

Regular Meeting of the Verona Town Board
 Oneida County, New York
 6:00 pm on Monday, **August 5, 2024**
 Verona Town Office Building, 6600 Germany Road, Durhamville, New York

Board Members in attendance:

Scott Musacchio, Supervisor
 Jeff Kahler, Councilman
 Kenneth Brewer, Councilman
 Fred Scherz Jr., Councilman
 Dan Breckenridge, Councilman

Others in attendance:

Amy Kotwica, Town Clerk
 Debby Smart, Planning Board Secretary
 Sue Strain, Assessor

Citizens: 26

Call to Order with Pledge of Allegiance @ 6:01pm

A. Supervisors' Report:

Water project moving forward, close to final sign off on pipe bridge
 Ken K. with Barton and Loguidice:
 CBDG grant of \$1.25 million awarded
 Pump station will be going out to bid for construction in early 2025
 WIIA Grant for \$2.50 million submitted for Durhamville Sewer

B. Approval of minutes from the July 1, 2024, Regular Town Board Meeting.

Councilman Brewer made by motion to accept minutes as presented.
 Councilman Kahler seconded the motion.
 All those in favor: 4
 All those opposed: 0
 Motion passed.

C. County Legislator Report.

Legislator Norm Leach: Destruction in Rome from recent tornado, is devastating.
 The location of Oneida County Public Service (old Herb Philipsons) may not be repairable.
 FEMA funds will be coming in to help with some of the costs associated with repairs.
 It was noted that Verona sent Trucks to both Rome and Oneida for help with clean up, it was appreciated.

D. Public Concern

RC: Bidding process doesn't exist in Verona, you go off the County/State Bid, year after year, it's all cold recycle, pub mix, its not the best thing out there. You can use Hanson, Callahan with hot mix and get a better product. Using the contract, you are spoon feeding one company every year.
 Mathew Baisley – Oneida County DPW Commissioner: If the town is interested in looking into that, we can add that to the bidding from the county. We have more admin staff that helps with the bidding process – if there is something we can add too, we are more than happy to do so. It is a matter of opinion what mix is better.

Pat Race, Suit-Kote: All items that are used are under County contract, cold mix is the norm, as is using the county contracts vs creating your own bids. For Verona to bid out the 4580 tons used this year, the county goes out for 40 miles (no idea on tonnage), Verona would not be competitive. The county contracts also includes all the insurance, non-collusion, boiler plate information, indemnification, and ect. that is required. Hot mix and Cold mix – cold mix (not contracted) \$67.50 a ton (contracted) \$50.46 per ton; \$17.03 difference saving the town \$78,000 on this years order. As far as better product, Suit-Kote has done dozens of roads in Verona for years, Happy Valley road for instances – Dwyer to Senn was cold paved in 2005, not a crack in the entire road.

RC: Mentioned a road in New Hartford.

Pat: that's apples and oranges; that road was done using recycled cold in place – done 9 years ago and sealed once. They are inherently irregular; it is not a specific mix. They should have sealed that road at least 2 times more. There is a place for every type of mix, high traffic areas require a different material. Cure time is also a factor, hot mix goes down at 350 degrees when it cools it's cured, cold mix takes 7 -10 days to completely cure. It stays pliable, for 3-4 days.

TB: We are saving money using the process we have in place; we can pave more roads with this process –

RC: What is the real cost for using the county bid, the TOTAL cost – trucks, staff, stone.... Year after going back to stone and oil.

TB: The total costs are listed in the AUD report.

Pat: By using local forces, you have already budgeted for staff and fuel, trucks, ect... – you maximize funds utilizing the county contract.

TB: The AUD report is located on the website. Budget meetings are held annually and open to the public.

RC: You don't know what the options are, because you don't reach out.

RC: Once a road is milled and you come back to pave it, who determines the thickness that is laid down?

Pat: the Highway Superintendent determines that.

RC: Along Side Cut Rd near the canal. There was 5" of mix there, why are we doing that, when one person lives on the road.

Pat Race: The road was so far out of shape, the plow trucks could not scrap it down, and the road is required to have a specific shape and standard. We do not do density tests on any mix. If you are paving for the state, they require density testing. Back in the day with the old Marshall mixes you could get away with not sealing the road. Cold mix goes from Dwyer Rd. to Senn Rd, hot mix goes from Dwyer Rd. to Germany Rd. To fix the road in front of VanLieshout, I would use cold mix, it carries a heavier load and is flexible.

RC: Why when we mill a road is it sometimes right down to dirt?

Pat Race: You try not to go to dirt, sometimes the thickness of the road isn't all the same and it does go to dirt, in front of New London Fire Department it was intended to re-direct water flow.

Matt: We work to make all the county bids accessible to everyone, so if the town needs anything, you can reach out, we're happy to answer any questions.

Pat Race: The Highway Superintendent solicits many bids, so the spoon feed comment has no bases.

RC: Who oversees the website? We do not get meeting minutes until a month later.

TB: We have to approve the minutes prior to them being posted. We will dive into that issue.

RC: How do you post openings?

TB: Rome Sentinel, website, posted on board in HW.

RC: Last month you hired a laborer, right?

TB: It was posted.

RC: It was not posted on the website. How do you expect town residents to apply for jobs when they are not listed.

TB: That is not true, it's not on there now because the position has been filled. The position was budgeted for.

RC: It is not listed because they hired his nephew.

TB: We are not getting into that, what you said in last month's meeting is completely incorrect. We have hired labors in the past. These positions have been posted and advertised for months.

E. Reports:

1. Water Operator in Responsible Charge – report sent by Tim Dodge
 - Trimmed around fire hydrants
 - Repaired 4 grinder pumps
 - DSNY requests
 - Topsoil and see lawn o Old Oneida Road
 - Working on commercial water meter inventory
 - Changed out 5 grinder pumps
2. Dog Control Officer – report sent by Sue Gardinier
 - 2 complaints
 - 1 dog picked up and reclaimed by owner the same day

3. Assessor – Susan Strain
 Continuing with normal officed procedures/responsibilities
 New computers are installed and computer files are up and running on the new assessment year
 Processed 22 sales
 SCAR hearing scheduled for 8/8
 NYSAA Annual Meeting and Conference will be held this year September 23-26, in Fairport, NY. Deadline for registration is August 22. Cost for tuition, hotel & meals is \$1073 with an estimated reimbursement from NYS to be \$764. Estimated net cost \$309. This is a 3-day training and conference that I attend every year. At this training, we learn of new legislative updates associated with assessing and what needs to be done to implement them.
4. Codes Enforcement Officer – Report submitted by Dan Maciag
 Building permits 18 Septic systems 2
 Inspections 19 Misc (pools, decks) 6
 Footings 2 Property Maintenance 5
 Foundations 2 Violation notes 1
 Plumbing/Heating, Certificate of compliance 7
 Framing 2 Certificate of occupancy 2
5. Planning Board – Peter Kaido
 Joint meeting with Zoning on cell tower
 Discussed Dollar General
6. Highway Superintendent – report submitted by Billy Lohr
 Hauled green waste
 Mowing roadsides
 Mowing parks cemeteries and water & sewer facilities
 2024 Paving completed
 Rock Road
 Merry St Morgan
 John St Station St.
 Humaston Rd. Volunteer Ave
 Cleaned Trucks and loaders
 Cleaned up trees from storm
 Sent crew to Rome and Oneida to help with cleanup form tornado
 Still have issues with road signs, not stealing them, but pulling them out of the ground. If someone sees something, please let up know.
 Highway assisted sewer dept with grinder pump
7. Town Clerk – Amy Kotwica
 Decals 1 Building Permits 16
 Marriage Licenses 3 Demolition permit 2
 Certified Copies 22 Dog Licenses 90
 Sent policies to Rossi and Rossi to review
 Remote Work Policy
 Fund Balance Policy
 Social Media Policy
 Record Management Policy
 Working on updating the Employee Handbook
 Did NOT get the NYS Archives grant but will investigate putting some of the items in the 2025 budget.
8. Zoning Board – Henry Gerwig
 Joint meeting with Planning on Cell phone tower
 Issue in Verona Beach with driveway and garage to be re-built
9. SWOCO – Ken Brewer
 Had summer cookout
 Going to testing once a year

10. OCAOT – Fred Scherz

Moved meeting to September 19th

Need RSVP in order to host at the Franklin

F. New Business:

1. Approve Payment of the MVP bill in the amount of \$28,454.00
Councilman Brewer made motion to approve bill as presented.
Councilman Scherz seconded to motion.
All those approved: 4
Any opposed: 0
Motion carried
2. Discussion & Approval to appoint Dudley Schwebe as court attendant effective immediately replacing George Watson who officially retired as of 7/24/24.
Councilman Brewer made motion to approve appointment.
Councilman Scherz seconded to motion.
All those approved: 4
Any opposed: 0
Motion carried
3. Discussion & Approval to transfer \$161.75 from 7110.4 to 7110.1.
Councilman Brewer made motion to approve transfer.
Councilman Kahler seconded to motion.
All those approved: 4
Any opposed: 0
Motion carried
4. Discussion & Approval to allow Barton & Loguidice a no-cost time & expense fee shift from Phase 03 Task 02 Subcontracted Administration and Task 03 Subcontracted Services in the total amount of \$92,000 to Phase 03 Task 10 Additional Services for professional design, permitting, environmental review, quote solicitation and change order services associated with the modified Erie Canal Pipe Bridge Crossing.
Discussion: Similar to prior shifts, using monies that already exist – there is confidence that there is still Grant money out there to apply for
**see attached for chart and letter for request*
Councilman Brewer made motion to approve transfer.
Councilman Kahler seconded to motion.
All those approved: 4
Any opposed: 0
Motion carried

H. Vouchers:

1. Prepaids \$1,034,570.92
Councilman Brewer made motion to approve pre-paids.
Councilman Kahler seconded to motion.
All those approved: 4
Any opposed: 0
Motion carried
2. General \$ 49,072.92
Councilman Brewer made motion to approve for payment.
Councilman Breckenridge seconded to motion.
All those approved: 4
Any opposed: 0
Motion carried
3. Highway \$ 127,541.48
Councilman Kahler made motion to approve for payment.
Councilman Kahler seconded to motion.

All those approved: 4

Any opposed: 0

Motion carried

TB: I see VVS students here, does anyone have any questions?

No response.

RC: A little bit ago you made a comment that Bacco and I made some remark at the last meeting, and I'd like to know what that was?

TB: You claimed we have never hired a labor, that is incorrect. You claimed I interviewed your son, which is incorrect you claimed it was because he did not have a CDL and that is incorrect.

RC: You did hire a labor, Randy, but until then we have not hired labors.

TB: That is not correct, we have a labor position in the budget.

RC: Billy hired his nephew, you had said there were a few applicants, why did we hire his nephew?

TB: There were 2 applicants, one had the credentials for water, so that is where he was hired for and the other one for Highway. Both positions were advertised in the Sentential and on the website.

I. Adjournment

Councilman Brewer made a motion to adjourn at 7:01pm.

Councilman Kahler seconded the motion.

All those in favor: 4

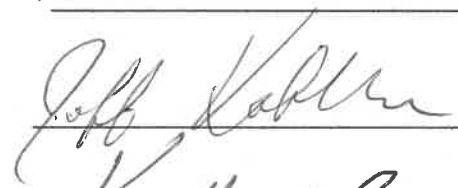
Any opposed: 0

Motion carries.

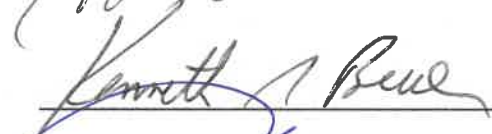
Scott Musacchio, Supervisor:



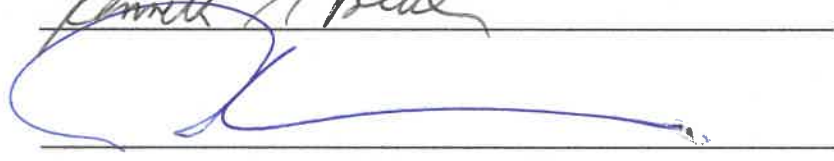
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