March 9, 2026

The regular meeting of the Town Board of Vernon was held at the Town Office Building on the above date with the following persons present: Randy Watson, Supervisor; Gene Bennati, Steve Adamkowski, John Peters and Myron Thurston, Council members. Also present: 6 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 February 9, 2026 meeting. There being none, a motion to accept the minutes as written, was made by Thurston, seconded by Peters. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

PUBLIC CONCERNS:

Cathi Brewer and Rashmi Bismark were present on behalf of the Sherrill Kenwood Library. They proudly announced that a new chapter will be beginning on April 6, 2026, as the Library Officially rebrands their name to "VVS Corner Library".

REPORTS:

The following reports were presented: Town Clerk, Codes Enforcement, Education and Libraries; Bennati acknowledged that they received the monthly report and Budget from the Vernon Library, Supervisor, Intergovernmental Relations; Adamkowski advised that the final approval has been completed for the newsletter and it has been sent to printing, Operations; Thurston mentioned the amount of people who were out utilizing the walking trail and that the town is continuing to work on improvements with the trees, gazebo and pickleball courts coming. Highway submitted a written report.

There were no reports from: Zoning/Planning Board, Assessors, Economic Development, SWOCO and County Legislator.

A motion to accept the above reports was made by Bennati, seconded by Peters. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to pay bills was made by Peters, seconded by Thurston. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

BUSINESS:

A motion to approve Highway Department request to install 2 garage doors with door openers in the amount of $13,274 by Smiths Garage Doors was made by Thurston, seconded by Bennati. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Two quotes were received: JM Doors- $16,450 and Smiths Garage Doors- $13,274. Highway Superintendent Burke compared the quotes, and the parts seemed to be equivalent. Motion carried.

A motion to approve audit of the Town of Vernon books conducted on February 9, 2026, was made by Bennati, seconded by Peters. Ayes 5. Nays 0. No discussion. Motion carried.

There was a discussion on the 250-year USA Anniversary Celebration.

- Held on July 4, 2026, in Vernon Center Park
- 2 Bands are booked
- Bounce Houses
- Carnival Theme
- Characters
- Oneida County providing flags

A motion to approve spending up to $4500 on the 250 Year USA Anniversary Celebration was made by Peters, seconded by Bennati. Ayes 5. Nays 0. No discussion. Motion carried.

A motion to accept 2026 landscaping quote from Drake Landscaping in the amount of $200 per mowing and $65 per hour for weeding, trimming and landscaping up to 10 hours per season was made

by Thurston, seconded by Peters. Ayes 5. Nays 0. If there is a need for additional hours to be added for trimming etc., that can be discussed at a later date. Motion carried.

A motion to designate Watson as delegate and Peters as an alternate to attend Oneida County Association of Towns meetings was made by Adamkowski, seconded by Bennati. Ayes 5. Nays 0. The next meeting is on March 26th, 5:00pm at Gone Costal in Lee Center. Motion carried.

Highway Department received a compliment letter from resident Carol Reese.

The 2026 Ride for Missing Children is being held on June 5th.

Received Oneida County Plowing Contract payment of $87,250.50.

Received 4th Quarter Charter Communications Franchise Fee of $8,161.81.

Received 4th quarter Oneida County Sales Tax of $356,491.36. Increase of $7,046.42 over last year's 4th Quarter.

Received JCAP Grant of $6,500.00 from NY State for court well.

There was a brief discussion to provide funds for the Vernon Library Soup Fundraiser Dinner. Kaylee Sierson advised that the fundraiser has been postponed at this time and will notify the Board when it is rescheduled.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Doug Schlick asked if it would be possible to close a portion of the road in Vernon Center circle during the Vernon Center Old Home Day in August. Highway Superintendent Burke will look into it.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion to enter executive session to discuss Personnel at 7:36p.m. was made by Thurston, seconded by Bennati. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

Board members returned from Executive Session at 8:13p.m.

A motion to pay Highway Department new hire Laborer position $20.60 an hour was made by Bennati, seconded by Thurston. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion to change personnel policy regarding employee health insurance contribution percentage for the first year enrolled with the Town of Vernon to 32.5% the entire year was made by Peters, seconded by Adamkowski. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Previous contribution was 50% for the first six months then 15% for the remaining six months. Motion carried

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn at 8:15 p.m. was made by Peters, seconded by Thurston. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Additions to minutes on file
in Town Clerk's Office.

Jennifer Champney
Town Clerk

COMMUNICATIONS:

None