January 12, 2026

The regular meeting of the Town Board of Vernon was held at 7:00 p.m. on the above date at the Town Office Building. Council members present: Randy Watson, Supervisor; Gene Bennati, John Peters and Steve Adamkowski. Myron Thurston Absent. Also present: Keith Schiebel, County Legislator; and 2 residents.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, there was a moment of silence. The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Watson at 7:00 p.m.

Supervisor Watson asked the council members if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes from the December 22, 2025 meeting. There being none, a motion to accept the minutes as written was made by Peters, seconded by Bennati. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

PUBLIC CONCERNS:

None

REPORTS:

The following reports were presented:

- Town Clerk
- Codes Enforcement
- Supervisors
- Intergovernmental Relations: Adamkowski discussed setting up a visit to the CAC with Board Members so they can see the updates that have been made. He is asking each department to submit their articles for the newsletter.
- SWOCO: Watson advised that he was voted in as chairman at their elections.
- County Legislator: submitted a written report from the December 17, 2025 Board of Legislators meeting highlighting the departing legislators and resolutions. The report also highlighted the two bills related to EMS services that Gov. Hochul vetoed.

There were no reports from:

- Planning Board
- Zoning Board of Appeals
- Education and Libraries
- Highway Superintendent
- Assessors
- Operations
- Economic Development

A motion to accept the above reports was made by Bennati, seconded by Adamkowski. No discussion. Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to pay bills was made by Peters, seconded by Adamkowski. No discussion. Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

BUSINESS:

A motion to authorize Supervisor to pay all utilities, bank indebtedness and invest funds wisely without prior approval of the Board was made by Adamkowski, seconded by Bennati. No discussion. Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to appoint Rome Sentinel as the official newspaper for the Town of Vernon was made by Bennati, seconded by Adamkowski. No discussion. Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to designate Community Bank to be used as depository for all Town funds was made by Peters, seconded by Bennati. No discussion. Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to allow the Supervisor or Deputy Supervisor to attend SWOCO meetings as Town representative was made by Adamkowski, seconded by Bennati. No discussion. Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to authorize the Highway Superintendent to purchase tools, equipment and implements in an amount not to exceed $2,000 per purchase in 2026 without prior approval of the Town Board was made by Bennati, seconded by Peters. No discussion. Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion was made to approve the salary for members of the Planning Board and members of the Zoning Board of Appeals at $150 per meeting attended with Board Chairman of each Board to receive $275 per meeting chaired; secretary of the Planning Board and Zoning Board to receive $150 per meeting; pay for members of the Board of Assessment Review will be set at $200 per day with Chairman receiving $250 was made by Bennati, seconded by Peters. No discussion. Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to accept Highway rate of pay for 2026: Working Foreman $28.85/hr; Heavy Equipment Operator (2) $27.30/hr; Motor Equipment Operator (3) $25.25/hr; Mechanic (1) $24.35/hr; Laborer minimum wage to $22.65/hr; Part time Laborer minimum wage to $20.60/hr. One-week vacation after completion of one (1) year's work, two-week vacation after completion of two years' work, three-week vacation after completion of five years' work, four-week vacation after completion of fifteen (15) years' work. Six (6) personal days noncumulative. All Vacation/Personal days to be paid at a standard pay rate. Holidays: New Year's Day, Good Friday (1/2 day), Memorial Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Veterans' Day, Juneteenth, Thanksgiving plus following Friday and Christmas. Health Insurance: 50 percent during first six months of work. Town pays other 50 percent if employee signs during first year of employment. Second six months and thereafter the employee will pay 15 percent of the premium per month. The Town will pay $20 per month toward dental and vision insurance. The Town will pay one-half of single person health insurance for retirees with 30 years of service. Noncontributory retirement and disability for Tiers 1 and 2; employees pay 3 percent for Tiers 3 and 4. **Tier 5 and 6 employees pay a minimum of 3 percent for entire career.** Five days sick leave cumulative to sixty (60) was made by Peters, seconded by Adamkowski. No discussion. Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to accept the following appointments:

Deputy Supervisor	Gene Bennati
Deputy Town Clerk	Julie McElroy
Bookkeeper to the Supervisor	Wendy Coston
Bookkeeper to Hwy Superintendent	Wendy Coston
Personnel Director	Wendy Coston
Deputy Hwy Supt/Working Foreman	Daniel Greene
Clerk to Town Justice	Patricia Kivler
Prospect St Water Dist Collector	Wendy Coston
Prospect St Water Dist Biller	Jennifer Champney
Prospect St Water Dist Meter Reader And Repairman	Kevin Champney
Registrar of Vital Statistics	Jennifer Champney
Deputy Registrar of Vital Stat.	Julie McElroy
Records Management Officer	Jennifer Champney
Budget Director	J. Randall Watson
Chairman, ZBA	Brian Dam
Chairman, Planning Board	Brian Dam
Chairman, Board of Assessors	Duane Munger

Assessors' Clerk	Jennifer Tyczinski
Attorney for the Town	Vincent Rossi Jr
Codes Enforcement Officer	Jody Thieme
Building Inspector	Reay Walker
Codes Clerk	Heather Mair
Potash Hill Cemetery Custodian	Dale Talbot
Marble Hill Indian Cemetery Custodian	Daniel Phillips
Preretirement Seminar Coordinator	Wendy Coston
Dog Control Officer	Clayton Conover
Filey Road Plowing	Kevin Mumford
Town Engineer	Delta Engineering

Supervisor: Committee Appointments:

Education and Libraries	Gene Bennati
Intergovernmental Relations	Stephen Adamkowski
Economic Development	John Peters
Operations	Myron Thurston

was made by Peters, seconded by Adamkowski. Ayes 4. Nays 0. No discussion. Motion carried.

A motion to include these salaries in the Board Minutes:
Salaries not to exceed the following:

Supervisor	J.Randall Watson	$25,000.00
Deputy Supervisor	Eugene Bennati	$4,700.00
Budget Director	J.Randall Watson	$3,500.00
Bkpr to Supv	Wendy Coston	$40,320.00
Bkpr to Hwy Supt	Wendy Coston	$11,336.00
Personnel	Wendy Coston	$4,000.00
Justice	Lori Klopfer	$25,000.00
Councilperson	Gene Bennati	$10,000.00
Councilperson	Stephen Adamkowski	$10,000.00
Councilperson	Myron Thurston	$10,000.00
Councilperson	John Peters	$10,000.00
Town Clerk	Jennifer Champney	$29,700.00
Tax Collector	Jennifer Champney	$10,800.00
Rgstr of Vt Stats	Jennifer Champney	$6,950.00
Rcds Mgmt Officer	Jennifer Champney	$2,000.00
Deputy Town Clerk	Julie McElroy	$23.20/hr
Assessor, Chrmn	Duane Munger	$23,700.00
Assessor	Frank Laguzza	$23,000.00
Assessor	Timothy Wagner	$23,000.00
Assessors' Clerk	Jennifer Tyczinski	$19.00/hr
Supt of Hwys	Garrett Burke	$70,000.00
Prsp St Biller	Jennifer Champney	$650/qtr
Prsp St Collector	Wendy Coston	$650/qtr
Prsp St Meter Rdr	Kevin Champney	$650/qtr
Building Maintenance	Jody Thieme	$250/qtr
Codes Enf Officer	Jody Thieme	$36.00/hr
Building Inspector	Reay Walker	$25.50/hr
Codes Clerk	Heather Mair	$20.00/hr
Clerk to Justice	Patricia Kivler	$17.00/hr
Town Engineer	Delta Engineering	$700.00/yr
Dog Control Off	Clayton Conover	$8,400.00/yr
Filey Road Plowing	Kevin Mumford	$395.00/yr

General Office Help (Part time depending on experience) Minimum Wage to $20.00/hr
Election Workers – to be paid by Oneida County Board of Elections

Potash Hill Cem. Custodian	Dale Talbot	$1200/yr
Marble Hill Indian Cem Cust	Daniel Phillips	$1000/yr

was made by Bennati, seconded by Adamkowski. Ayes 4. Nays 0. No discussion. Motion carried.

A motion to audit Town books on February 9, 2026 at 6:30p.m. was made by Bennati, seconded by Adamkowski. No discussion. Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to accept Garrett Burke's resignation from Working Supervisor was made by Adamkowski, seconded by Bennati. No discussion. Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to appoint Garrett Burke as Highway Superintendent was made by Peters, seconded by Adamkowski. No discussion. Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to accept Daniel Greene's resignation from Heavy Equipment Operator was made by Peters, seconded by Adamkowski. No discussion. Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to appoint Daniel Greene to Working Supervisor was made by Peters, seconded by Adamkowski. No discussion. Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to appoint Patricia Kivler to Clerk to Town Justice was made by Adamkowski, seconded by Peters. No discussion. Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to appoint Cynthia Thurston to new 5 year term for Planning/Zoning Board was made by Peters, seconded by Adamkowski. No discussion. Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to appoint James Morrissey to new 5 year term for Planning/Zoning Board was made by Bennati, seconded by Adamkowski. No discussion. Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to approve request from Highway Superintendent to purchase 2026 F350 Pickup with plow package under state contract from Friendly Ford of Hamilton not to exceed $70,000 was made by Peters, seconded by Bennati. No discussion. Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Nate Richter asked how often the Town has an audit. Watson advised that an audit is done each year.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

None

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn at 7:25 p.m. was made by Bennati, seconded by Peters. No discussion. Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Champney
Town Clerk