

Town of Verona
Financial Sustainability Minutes
Town of Verona Hall, 335 N. Nine Mound Rd, Verona, WI
12/01/2016

Present: Laura Dreger, John Senseman, and Julie Bass-DeVries

Absent: Bob Rego

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

Chair Dreger called the meeting to order at 2:47 PM

Approval of Agenda-

Senseman moved to approve the agenda, as presented; 2nd Bass DeVries. Motion carried.

Approval Minutes from Regular Meeting on November 17, 2016-

Bass-DeVries moved to approve the October 26, 2016 minutes as presented; 2nd Senseman. Motion carried.

Final Review of Detailed Budget-

Administrator/Planner Arnold noted that she highlighted areas of changes or significant items from the prior version the Committee members had reviewed. She noted that the sale of the N. Nine Mound property is not included in the 2017 budget. Arnold noted that she added an additional \$3,000 to the Town Hall Capital outlay item to add some cushion to that budget line. The Town Hall Operations line has been increased by \$10,000 over last year since utilities will overlap during the period of occupying the new space and moving out of the current one. Furthermore, Arnold assumes that security, updated letterhead and envelopes, phone, and propane costs at the new site will be greater. She further assumes that the amount previously pledged to the Badger Prairie Needs Network will not be continued, so that amount has been removed from the Health and Human Services line. Meals on Wheels costs have been adjusted for the same fund line to represent 2017 costs. Utilities costs for the Public Works facility have also been increased.

Wright reported that he spoke with Rick Manthe, Wisconsin Towns Association attorney earlier today about Town support of non-profit agencies. Manthe referred Wright to WS §60.10 (3)(b) regarding civic functions and to WS §60.23 (3) regarding civic functions. Curiously, ecological areas are included as civic functions, but the Statutes don't address food pantries. Manthe recommended that if the Town wants to continue to support the Upper River Watershed Association (USRWA) and/or the Badger Prairie Needs Network (BPNN), the Board should seek authorization from the qualified electorate at the Annual Meeting of the Electorate. There was a brief discussion regarding the Town support of both non-profits. It was noted that the USRWA provides services that the Town would otherwise have to pay to support at a higher cost; consequently, the members felt at ease continuing the Town's membership in the Association. The members discussed their support of the goals of the BPNN, but felt uncomfortable with the continued subsidization of the service as it is a tax-based donation without specific support from the qualified electorate. Chair Dreger agreed to report to the Board at their regular meeting on December 6, 2016, that the Financial Sustainability Committee is in favor of ceasing the subsidization of the BPNN; without objection.

There was a brief discussion of the Public Hearing for the Utility District Budget. Senseman was the only Town resident in attendance. It was noted that the Utility District Commission adopted the recommendation of the Financial Sustainability Committee to increase the base rate by \$100 per year by Resolution 2016-8 to amend the Utility District Ordinance.

Discussion with Possible Action Regarding a Possible Budget Amendment versus Possible Borrowing-

Chair Dreger reported that she discussed the concept of using Street Maintenance Capital funds with Public Works Committee Chair Manfred Enburg as a bridge revenue source to pay remaining new

construction costs early in 2017 prior to the sale of the current Town Hall property. According to Dreger, Enburg was not opposed so long as revenue from the sale was available by the time of planned road and bridge work. Planner/Administrator Arnold gave the group an update on costs associated with Capitol Bank about a declined line of credit. The members reviewed the possibility that J.P. Cullen may be able to extend the terms for payment of services rendered in order to avoid the transfer of funds and/or a line of credit. Arnold stated that the reserves will adequately cover the retainage owed to Cullen in January of 2017; \$227,962 will be the total for their final billing.

Set Agenda for January 2017 meeting-

The group will not meet in January unless there is need for the Committee to review costs or terms associated with the new construction. Wright and Arnold agreed to share updates with the members with the understanding that they cannot discuss outside of a posted meeting. Chair Dreger can decide whether a January meeting will be necessary based upon those updates.

Adjourn-

Senseman moved to adjourn; 2nd Dreger. The meeting was adjourned at 3:38 PM.

Approved: February 23, 2017

Prepared by: John Wright with Amanda Arnold review