

Town of Verona
Financial Sustainability Committee Minutes
Town of Verona Community Room, 7669 County Highway PD, Verona, WI
2/27/2019

Present: Laura Dreger, Douglas Wolf, and John Senseman

Absent: Julie Bass-DeVries

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

Public Present: Tom Mathies

Call to Order, Approval of Agenda – Chair Dreger called the meeting to order at 2:32 PM. Senseman moved to approve the agenda; 2nd by Wolf. Motion carried.

Approve Minutes from October 25, 2018 and January 17, 2019 – Motion by Senseman to approve the October 25, 2018 minutes; 2nd by Dreger. Motion carried. Senseman moved to approve the January 17, 2019 minutes; 2nd by Wolf. Dreger abstained; motion carried.

Review Other Taxing Jurisdiction Impacts on the Total Levy – Clerk-Treasurer Wright reported that he created a two-page informational document in cooperation with Phil Hohlweck, the financial adviser to the Verona Area School District who is works for PMA Securities Incorporated. During the process of exchanging emails with Hohlweck, Wright learned the following that he included in his explanation posted to the Town website:

- The school levy tax credit is based upon a three-year average of the prior three years of the Town of Verona portion of the Verona Area School District tax levy divided by the average of the three prior years of the statewide school levies which is then multiplied by the total statewide funding available; consequently, an increase in the VASD levy will not be matched with an increase in the credit immediately
- The error by the City of Verona assessor had a negligible impact on Town of Verona taxes
- The VASD determines its levy through the net increase of equalized valuation of properties within its taxing jurisdiction; the Town determines its levy through Net New Construction instead
- The next probable increase of approximately \$0.58 per thousand dollars valuation to the VASD levy due to the third referenda question approved in April 2017 to exceed the revenue cap by \$2.3 million will become effective for 2020 taxes payable in 2021

Wright further reported that he and Planner-Administrator Arnold met with Dean Gorrell, the Superintendent of the Verona Area School District on February 22, 2019. Gorrell instructed Town staff members to refer future questions regarding test scores and/or security concerns to him and financial questions to Chris Murphy, the Business Manager for VASD. There followed a brief discussion of how the lack of future projections by the VASD beyond 2020 pay 2021 taxes makes a request to exceed the local levy harder to propose to Town of Verona taxpayers. Resident Tom Mathies, who was in attendance and acts as Chair of the Town of Verona Ordinance Committee, proposed community meetings as part of the budget process to begin as early as May of this year.

Terms and Membership – Town of Verona Ordinance Chair Tom Mathies reported that proposed revisions to Chapter 1 General Government are being considered for possible action at the regular Town of Verona Board meeting on March 5, 2019. Part of that proposal is for 2-year staggered terms for citizen members serving on Town committees. Town Board Supervisors serving on committees would serve 1-year terms. Terms are renewable at the discretion of the Town Chair and Board. Members can be removed from Committees and the Plan Commission by a majority vote of the Town Board. There followed a brief discussion regarding staggered terms. Senseman agreed that his term beginning in 2019 would be one year to start the process of staggered terms; Wolf agreed to a two-year term. Chair of the Financial Sustainability Committee has not sought re-election as First Supervisor of the Town of Verona Board, but may continue to serve on this Committee if so appointed. It was noted that committees that do not have a Board Supervisor on them send a representative to the Regular Town Board meetings to give reports, updates, and answer questions.

Schedule Next Meeting and Agenda Items – the next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 26, 2019 at 8:30 AM. Items on the agenda will include:

Call to Order, Approval of Agenda

Approve Minutes from February 27, 2019

Discuss Additional Funding Options Including: Do Nothing But Cut Services; Accept General Obligation Debt, Present a Referendum for the Electorate to Exceed the Levy, and/or Present a Referendum for the Electorate to Approve a Special Charge Added to Future Tax Bills Which Does Not Diminish the Annual Levy

Update on Road Budget for 2019

Prepare for Annual Town Meeting on April 16, 2019

Schedule Next Meeting and Agenda Items

Adjourn

Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 PM.

Approved: March 26, 2019

Prepared by: John Wright with Amanda Arnold Review