April 13, 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 March 9, 2026 meeting. There being none, a motion to accept the minutes as written, was made by Bennati, seconded by Thurston. No discussion. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

PUBLIC CONCERNS:

Vernon Downs representative Arthur Wood was present with Sean from Earthcare Solutions and Luann from Barton & Loguidice to present plans for a facility on the grounds of Vernon Downs that will use manure and sewage waste to produce a BioChar material to be used in concrete and asphalt. The facility will also be producing electricity that can be used for Vernon Downs.

Kaylee Sierson spoke on behalf of the Vernon Library. The soup fundraiser had been postponed. They will be holding a chicken barbecue. They have reached out to the church and have a total of 64-70 elderly that they would like to donate chicken dinners to. They have already sold a total of 150 tickets for dinners.

Gene Bennati asked how the libraries accounts are set up and how many signatures are required. Sierson advised that all checks must have 2 signers (Vice President and the Secretary) and that a third person is required to write the check. Bennati also asked how much the yearly payroll amounted to. Sierson advised approximately $18,000.

Sierson was at the Village of Vernon meeting and questioned how much the Town was planning on giving to the Village this year for the park. She understood at that meeting that the Town was giving the same amount as last year, $19,000. Supervisor Watson stated that he had notified the Village Mayor that the Town would be giving $10,000 to the park this year.

REPORTS:

The following reports were presented: Town Clerk, Codes Enforcement, Intergovernmental Relations; Adamkowski advised that 11 memorial trees have been ordered and they will hopefully be planting in the coming weeks, SWOCO: Wendy Coston stated that the Town of Augusta had changed their tax evaluation rate to 100%. This means that the landfill was previously taxed on a value of $24,000 and that has increased to $700,000. They have scheduled an appointment for grievance as the property has no resale value as they are not able to sell it; Supervisor, Highway Superintendent submitted a written report.

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

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

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

BUSINESS:

A motion to approve funding to Sherrill Junior Legion Baseball in the amount of $1000 was made by Thurston, seconded by Peters. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Board members discussed the agreement at time of budget being $1000 per youth program. Motion carried.

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A motion to accept quote of $161,394.50 for purchase of 2026 F600 truck with Fisher plow equipment from Chenango Sales was made by Bennati, seconded by Thurston. Ayes 5. Nays 0. No discussion. Motion carried.

A quote was received from Roofing King for the repair of the salt dome roof. Two more quotes are expected.

A motion to approve giving Vernon Library $1050 for the chicken barbecue to be held on April 25th was made by Bennati, seconded by Thurston. Ayes 5. Nays 0. No discussion. Motion carried.

Vernon Center Water District update, meeting with EPA Community Grant on Wednesday, April 15th to gain information on how to start receiving funds. Field change on tank site for telephone polls in the amount of $7,854.00 to be taken out of contingency money. EPA is requiring a sign at the tank site in the amount of $1,293.00 to be constructed as they have awarded a 3 million dollar grant to the project.

Received 4th quarter Oneida Indian Nation agreement of $56,250.00.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Thurston mentioned that the pickleball court project will begin soon.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

None

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn at 8:26 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

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