

Town of Verona  
Financial Sustainability Committee Minutes  
Town of Verona Community Room, 7669 County Highway PD, Verona, WI  
8/15/2019

**Present:** Laura Dreger, Tom Mathies, and John Senseman

**Absent:** Julie Bass-DeVries and Doug Wolf

**Staff Present:** Amanda Arnold – Planner-Administrator and John Wright – Clerk-Treasurer

**Call to Order, Approval of Agenda** – Chair Dreger called the meeting to order at 1:02 PM. Mathies moved to approve the agenda; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dreger. Motion carried.

**Approve Minutes** – Motion by Mathies to approve the July 7, 2019 minutes; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Senseman. Motion carried.

**Update on Town Board Support of Capital Improvement Program** – The Town Board reviewed the 10-year CIP at its August 6, 2019 regular meeting. It was noted Mark Geller did not accept a City of Verona proposal to improve Country View Road to a City standard (including wider lanes, bike lanes, etc.) and bill the Town for a portion of the total cost. Instead, Country View will be improved to a Town Road standard.

**Update on Interim Market Update (Board of Review adjourned until 9/25/2019) and Budget Schedule** – Clerk/Treasurer Wright reported that the contractual assessor Nick Laird from Associated Appraisal Services and the members of the August 1, 2019 Board of Review mutually agreed to not accept the Assessment Roll as complete based upon several questions not easily answered at that session. Approximately 130 residents attended Open Book on July 19, 2016 and multiple individuals who contacted the Clerk/Treasurer within the minimum of 48 hours prior to the first session retracted their objections. There were three individuals who attended the August 1, 2019 Board of Review meeting with the intent to seek a waiver to the 48 hour notification period; because the assessment roll was not accepted by the BOR members, they did not present sworn oral testimony. Mathies reported that the contacted Department of Revenue about the lack of improvement value for sliver of land in the Town beneath a local hotel for which the City of Verona issued a building permit after annexation of the surrounding parcels in 2006. Mathies received a reply from Mark Paulat the Office of Technical and Assessment Services with advice for how to proceed. Wright reported that he has not updated the budget schedule since the Board of Review has been delayed until September.

#### **Update on the Potential to Move a Portion of Fire Protection Cost to a Special Charge**

- 2013 fire operating budget numbers: prior payments derived from QuickBooks payments to the City of Verona for fire protection conducted by Clerk/Treasurer Wright agree with more recent research conducted by Planner/Administrator Arnold of the final amended budget documents for 2013. The total for Operation and Capital expenses that year totaled \$126,711. The current cost projections for fire protection services in 2020 total \$238,000 or a difference of \$111,289. Mathies noted that changing a portion of the fire protection charge to a special charge on the tax bill is considerable work, so will not be considered for budget year 2020.
- Value of tax-exempt property: Wright generated a report of tax exempt properties listed on the 2018 tax roll using the filter function in the municipal viewer version of Market Drive assessment software. In 2018 there were 383.617 acres of exempt State parcels, 1,075.996 acres of exempt Dane County parcels, and 321.653 exempt acres of local and other (mostly religious exemptions) parcels in the Town of Verona. At the August 1, 2019 Board of Review meeting, assessor Laird stated that a typical market value for agricultural use land ranges from \$6,000 to \$8,000 an acre, so assuming an average of \$6,000 an acre, the value of exempt land in the Town of Verona is approximately \$1,781,266. It was noted that the current estimate of final equated value of real and personal property in the Town of Verona is \$356,624,900.

**Update on How Wheel Tax Is Implemented** – Arnold reported that she received an email response from Carly Roehl, Motor Vehicle Program Specialist-Senior at the Wisconsin DOT regarding how the process works. Essentially, a municipality adopts a local Ordinance to enact a wheel tax and shares that with the DOT; a small percentage of the amount collected by the DOT is retained for their overhead before distribution to the adopting municipality. It was noted that the money received from this source must be spent on highway costs.

**Update on Five-Year Budget Projections** – Arnold shared the preliminary numbers and assumptions based upon projections provided by Barnes, Wright, and those health and human services and emergency service providers that prepare long-range forecasting. Arnold noted that street maintenance capital costs vary by year based upon the annual projections made by the Town public works Project Manager Chris Barnes. A new cost has been added every other year to the Capital Outlay portion of the annual budget to cover stormwater management costs. There was a brief discussion regarding ongoing expenses for Dane County sheriff patrols in the Town. Members asked the Town staff to compile a spreadsheet of what other Towns in Dane County charge for fees; without objection.

**Schedule Next Meeting and Agenda Items** – the next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 10, 2019 at 2:30 PM. Items on the agenda will include:

- Call to Order, Approval of Agenda
- Approve Minutes from August 15, 2019
- Reports on
  - Citation proceeds
  - Town Hall rental proceeds
  - Fee comparison with other communities
- Revised Five-Year Budget Projections
- Schedule Next Meeting and Agenda Items
- Adjourn

**Adjourn** – The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 PM.

Approved: September 11, 2019

Prepared by: John Wright with Amanda Arnold Review