



2024 Annual Town Meeting

The Annual Town Meeting is a unique tradition that takes place on the 3rd Tuesday of April every year. Unlike a regular Town Board meeting, the Annual meeting is a grassroots event that often involves motions and voting by Town residents.

Program for the evening:

- 2023 Year in Review and 2024 plans
- Discussion on matters of interest to town residents

Vision Statement and Guiding Principles

Created through two strategic planning sessions held by the Town Board, staff, committees, and commissions on November 11, 2017 and February 17, 2018, the following Vision Statement and Guiding Principles were created.

Town of Verona Vision Statement

To maintain the Town as an independent, financially sustainable, safe, and healthy rural community.

Guiding principles

1. Create a welcoming and inclusive community
2. Provide efficient services
3. Be fiscally responsible
4. Anticipate and plan for growth
5. Protect and enhance cultural and natural resources
6. Maintain open and transparent government
7. Coordinate and collaborate with neighboring jurisdictions/key partners

BOARD MEMBERS

Mark Geller
Chair

Tom Mathies
1st Supervisor

Dave Lonsdorf
2nd Supervisor

Mike Duerst
3rd Supervisor

Deb Paul
4th Supervisor

TOWN STAFF

Sarah Gaskell
Planner/Administrator

Teresa Withee
Clerk/Treasurer

Chris Barnes
Public Works Director

Mark Judd
Road Patrolman

John Crook
Building Inspector

Nick Laird
Assessor

CONTACT INFO:

7669 County HWY PD
Verona, WI 53593
608-845-7187
Open 8AM-2PM
Monday - Friday

SIGN UP FOR THE

TOWN INFO EMAIL LIST AT:

www.town.verona.wi.us

The Town has several commission and committees that help further the work of the Town. Thanks to the following people for dedicating their time to our community. Membership is current as of 4/16/24.

Plan Commission

Mark Geller, Chair
Lori Lukens
Sarah Slack
Tom Mathies
Haley Saalsaa-Miller

Public Works

Mike Duerst, Chair
Brett Lindell
Manfred Enberg
John Senseman
Russ Swiggum

Natural and Recreational Areas

Bill Keen, Chair
Dave Lonsdorf
Jo Tucker
Kirk Feller

Finance

Tom Mathies, Chair
Laura Dreger
John Senseman
Doug Wolf

EMS

Dave Lonsdorf
Sue Luginbuhl

Senior Services

Deb Paul



There are any number of ways to volunteer with the Town from serving on committees to helping with elections. For more information, please contact the Town Hall at 608-845-7187.

Town Meetings

Revised by Philip J. Freeburg, J.D., and
David Hinds, Professor Emeritus, UW Extension. February 2018

Introduction

The town meeting is a meeting of the electors of a town to exercise powers directly. It descends from meetings in the earliest settlements in New England and distinguishes towns from other Wisconsin governments. Unlike towns, village, city, county, and state governments act solely through elected representatives. In Wisconsin, town electors may exercise their unique powers via an annual town meeting, or at special town meetings called for specific purposes.

Towns may exercise only those powers granted by Wisconsin Statutes. Specific powers of a meeting of a town's electors can be found in Section 60.10 of the Wisconsin Statutes. This fact sheet will review law regarding both the annual town meeting and special town meetings. Suggestions for how to conduct town meetings for various actions, such as setting the town levy, are also included. Remember the town meeting is a meeting of a town's electors—that is, the people—and is not a meeting of the town board. While town board members attend the town meeting, it is not a meeting of the governing body, and is thus not covered under the Wisconsin Open Meetings Law.

Powers of the Town Meeting

The powers that may be exercised by the people at a town meeting, and that are binding on the town, are enumerated in Wis. Stat. § 60.10. Three categories of town meeting action are authorized:

1. The town meeting may exercise powers directly under Wis. Stat. § 60.10(1)
2. The town meeting may grant the town board authority to act on some things (which the board may decide not to do) under Wis. Stat. § 60.10(2)
3. The town meeting may authorize the appropriation of funds for specific purposes under Wis. Stat. § 60.10(3)

The town meeting may act on only those subjects that Wisconsin Statutes specifically grant it the power to do so. Actions on other matters have no legal effect at all, and thus are advisory only.

Direct Powers

A town's electors may exercise certain granted powers directly at a town meeting, such as:

- Levy taxes to be spent by the town. The meeting may either levy a dollar amount—say \$50,000, or set a tax rate—say one mill, or a dollar per thousand, on the taxable property in the town. This is the most important power of the town meeting.
- Fix compensation for town offices.
- Combine certain town offices, such as clerk with treasurer or clerk with assessor, or make some town offices part-time.
- Establish or abolish the office of constable.
- Establish election of town board members by means of numbered seats.
- Increase the size of the town board, if the town's population is 2,500 or more, and provide for the appointment of the office of town clerk, treasurer or combined clerk-treasurer.

Grant of Authority

Electors at the town meeting may also vote to give certain grants of authority to the town board. Grants of authority may be "general and continuing," or be of limited scope, or for a specific time. Wis. Stat. § 60.10(2), lists eleven areas where a town meeting may grant authority to the town board. Some examples are:

- Delegate to the town board the authority to levy the property tax to be used for town purposes.
- Exercise village powers for increased regulatory authority.
- Purchase land for town purposes; purchase, lease, or construct buildings; and dispose of town real property.
- Authorize the town to exercise zoning authority in counties with a zoning code using village powers.

The town board, as a legislative body, may decide not to do what the town meeting has authorized, or to do it in a manner different from what the people at the meeting had in mind. However, the board cannot exceed the authority granted to them. No recourse is provided if the town board does not spend the money as the meeting wished, but electors may withdraw a grant of authority if the town board does not do what was intended. The people may also choose to replace town board members at the next election.

Authorize to Appropriate Money

The town meeting may authorize the board to appropriate money for certain specific purposes, such as conservation of natural resources by the town or a nonprofit organization, and for civic functions listed in § 60.23(6), or a rural numbering system.

Town of Verona
Annual Town Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 18, 2023

The 2023 Annual Town Meeting was held on Tuesday, April 18, 2023, at the Town Hall, 7669 County Highway PD. Notice for the meeting was provided via the town website as well as posted in the Town Hall.

Board Members present: Chair Mark Geller, Supervisors Tom Mathies, Dave Lonsdorf, Mike Duerst and Deb Paul
Staff present: Planner/Administrator Sarah Gaskell, Clerk/Treasurer Teresa Withee and Public Works Director Chris Barnes

Others: See sign in sheet

1. Chair Mark Geller called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.
2. Chair Geller gave an overview of the purpose and tradition of the annual town meeting.
3. Motion by Mike Duerst to approve the minutes from the 2022 Annual Town Meeting, second by John Senseman. Motion carried by unanimous vote.
4. Chair Geller presented the year in review and the 2022 financials and reported that the town remains debt free. Chair Geller recognized staff, board members, committees and commissions for their hard work throughout the year and reviewed the 2023 town board work plan. He stated that Terry Schnapp has served on the EMS Commission for many years and will be stepping down from the committee. Chair Geller stated he appreciates the work he has done and wants to recognize his many contributions to the committee. He stated Chris Barnes has done an excellent job with the annual CIP and Goose Lake project.
5. Motion by Mark Geller to recommend that the Town Board purchase parcel 0608-284-8055-0 by the town for \$50 for the purposes of transferring the ownership of the parcel from the County, second by Mike Duerst. Sarah Gaskell provided an explanation for the purchase of the parcel. Motion carried by unanimous vote.
6. Mike Bare, Dane County board supervisor and State Representative, gave an update on the Badger Mill Creek and the issue of shared revenue. The governor has proposed sending 20% of the sales tax back to the local governments and the town would potentially receive \$66,000 if this is passed. John Senseman wanted to relay that he doesn't want the state to waste \$300 million on the Milwaukee Brewers.
7. Discussion and Possible Action on matters of interest to town residents:
 - a. John Senseman asked how the transition from Belleville Senior Center to the City of Verona Senior Center is working out. Deb Paul stated that they have been keeping tabs on the services the town residents are using. The challenge is that the farming and rural communities are more self-sufficient. Getting the word out to town residents is also a challenge. The city would like to see more participation from town residents.
8. Motion by Mike Duerst to adjourn the 2023 Annual Meeting, second by Bill Keen. Motion carried by unanimous vote; meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Prepared by: Teresa Withee, Clerk/Treasurer

Approved: