

Town of Verona
Financial Sustainability Committee Minutes
Town of Verona Hall, 7669 County Highway PD, Verona, WI
11/29/2017

Present: Laura Dreger, Bob Rego, Julie Bass-Devries, Douglas Wolf, and John Senseman (arrived at 2:38 PM)

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

Call to Order, Approval of Agenda – Laura Dreger called the meeting to order at 2:33 PM. Rego moved to approve the agenda; 2nd by Wolf. Motion carried.

Approve Minutes from October 20, 2017 – Motion by Rego; 2nd by Wolf. Motion carried.

Discuss Town Board Review of 2018 Preliminary Budget and Recommended Fee Schedule Changes – The Town Board accepted the preliminary budget and all recommended fee schedule changes at the November 7, 2017 regular meeting. Planner/Administrator Arnold noted that a Supervisor recommended increasing the budget line for tree trimming. The Board will approve the final budget at their December 5, 2017 regular meeting.

Discuss Utility Commission Review of 2018 Preliminary Budget – Clerk/Treasurer Wright reported that the Utility Commission accepted the recommendation of the Financial Sustainability Committee to increase the base rate for Utility District customers by \$100 in 2018 at their meeting held on November 7, 2017. They also approved the letter to be mailed to the customers; those notices were mailed on November 8, 2017.

Discuss Results of November 11, 2017 Strategic Planning Retreat – Arnold gave a brief report. She noted that the longest list had a theme of community. Arnold will compile the lists created by participants and submit those to the facilitator and the Town Chair. Dave Lonsdorf, Mark Geller, and John Wright were appointed to craft a Vision Statement. Chair Dreger and member Wolf both thought a goal should have been defined first in order to then establish the means to achieve the agreed upon goal. Member Senseman stated that the varied interests in the Town of Verona are so diverse that an amorphous outcome should have been expected. All the members looked forward to the next retreat that will be scheduled in early 2018.

Discuss Results of November 21, 2017 Annual Town Budget Hearing – Arnold reported that funds to support the Badger Prairie Needs Network in 2018 were proposed by a resident in attendance at the Budget Hearing. Wright reported on his contact with the Verona Public Library staff: they have a non-discrimination policy for those requesting rental of their community spaces; they do not rent community spaces when staff is not present. Arnold noted that the Town legal counsel is reviewing a non-discrimination clause for the rental agreement for the Town community space. Regarding the funding of non-profits, member Rego expressed his concern about the use of tax dollars at the discretion of the Town Board. Member Senseman stated that the proposal that this committee or staff create criteria to judge applications from non-profits for funding using tax dollars would create many levels of complexity that is best not to implement. There was brief discussion as to other sources of money for non-profits such as grants through Alliant Energy. Arnold reported that the proposed levy was approved by the qualified electorate at the Special Meeting of the Town Electorate after the Public Hearing. Chair Dreger moved to recommend to the Town Board that no additional monetary donations be made to non-profits with the exception of the Upper Sugar Watershed Association; 2nd Rego. Motion carried.

Schedule Next Meeting and Agenda Items – the next meeting will be held in March of 2018. Items on the agenda will include:

Call to Order, Approval of Agenda
Approve Minutes from November 29, 2017

Discuss Second Strategic Planning Meeting
Discuss a Five-Year Financial Management Plan
Review Trash Cart Replacement Fee Charge and Possible Alternatives
Review Additional Subcategories to the Budget
Create Funding Sources for Town Hall Improvements
Discuss Fuel Surcharge Rebates and Proceeds from Annual Recycling Grant
Schedule Next Meeting and Agenda Items
Adjourn

Adjourn – Motion by Wolf; 2nd by Senseman. Motion carried at 4:20 PM.

Approved: March 22, 2018

Prepared by: John Wright with Amanda Arnold Review