

Town of Verona  
Financial Sustainability Committee Minutes  
Town of Verona Community Room, 7669 County Highway PD, Verona, WI  
9/20/2018

**Present:** Laura Dreger, Douglas Wolf, and John Senseman

**Absent:** Julie Bass-DeVries

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

**Call to Order, Approval of Agenda** – Chair Dreger called the meeting to order at 2:30 PM. Dreger moved to approve the agenda; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Wolf. Motion carried.

**Approve Minutes from August 30, 2018** – Motion by Senseman; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Wolf. Motion carried.

**Discuss Obligation to Remain in Municipal Court/Impact of Potentially Cutting Deputy Budget** – Arnold reported that the Municipal Court agreement with the Town of Madison automatically renews annually; however, any party may terminate at the end of the calendar year by notifying the Town of Madison in writing 3 months prior to the end of the preceding year. Arnold noted that there will be no regular Town Board meeting prior to this notification deadline. Chair Dreger noted that if the Town were to reduce the number of patrol hours by Sheriff's Deputies, then the Town would have more funds available to afford the proposed Public Works Director. Member Senseman advocated sending a letter to the Town of Madison to opt-out. Arnold stated she will zero out the budget for deputies, but that this will require Town Board approval and a confirmation that court costs will be reduced or eliminated.

**Discuss Potential Option to Partner with the City of Verona on Senior Services** – Arnold reported that she recently met with the City of Verona Administrator Jeff Mikorski to discuss the possibility of a future partnership for Senior Services. Arnold noted that because the City does not accept funding from Dane County, free meals for seniors would not be included. Arnold further reported that Amanda Meade, Executive Director, for the Sugar River Senior Center will be giving the Town Board a presentation about their proposed rate increases at the regular October meeting. The members wondered how many Town seniors are currently paying for and being served by City senior services.

**Discuss Potential Vehicle Fees (Wheel Tax)** – Chair Dreger reported on a recent news article regarding adoption of a Dane County Wheel Tax which will add \$28 to the annual renewal fee for vehicle registrations. Member Senseman wondered if the Town should consider a local wheel tax of \$25 that would be earmarked for road reconstruction and maintenance projects in the Town. There was brief discussion regarding local bridge inspections and the lack of matching funding at this time for repairs. Wright shared some information about Heartland Payment Services which has an association with Capitol Bank; they have experience collecting electronic payments for governmental agencies. The group agreed, without objection, to invite Brad Patzner to attend the next Committee meeting to discuss their rates and services.

**Discuss Parameters for a Motion to Raise the Levy** – Arnold and Wright both researched the topic. Wright reported that there are various ways to increase the local levy. Arnold shared an article by former WTA attorney Lee Turonie about the budget approval process. One method to exceed the levy is to add a referendum question to the November General ballot based upon a Town Board approved resolution; the deadline for that has come and gone for 2019. For Towns with populations less than 3,000, the Town of Verona Board would also have the option to propose an increase to the levy to exceed the calculation derived from the Annual Levy Limit Worksheet by approving a resolution to place upon an agenda for a Special Town Meeting to be voted on by the qualified electorate within the Town. Arnold proposed that the Town Board hold a budget workshop independent of a regular Town Board meeting; without objection.

**Schedule Next Meeting and Agenda Items** – the next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 25, 2018 at 10:30 AM. Items on the agenda will include:

Call to Order, Approval of Agenda  
Approve Minutes from September 20, 2018  
Report on Municipal Court Costs if the Town Stopped Contractual Services with Sheriff's Deputies  
Report on Amanda Meade Presentation to the Town Board Regarding Senior Services  
Report on a Local Wheel Tax  
Date for Budget Workshop with the Town Board Including a Possible Resolution to Exceed the Annual Levy  
Schedule Next Meeting and Agenda Items  
Adjourn

**Adjourn** – Motion by Wolf; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Senseman. Motion carried at 3:39 PM.

Approved: October 25, 2018      Prepared by: John Wright with Amanda Arnold Review