

**VESTAL TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION MINUTES**  
**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2013**

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

Absent: Marnicki, Milkovich

Also Attending: Code Enforcement Officer Mark Dedrick, Comptroller Laura McKane, Highway Superintendent Brock Leonard, Highway Mechanic Andy Gowe and 1st Deputy Town Clerk Kathie Young

Supervisor Schaffer convened the meeting at 11:30 AM

**Budget Reviews:**

**Code Enforcement** - Code Enforcement Officer Mark Dedrick

A3620 2230 – Supervisor Schaffer – The general consensus of the Board is there will not be a replacement of the 2003 Chevy Pickup.

Mark Dedrick listed vehicles that are in need of repair. He would like a spare vehicle to use when another breaks down. He just received a former police car that needed repair. His newest vehicle is a 2008. It is best to have vehicles there so that they can schedule their inspections and know that a vehicle is there. At this time they have 5 vehicles.

Councilman Majewski – There has been a study done and it shows that some vehicles have not moved for several days and often vehicles are just sitting at Code during much of the day. Why can't they get by with fewer vehicles? Can't they have *community* vehicles that are available to everyone? We don't have a lot of construction in Vestal so they should have less need to be out of the office.

Mark Dedrick– perhaps they were working on projects that required them to be in the office. They need to accommodate inspectors. There may not be a lot of construction, but fire inspections need to be done and calls need to be replied to at the sites. There are old police vehicles available.

Comptroller McKane – If Code had a spare, it could be used by other departments as well.

Councilman Majewski – Perhaps the town can give the employees travel vouchers they could use their own vehicles.

Mark Dedrick – When they were hired, they were told they would have a town vehicle to use. If they had been told they would need to use their own vehicle, they may not have applied for the job.

Supervisor Schaffer –The Board is looking at ways to change the operation of the town. Cost of maintenance and insurance needs to be considered.

Comptroller McKane – Federal mileage reimbursement is quite high.

Mark Dedrick will get the yearly mileage for a cost comparison. He believes that the service to the community will go down. When there are complaints they must be responded to immediately. Any savings doesn't seem to justify a change. The amount of money we receive at auction for our old vehicles doesn't seem to justify the loss of services. There are two old police vehicles available now.

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If a new (used) vehicle is approved then the vehicle maintenance line can be reduced.

Supervisor Schaffer feels it is a waste of money to repair the 2003 Chevy.

Mark Dedrick – They can make do with the 2003 vehicle if it is necessary for the budget.

Professional Services – A house on Winston Drive may need to be condemned. Also, they have only done one grass mowing this year.

Supervisor Schaffer - There will be money available to clean up blight through a grant. Perhaps it can be used for issues such as these.

Travel and education – Mark Dedrick noted that they have used most of this line for training. Comptroller McKane added money for the NYS Association of Towns meeting. This line has been used to cover shortfalls in other lines.

Mark Dedrick - the State is going to change the code again. CD's will be purchased.

Supervisor Schaffer – Nothing says we need to mow the properties that we acquire through the flood buyouts. Some people are interested in leasing these properties. There needs to be a strict rules of what may be done on these properties. The Town Attorney will need to address this.

Mark Dedrick noted that the Code Department brings in enough revenue to cover most of their line items except those for insurance and employee expenses.

**Highway Budget Review** - Highway Superintendent Brock Leonard

D5510 Requesting promotions – Comptroller McKane cannot justify four positions based on Out of Title Pay. Maybe two can be budgeted.

Highway Superintendent Brock Leonard - has 3 heavy equipment operators and 5 to 6 pieces of heavy equipment on the road. We haven't opened up a provision for this position in 15 years.

Supervisor Schaffer – The cost is great for the promotions. It is less costly to pay out of title pay.

Comptroller McKane will look at the history of Laborer II's for Out of Title Pay.

Comptroller McKane – One person is applying for disability retirement. He is a MEO. Brock would like to fill this position if the retirement goes through and that of a mechanic as well. He would also like to promote a Mechanic I to Mechanic II who is already getting out of title pay.

Supervisor Schaffer – We are trying to maintain our staff level.

Brock Leonard – This budget is maintaining the staff level.

Brock Leonard - We are only plowing Tracy Creek Road for the County

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Councilman Majewski advised Highway Superintendent Brock Leonard that the Town is looking at a pilot program for credit cards use for gas purchases at service stations. We are getting a state bid price and we will have to go out for bid. This will take away the liability of underground tanks.

Brock Leonard noted that it would be cheaper to use above ground tanks. He dreads the thought of the liability of taking such large trucks to gas service stations. He would rather keep it the way it is.

Brock Leonard – 300 to 400 guard rail steel posts have been stolen and sold as scrap metal. He needs to replace them.

**Highway Capital Budget Review – Highway Mechanic Andy Gowe**

- **DMP Trucks/Plow/Sander (2)** - Andy Gowe explained that vehicle repairs are getting expensive. Eventually they won't be able to be repaired. The scheduling of the replacement of these vehicles is necessary. The new fuel requirements for EPA standards has been very costly and time consuming. Their goal is to maintain top quality snow plow trucks. All salt trucks are washed every time they go out to avoid corrosion. The MEO mediums drive those trucks .

- **Material Screen with Stacking Conveyor** - According to Andy Gowe, having this piece of equipment will save a tremendous amount of money, primary in the elimination of rental equipment costs. The screen that is rented doesn't have a conveyor so extra steps are necessary which means additional man hours and more wear and tear on the machinery.

Councilman Majewski asked about Drexel Road. Brock Leonard explained that it is part of it is in Town of Binghamton and a part is in Vestal. The respective highway department compromise on the repairs.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:27 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathie S. Young, 1<sup>st</sup> Deputy Town Clerk