

MINUTES of the TOWN OF VERONA
BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING AND SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
Town of Verona Town Hall, 7669 County Highway PD, Verona
Tuesday, November 21, 2017 at 7:00 PM

Citizens Present: See sign in sheet
Staff Present: Arnold, Wright

1. Call to Order– Mark Geller called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM.
2. Consider a Motion to Confirm/Amend the Suggested Agenda - Mike Duerst of 7309 Riverside Road moved to approve the agenda; 2nd Laura Dreger of 10051 Mid Town Road. Motion carried.
3. Approve Meeting Minutes from 11/22/2016 – Manfred Enburg of 7710 Riverside Road moved to approve the minutes; 2nd by Tom Mathies of 3121 Nor Del Hill Road. Motion carried.
4. Presentation of 2018 priorities – Mark Geller welcomed those in attendance. He reviewed 2017 accomplishments that included:
 - Completed the construction of the new Public Works Building, Salt/Sand Shed, and Town Hall
 - Took occupancy of the new facilities on February 1, 2017
 - Closed on the sale of the 335 N. Nine Mound property in August
 - The Town has no debt
 - The Comprehensive Plan is in the process of being updated

Geller thanked the staff, Town Board Supervisors, Plan Commission, Natural and Recreational Areas Committee, Ordinance Committee, Public Works Committee, Financial Sustainability Committee, and Joint EMS Commission for all their hard work.

5. Public Hearing Regarding Proposed 2018 Town General Fund Budget – the public hearing began at 7:14 PM. Town of Verona Planner/Administrator Arnold introduced and reviewed the condensed 2018 Budget. She noted that the 2017 Budget included large expenditures for completing the construction of the new Public Works, Salt Shed, and Town Hall which explains the large percentage change between the original 2017 Budget and the proposed 2018 Budget. Arnold explained that the 2018 Budget has a \$30,000 increase in the levy attributable to new construction; the local levy was \$3.775 per thousand dollars valuation in 2017 whereas the proposed 2018 local levy would be \$3.791 per thousand dollars valuation if approved. Intergovernmental revenue includes possible DOT grant money to reconstruct De Marco Trail and to replace the Old County PB Bridge. Regarding the bridge, the Town is to pay 20% of the costs with up to 50% of that amount reimbursed after completion of the project. It was noted that Miscellaneous Revenues includes annexation of Town land over a five-year period. Arnold noted that Other Finance Sources represents funds reassigned to complete the new buildings. The proposed revenues for 2018 total \$1,548,563.

Arnold then turned her attention to the review of expenditures. Capital Outlay for 2018 would represent the costs for the bridge replacement and road reconstruction; whereas, in 2017 the bulk of that figure represented building costs. General Government covers staff wages, office supplies, utilities, most election costs and the like. Of that number, \$10,000 will be dedicated towards upgrading office technology. Arnold noted that Public Safety includes costs associated with fire protection, emergency medical services, and building inspections. Public Works has an increase that includes \$40,000 of restricted funds that will be set aside for replacing equipment. Health and Human Services includes meals for seniors as well as advocacy for the same. Conservation and Development are funds to support the Upper Sugar River Watershed Association (USRWA) and costs associated with the Town Plan Commission. Arnold stated that she hopes to have an unassigned reserve balance of \$75,000 by the end of 2018 in an effort to rebuild our reserve balance after spending it down for new construction. She further noted that this draft budget was presented at the November 7, 2017 regular Town Board meeting where they approved adjustments to staff salary and additional funds for tree trimming.

Tom Mathies asked whether an emergency backup generator was still in the 2018 budget. Arnold responded that the Capital Equipment budget line within the Public Works budget currently has a balance of \$160,000 with a proposed addition of \$40,000 for the 2018 budget year. Two vehicles are scheduled for replacement within the next two years which would consume those available funds. Mike Duerst stated that the Town could purchase a used generator that utilizes the power take off of a tractor; however, the cutoff switch at the utility pole makes it a costly proposition. Sue Willett of 11785 Mid Town Road thanked the Town Board and staff for their production of a responsible proposed budget. She advocated for funding for the Badger Prairie Needs Network (BPNN), noting that usage has increased greatly. She reported that \$1,000 in funding would provide 4,800 meals. Arnold reported that BPNN had been included in prior Town budgets to get the service established; however, Town funding was ultimately discontinued. Perhaps the Town could assist in other ways to promote private donations to this service such as a campaign of public education. Martha Maxwell of 11691 Mid Town Road stated that BPNN is serving a larger service area than before.

Clerk/Treasurer Wright suggested approaching Alliant Energy; they offer grants for Human Services and Safety. Chair Geller noted that the electorate is here to approve the levy, not specific fund lines; he asked that the topic be added to the December 5, 2017 regular Town Board agenda for consideration at that time. Tom Mathies stated that funding of BPNN was defeated at the April 18, 2017 Annual Town Meeting of the qualified electorate. Wright recalled that the response by the electorate was not an outright rejection; instead, they wanted the Town to explore whether a standard could be developed to judge requests for funding non-profits with possible restrictions on the amount available each year. The Financial Sustainability Committee studied the matter over the course of several meetings and ultimately made a recommendation to the Town Board to not consider the funding of non-profits other than the USRWA which provides valuable services for the Town that would cost more through a different source.

Tom Mathies wanted the Board to consider the elimination of the cart replacement fee that is levied on tax bills as a special charge and to refund current property owners their share of the amount collected to date that is held in a Local Government Investment Pool (LGIP) account. Sue Willett recommended that the Town check with Pellitteri Waste Systems (the Town's waste contractor until December 31, 2023) the projected life of the carts and whether the current carts will work with the equipment they plan to use in the future; without objection. Manfred Enburg would like the Town to explore new revenue sources that could include grants and special charges that are specific to projects. The latter, Enburg suggested, may require the Town create a transportation utility. Mike Duerst noted that the Street Maintenance Capital budget has remained the same for many years and should likely be increased. Chair Geller noted that the Town's population has been in decline for years, but predicts a reversal in that trend.

Chair Geller asked if there was any further discussion on the proposed 2018 budget. Geller repeated his request for public comment; hearing none he moved on to item 6.

6. Close public hearing – Mark Geller closed the Public Hearing on the proposed General Funds budgets at 7:52 PM and requested motions on the item below.
7. Convene Special Town Meeting of the electors pursuant to Sec. 60.12(1)(c), Wis. Stats. for the following purpose:

Adopt the 2017 Town Tax Levy to be paid in 2018 pursuant to Sec. 60.10(1)(a), Wis. Statutes for the proposed amount of \$1,075,403. – **Motion:** Motion to approve the proposed levy by Manfred Enburg; 2nd by Mike Duerst. **Discussion:** Manfred Enburg would to include and item at the 2018 Annual Budget Public Hearing/Special Town Meeting to consider discussion to exceed the annual levy or to authorize the Town to fund a special project. **Action:** Motion carried.
8. Motion to adjourn Special Town Meeting – Motion by Ron Melitsoff of 6770 Horseshoe Bend Road; 2nd by Mike Duerst. Motion carried at 7:55 PM.

Approved: November 20, 2018

John Wright
Clerk/Treasurer, Town of Verona