

VESTAL TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION MINUTES

Monday, May 19, 2025

Board Attendance: Supervisor Sexton; Board Members: Messina, Greene and Miller

Also Attending: Town Clerk Debra Wallace, Town Attorney Daniel Reynolds, Director of Human Resources Debora Panicek, Town Engineer Vern Myers and 4 members of the public

The time was 6:00PM

UPCOMING PUBLIC HEARINGS

May 21, 2025, 6:00 pm: Public Hearing on the establishment of Consolidated Water District No. 1, Extension No. 207 at 337 Sycamore Road, Tax Map No. 158.06-1-28.111. Petitioner: Murphy LLC.

SUPERVISOR UPDATES

- *Decision on the Solar Law suit was given and it was ruled in favor of the Town.*
- *Good questions and comments have come in from the website.*

Councilman Miller asked who sees those comments? He would like to see all the comments as well.

Supervisor Sexton stated that she is the only one who sees them and will send them to Councilman Miller as well.

- *A tabletop of the department heads was held last Friday. Scenarios were run with all the Department Heads, and they did fantastic. Tom McCartney ran it for the Emergency Management Center, he went through an emergency scenario, and each Department Head put forward how they would handle it, how they would maintain a six-day event. In the case of a flood, or a major incident where you have to be. Sexton thought it was really good, and they came up with a really good plan.*

Town Clerk Debra Wallace asked why the Town Clerk was not invited to the

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Department Head meeting?

Sexton stated that it was for field personnel.

Wallace stated that as the Town Clerk, she is the point person for communications and records in the Town, she feels should have been invited.

COMMITTEES

8. PUBLIC WORKS (MESSINA/ Greene)

9. FINANCE (MESSINA/ Greene)

1. Resolution for Rajat Saha, Town Comptroller, to make a Highway Department budget transfer in the amount of \$26,993.00 from the Highway Appropriated Fund Balance to line H0523.25100. This is to cover the extra cost of the snow equipment for the two new tandem axel trucks.

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

2. Resolution for the Town Board to approve payment in the amount of \$3218.00 to Coughlin and Gerhart LLP., for outside counsel fees for professional services rendered through April 30, 2025. The services are as follows: Solar Law

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

3. Resolution for the Town Board to approve payment in the amount of \$157.50 to Bond, Schoeneck & King, PLLC., for outside counsel fees for professional services rendered through April 30, 2025. The services are as follows: Police Matter

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

10. PERSONNEL (MESSINA/Greene)

1. Resolution for Patrick Harnan, Recreation Planner, to hire the following

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summer employees. All pay rates are budgeted and background checks have been completed.

A7310.1021 Labor – Playground Instructors – Start Date June 7, 2025

- Aubrey Baker – Vestal as Playground Instructor at pay rate \$16.50/hr
- Maverick Bryne – Vestal as Playground Instructor at pay rate \$16.50/hr
- Ella Coleman – Vestal as Playground Instructor at pay rate \$16.50/hr
- Hailey Kelly – Apalachin as Playground Instructor at pay rate \$16.50/hr
- Kara Malej – Vestal as Playground Instructor at pay rate \$16.50/hr
- Ella McIntyre – Vestal as Playground Instructor at pay rate \$16.50/hr
- Lawrence Morgan – Apalachin as Playground Instructor at pay rate \$16.50/hr
- Alivia Morlando – Vestal as Playground Instructor at pay rate \$16.50/hr
- Ava Parsons – Vestal as Playground Instructor at pay rate \$16.50/h
- Evelyn Ryan – Vestal as Playground Instructor at pay rate \$16.50/hr
- Meredith Ryan – Vestal as Playground Instructor at pay rate \$16.50/hr
- Jordyn Schake – Apalachin as Playground Instructor at pay rate \$16.50/hr
- Nathan Schake – Apalachin as Playground Instructor at pay rate \$16.50/hr
- Timothy Smith – Vestal as Playground Instructor at pay rate \$16.50/hr
- Leo Stockwin – Apalachin as Playground Instructor at pay rate \$16.50/hr
- Abigail Wickman – Vestal as Playground Instructor at pay rate \$16.50/hr
- Emily Wickman – Vestal as Playground Instructor at pay rate \$16.50/hr
- Erik-Jason Yoyuba – Vestal as Playground Instructor at pay rate \$16.50/hr
- Owen Goncalves – Vestal as Substitute Playground Instructor at pay rate \$16.50/hr
- Katelin Gowe – Vestal as Substitute Playground Instructor at pay rate \$16.50/hr
- Kylene Hannon - Vestal as Substitute Playground Instructor at pay rate \$16.50/hr
- Alex Kaminsky – Vestal as Substitute Playground Instructor at pay rate \$16.50/hr
- James Kaminsky - Vestal as Substitute Playground Instructor at pay rate \$16.50/hr
- Joseph Vallone – Vestal as Substitute Playground Instructor at pay rate \$16.50/hr

A7310.1020 - Labor – Lifeguards – Start Date May 29, 2025

- Daniel Allen – Vestal as Lifeguard at pay rate \$18.00/hr
- Ananta Banerjee – Vestal as Lifeguard at pay rate \$18.00/hr
- Alexander Bierworth – Endicott as Lifeguard at pay rate \$18.00/hr
- Andrew Bilotta – Endicott as Lifeguard/Swim Instructor at pay rate \$19.00/hr

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- William Butler – Endicott as Lifeguard at pay rate \$18.00/hr
- Charlotte Coker – Apalachin as Lifeguard/Swim Instructor at pay rate \$19.00/hr
- Keira DeVantier – Vestal as Lifeguard at pay rate \$18.00/hr
- Celia Durham – Endicott as Lifeguard/Swim Instructor at pay rate \$19.00/hr
- Jack Golden – Endicott as Lifeguard at pay rate \$18.00/hr
- Isabel Goncalves – Vestal as Lifeguard/Swim Instructor at pay rate \$19.00/hr
- Owen Goncalves – Vestal as Lifeguard at pay rate \$18.00/hr
- Gavin Hantsch – Vestal as Lifeguard/Swim Instructor at pay rate \$19.00/hr
- Benjamin Hutchings – Vestal as Lifeguard/Swim Instructor at pay rate \$19.00/hr
- Finnian Hynes – Vestal as Lifeguard at pay rate \$18.00/hr
- Lorena Iosub – Apalachin as Lifeguard/Swim Instructor at pay rate \$19.00/hr
- Megan Jones – Vestal as Lifeguard/Swim Instructor at pay rate \$19.00/hr
- Canyon Kalina – Vestal as Lifeguard at pay rate \$18.00/hr
- Jayden Kim – Vestal as Lifeguard at pay rate \$18.00/hr
- Patrick Kneer – Endwell as Lifeguard/Swim Instructor at pay rate \$19.00/hr
- Olivia McPeek – Binghamton as Lifeguard at pay rate \$18.00/hr
- Ava Meza – Vestal as Lifeguard at pay rate \$18.00/hr
- Max Mitsakos – Vestal as Lifeguard at pay rate \$18.00/hr
- Nicholas Mitsakos – Vestal as Lifeguard/Swim Instructor at pay rate \$19.00/hr
- Larry Morse – Endicott as Lifeguard/Swim Instructor at pay rate \$19.00/hr
- Katelyn Oranu – Vestal as Lifeguard at pay rate \$18.00/hr
- Ian Perry – Johnson City as Lifeguard at pay rate \$18.00/hr
- Ava Peters – Vestal as Lifeguard at pay rate \$18.00/hr
- Jackson (Jay) Ratterree – Vestal as Lifeguard/Swim Instructor at pay rate \$19.00/hr
- Natalie Ryan – Vestal as Lifeguard at pay rate \$18.00/hr
- Cameron Smith – Vestal as Lifeguard at pay rate \$18.00/hr
- Luke Sobel – Vestal as Lifeguard at pay rate \$18.00/hr
- Mary Sonnen – Vestal as Lifeguard/Swim Instructor at pay rate \$19.00/hr
- Dylan Sturek – Johnson City as Lifeguard at pay rate \$18.00/hr
- Francesca Vallone – Vestal as Lifeguard at pay rate \$18.00/hr
- Evan Webb – Apalachin as Lifeguard at pay rate \$18.00/hr

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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11. PLANNING & ZONING (GREENE/Messina)

1. Resolution for the Town Board to approve waiving the bidding process due to the Echo Road Culvert Embankment failure being determined an emergency. This condition has occurred to the embankment along Echo Road and over a 36" diameter culvert. The contractor has presented a quote of \$50,000 and has provided the proper insurance required by the Town.

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

2. Resolution for the Town Board to determine the condition that exists at the Town Hall regarding asbestos an emergency and to approve waiving the bidding process for the Town Hall Asbestos Assessment Project.

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

3. Discuss resolution to modify the Solar Committee.

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

Supervisor Sexton stated that the Committee Members are changing to Councilwoman Messina, Supervisor Sexton and Town Attorney Daniel Reynolds being the primaries. Town Engineer Vern Myers and Town Code Officer Lincoln Ellis being removed and will be used as resources experts.

4. Resolution to accept Lead Agency Status for proposed Local Law D of 2025, “Solar Energy Systems”.

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

5. Resolution to refer proposed Local Law D of 2025, “Solar Energy Systems”, for 239 review.

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

6. Resolution to advertise on June 6, 2025 for a Public hearing to be held on June 18, 2025 regarding proposed Local Law D of 2025: “Solar Energy Systems”

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

7. Resolution authorizing the Town Board to accept for filing, the report of the Solar Committee.

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

8. Discuss abandoning the eastern section of Prentice Road in the Town of Vestal to adjacent property owners. The Town does not currently maintain and has not maintained this section of Road for quite some time.

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

12. PUBLIC SAFETY (MESSINA/Greene)

1. Resolution for the Town Board to approve college tuition reimbursement for Officer Katirae Palmer. The total cost of reimbursement being requested is \$872.98 which is for tuition, fees and textbook. This should be reimbursed out of the Police Departments “College Tuition Line”, A3120-4033, which has been budgeted for the 2025 fiscal year.

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

13. ADMINISTRATION (GREENE/Messina)

1. Resolution authorizing Matthews Auto to hold their annual Walkathon from 7:00 am – 6:00 pm, on Saturday, October 4, 2025 at the Rail Trail. The walkathon

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is held to raise money for local children's charities. If approved, a License Agreement for Use of Town Property will be signed and insurance requirements for the event will be verified.

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

RECEIVE AND FILE

- Warrants: 2025: 18G, 18C, 18M, 18T, 202518G, 20250501, 19A, 19C, 19M, 19T, 20G, 20C, 20M, 20T

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Good Cause Eviction Law Discussion

Councilman Miller showed a power point on the Good Cause Eviction Law.

Sexton stated that she does not believe that this has been problematic in Vestal and feels this applies to larger areas.

NO-This item will not be placed on the Agenda for a vote at the next Regular Meeting of the Town Board

2. *Trial program to allow dogs in Middendorf Park*

NO-This item will not be placed on the Agenda for a vote at the next Regular Meeting of the Town Board

3. *Acceptance of Court Audit Report*

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Member of the public asked in reference to the solar law, the 239 review, is there a

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legal reason why we're looking at June 18th for the hearing? With a possible 30-day period to get the 239 back. Wouldn't the Town Board want that back before they schedule a hearing? Sometimes in those 239s, they make comments and you may make a change.

Town Attorney Reynolds stated that June 25th would be the last meeting in June. We've scheduled this for June 18th, a week in advance, just to give us an extra week. The goal would be to get the law passed by the end of June, prior to July 1st. We're going to, when we send out the application for the 239 review, we're going to tell them about our timeframe and ask them to accommodate us. They're usually pretty good about that and I'm sure we'll get our answers that we need prior to the meeting on the 18th. On the 18th, we'll have the hearing, the public hearing, and then we'll have a full discussion on it, have a vote on it.

On a motion by Councilwoman Messina, seconded by Councilman Greene, the Board adjourned the Work Session and entered into Executive Session for the purposes of discussing the following:

- Personnel- Policies
- Issues regarding Public Safety

The time was 7:02 PM

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Councilwoman Messina, seconded by Councilman Greene, the Board adjourned the Executive Session. The time 8:11 PM