood wall behind Town Hall.

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

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5. Request to amend R126-14 to advertise for bids on William Street, High Avenue and Tulane sanitary sewer projects on May 21, 2014 with bid 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.

**7.2**    **FINANCE**

1. Warrants – 2014- 19, 19E, 20, 20E, 20B

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

2. Discuss request from Mark Mushalla for various activities and rental of more green space around the Coalhouse.

The Supervisor stated that the Town cannot give greenway space away. He should also be opening and closing the bathroom regardless. We have not received any profit from this.

Councilman Majewski will check to see if the Police are opening and closing that bathroom.

**HOLD** - This will be **put on hold** for more information.

3. Request to pay \$1145.00 for billable hours for the month of April to David Berger, Town Attorney.

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

**7.3**    **PERSONNEL**

**7.4**    **PLANNING & ZONING**

1. Request from Terry Ross to teach yoga at Arnold Park this summer.

They will accept tips or donations. It was not clear when they would like to do this and space is an issue. It is not known if they are a not-for-profit. The Board needs more information.

**HOLD** - They will be asked to come in to meet with the Town Board.

2. Request from Vestal Beautification Group to hang banners on NYSEG poles from Route 434 from exit ramp by Vestal Library and Main Street.

**HOLD** - Councilwoman Messina will get more information concerning this.

**7.5**    **PUBLIC SAFETY**

1. Request from Patrick McPherson, Fire Chief to approve the Vestal Fire Department Membership and Auxiliaries for Station 1's Phil's Chicken BBQ being held on Saturday, June 14<sup>th</sup> from Noon till 4pm at the Tractor Supply Parking Lot.

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

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2. Request from Gary Camp, Town Engineer to sign permit for Vestal 20K race to be held on Route 26 on June 21, 2013.

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

3. Request from Chief Butler to approve the purchase of six flex shield ballistic barriers for patrol officer safety, the amount is \$5,995.71 which will come from the asset forfeiture line A3120-2626R.

**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 to authorize to sign a contract with Phillip Walter to maintain the following abandoned cemeteries for 2014:

Rounds Cemetery	\$ 325.00
Crumm Road Cemetery	\$ 425.00
Vestal Road Cemetery	<u>\$ 325.00</u>
	<b>\$1075.00</b>

The maintenance of abandoned cemeteries is a statutory obligation of the Town and this is a budgeted item under line A8810-4060.

**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** – under review

2. **Removal of “no parking” signs from Vandervort Avenue** – Councilman Majewski is waiting for additional information.

3. **Town of Vestal FOG Control Program (Fats, Oils and Grease)** – Town Attorney Berger explained that he has continued discussions concerning this. There needs to be adjustments made to this and it is being reworked.

4. **The California Grill Hill Thrill Charity Run** – Councilwoman Messina is still working this item with the California Grill people.

5. **Kopernik Tower** – The County has asked for further discussion with the Town concerning this project.

6. **1708 Old Vestal Road – Declare Dangerous and Unsafe Proceedings** - The Town Attorney is still looking for the owner of this property. There needs to be a hearing. If it is concluded that the owner is not available, we will be serving a family member. A Public Hearing will be scheduled for June 11, 2014.

7. **Vestal Junior Fire Fighter Camp** – There was no discussion of this item.

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**Water/Sewer Deductions**

The Town Attorney informed the Board that the Sewage Treatment Plant is not allowing or honoring the deductions that we give to our customers for water that has not gone through the sewers. The Town will still be charged. This will be looked into.

**SUPERVISOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

1. June 7 "Ask and Archaeologist Day" Folk Art Demo 9-12pm, Needle Tattng by Jacquie Chalmer
2. June 14 – Folk Art Demo 9am-12pm Willow Weaving By Bonnie Gale

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

**ADOPTED** Ayes 4      Fitzgerald, Majewski, Messina, Schaffer  
              Nays 0

Resolved the Board enter into Executive Session to discuss a grievance filed by the PBA for improper practices, and negotiations with the PBA and Operating Engineers. The time was 6:52 pm.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

**ADOPTED** Ayes 4      Fitzgerald, Messina, Majewski, Schaffer  
              Nays 0

Resolved the Board leave Executive Session and **adjourn the Work Session. The time was 7:50 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kathie Young, Deputy Town Clerk.