

MINUTES of the TOWN OF VERONA - DRAFT

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

Town of Verona Town Hall, 7669 County Highway PD, Verona

**Tuesday, April 20, 2021, 7:00 PM**

The ANNUAL TOWN MEETING for the Town of Verona was held on Tuesday, April 20, 2021 at the Town Hall, 7669 County Highway PD. Although at the same location and time as the prior year, the Town posted notices online and the Verona Town Hall. A meeting date reminder was emailed to subscribers of the Town of Verona listserv.

Staff present: Planner/Administrator Sarah Gaskell, Public Works Director Chris Barnes  
Town of Verona Board Supervisors present: Doug Maxwell, Phyllis Wiederhoeft, Dave Lonsdorf, and Chair Mark Geller

Others: See sign in sheet. Approximately 40 people were present in total.

Call to Order – Town Chair Mark Geller called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM and gave an overview of the purpose and tradition of the annual town meeting. He appointed Sarah Gaskell to serve as clerk for the meeting. He then gave a presentation on the year in review, 2021 Work plan and the 2020 Financials. Chair Geller recognized members and highlighted the work of the town committees and commissions and asked for more volunteers, particularly for the open seats on the Ordinance Committee and NRAC.

A short video presentation by the Ad Hoc Committee to Study the Impact of Growth on the Town of Verona was played.

At the conclusion of the video presentation, Chair Geller turned the meeting over to the electors.

**Motion by Mike Duerst of Riverside Drive to approve the minutes from the 2020 meeting. Second by Bill Keen of Manhattan Drive. Motion carried by voice vote.**

**Motion by John Senseman of Shady Oak Lane to establish November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021 as the date for the Special Meeting to approve the Town Budget; second by Mike Willet of Midtown Road; motion carried by voice vote.**

Motion by Marilyn Chohaney of Beach Road, second by Mark Jambor of County Highway PD, that the Ad Hoc Committee's report be posted in its entirety, including all attachments and graphics, to ToV website, for the public to access. Additionally, this should be posted for at least two weeks prior to the date of the Town Board meeting when the final report is on the agenda for discussion.

Discussion:

John Senseman of Shady Oak Lane stated he thought the motion was premature. He didn't know who the committee members were, what their ideas are and doesn't know what's in the report. The Plan Commission should review the report first, prior to putting it out to the public.

Dave Lonsdorf of Beach Road said the presentation provided information on both the committee members and the contents of the report.

Mark Jambor of County Road PD said the intent of the motion is to make sure the public has ample time to review it.

John Senseman states it should not be an official Town Document and that the Plan Commission should review it.

Marilyn Chohaney asked for clarification from Chair Geller as to the make up of the committee and how they got appointed. Chair Geller stated they are a volunteer committee formed from the 2019 Annual meeting represented different areas of the town. He stated he participated on the committee but decided it was best he no longer participate so it could truly be a citizen advisory committee.

Mike Willet is concerned that this report might be interpreted as being a Town Report and suggests that when it's shared publicly, that it be clear that it's a report/presentation done by the Ad Hoc Committee and not by the Town Board.

John Senseman stated concern that the none of the Ad Hoc Committee members are present at the meeting. Chair Geller said COVID concerns are valid, yet we had to hold the Annual Meeting and that virtual participation was specifically advised against by the WTA attorneys.

Doug Wolf of Dairy Ridge Road stated that the Ad Hoc Committee does not report to the electors and that they should answer to the Plan Committee.

Marilyn Chohaney is not asking that the Town Board approve the report, just be able to read the report and doesn't understand why the Ad Hoc Committee should not be shared with the public.

Mark Jambon said the report should be made available to the public for review.

John Senseman said the report should be approved before it's made public, via the Plan Commission and the Town Board. Until it's approved, it's an opinion piece.

Dave Lonsdorf stated the 2019 Annual Meeting is where the Committee was formed, and the Town Board approved the formation of the committee so we should be able to be heard.

Deb Paul of Cross County Road agrees that the Plan Commission should vet the report and also wants to make sure that the members of the Ad Hoc Committee represents the town geographically. Would support an amended motion to have the report go to Plan Commission or Town Board before it's posted to the Town website, otherwise it would appear that the report has been approved when it hasn't.

Phyllis Wiederhoeft of Beach Road stated that because the formation of the committee and its directive was to go to the Board and not the Plan Commission. In the interest of transparency, we should have more information out to all of our people and not funneling it down to four or five. We don't know that the Plan Commission is representative any more than the Ad Hoc Committee is. She would like more communication rather than less and the Plan Commission is busy and not all of the recommendations relate to other committees. How can we get more citizen participation in all of the recommendations?

Mark Jambon offered an amended motion that the that the Ad Hoc Committee's preliminary report be released two weeks prior to the town board meeting that is designated as not yet reviewed by the Town Board or the Planning Committee. A second version with a mark of approval would also be released. Dixie Schwenn of County Road PD seconded.

Mike Willet asked for clarification regarding the second part of the motion. He stated that that the Town is being forced to put out an approved version without it actually being approved. He suggests removing the second part of the amendment.

Marilyn Chohaney agreed with Mr. Willet as it's an advisory document.

**Mark Jambon amended his motion to remove the second part of his amendment. The motion is that the Ad Hoc Committee's preliminary report be released two weeks prior to the town board meeting and is designated as not yet reviewed by the Town Board or the Planning Committee.**

Mike Duerst of Riverside report states he has an issue with the report because he feels leaving large tracts of open land opens the town up to annexation at much higher density. He feels this committee is a response to Deer Haven. He is on a Century Farm. Traffic on Whalen is not town generated – we live close to the city.

Initial tally by voice vote – results inconclusive. Vote by show of hands: Aye - 24; Nay – 12; Motion carried.

Marilyn Chohaney made a motion, second by Phyllis Wiederhoeft, that when the discussion of the Ad Hoc's Committee's report is on the agenda of the Town Board, there is adequate prior notice given to all Town Residents and includes the following:

- There be two consecutive weeks' notice of the date of the meeting
- There be a request for public comments
- This notice is additionally announced for at least two weeks via the Sarah Gaskell's Friday emails and the "Community News" section of the Town website

Discussion:

Mike Willet asked how much notice is typically given for Town Board meetings. Chair Geller replied that notice is given via the Verona Press on the Thursday prior to a Tuesday meeting, it's posted online and in the Town Hall Vestibule.

Bob Bovy of County Highway PD questioned whether this motion is premature and whether the report should go through other committees first?

John Senseman asked how it gets on the agenda for the Town Board. Chair Geller stated that the Plan Commission would review it, provide comment and then sent it forward. Senseman asked for clarification. Geller said that the motion related to the agenda item on the Town Board and that Plan Commission will review it first and the full report will be in the packet for the Town Board and be on the agenda for a Town Board meeting.

Mike Duerst asked if there has been any other report from the Town that has the same amount of advance notice. We'd be paying money to put it in the paper twice and this is not the way the town operates. It should follow the same procedure for notification as other agenda items.

**Marilyn Chohaney amended the motion to remove the request to publish twice in the Verona Press. Amended motion reads:**

**that when the discussion of the Ad Hoc's Committee's report is on the agenda of the Town Board, there is adequate prior notice given to all Town Residents and includes the following:**

- **There be a request for public comments**
- **This notice is additionally announced for at least two weeks via the Sarah Gaskell's Friday emails and the "Community News" section of the Town website**

Vote conducted via hand count. Aye – 24; Nay – 12. Motion passes.

Marilyn Chohaney made a motion to have two weeks' notice that when the Ad Hoc Committee's report is on the agenda of the Plan Commission, there is adequate prior notice given to all Town Residents and includes the following:

- There be a request for public comments
- This notice is additionally announced for at least two weeks via the Sarah Gaskell's Friday emails and the "Community News" section of the Town website

Motion dies due to lack of a second.

Marilyn Chohaney made a motion that at the Town Board meeting at which the Ad Hoc Committees' final report is discussed, the Town Supervisors develop actionable items with plans for implementation from the recommendations put forward in the Ad Hoc Committee's final report. They can turn them up or down but that they develop a plan for each one. Second by Mark Jambon.

Discussion:

Mike Willet stated he has trouble with requiring the Town Board to take actionable items on the report which is advisory. It's wrong and should be voted down.

Mark Jambon said it's not requiring positive actionable items but that each item be addressed up or down.

Mona Cassis of Dairy Ridge Road says everyone should be able to hear the report but it's a slippery slope by making unfair accommodations for this report.

John Senseman thinks the motion shows disrespect to the Board because the Board is elected to do this anyway. The Board should not be expected to report back on every recommendation in a report from a special interest group.

Mike Willet agrees with Mr. Senseman and reiterates it should be voted down.

Bob Bovy does not understand why this report is not being treated like everything else and why special accommodations are being requested.

Marilyn Chohaney expressed that she doesn't feel that she has been given ample time in the past to review agenda items and related materials in the past in order to consider the items carefully. There are too many diverse opinions on this report for that to happen this time. She wants everyone to have the opportunity to participate.

John Senseman states that the report does not yet exist, and we need to wait for it to get done.

Vote conducted by show of hands. Aye: 3; Nay: 33; motion fails.

Ann Robertson of Woodhill Circle wants to discuss the Marty Farms Proposal and wants to know if the Town has any say in this and is the Town opposed to this.

Chair Geller detailed the proposal for 140 acres on Shady Oak and PD. The Town cannot prevent annexation. The proposal will have to work its way through the CoV Plan Commission and City Council. The Town Board has not met since hearing of the proposal, but the Town is opposed.

Administrator Gaskell stated she would be attending the CoV Plan Commission meeting to state opposition on behalf of the Town. The Northwest Neighborhood Plan has this property in Phase 2 and there is currently not support at the City for development in Phase 1. The Planned Urban Service Areas for the City are all proposed for south of the city – there is none planned for this area. The Town Board will be discussing the proposal at their May TB meeting.

Residents expressed firm opposition to the Marty Farm.

Shawn Faulkner, City of Verona resident, expressed wanting to gauge interest in the development of a disc golf course in the Town of Verona and was looking for resources and input.

Mike Willet thanked the current Town Board for the Town's zero debt.

Mark Geller asked for final comments. Hearing none, Mike Willet moved to adjourn at 9:45 p.m. Second by Mike Duerst. Motion carried.

Approved:

Draft Minutes Prepared by Sarah Gaskell

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