

Town of Verona
Financial Sustainability Committee Minutes
Town of Verona Community Room, 7669 County Highway PD, Verona, WI
10/25/2018

Present: Laura Dreger, Douglas Wolf, and John Senseman

Absent: Julie Bass-DeVries

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

Public Present: Jim Kinney

Call to Order, Approval of Agenda – Chair Dreger called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM. Senseman moved to approve the agenda; 2nd by Dreger. Motion carried.

Approve Minutes from September 20, 2018 – Motion by Senseman; 2nd by Wolf. Motion carried.

Discuss Obligation to Remain in Municipal Court/Impact of Potentially Cutting Deputy Budget – Arnold noted that the opt-out opportunity for the Municipal Court for next year has already passed. She reported that at a Special Town Board meeting to discuss the budget, attendees discussed the hours the patrolpersons were available and whether they could target their locations. Based upon Arnold's research, the deputies work before/after their regular shifts which cover different times of the day. She further noted that the deputies tended to work two hour shifts. There was brief discussion as to whether they patrols could target areas where more citations could be issued to offset the Town's expenses for the patrols. Arnold assumes that if patrols are reduced or eliminated, that court costs for the Town would be minimal. Resident Jim Kinney left the meeting at 11:00 AM.

Discuss Potential Option to Partner with the City of Verona on Senior Services – Arnold reported that Amanda Meade, Executive Director, for the Sugar River Senior Center gave a presentation to the Town Board that included information about how the Town is consuming services at a disproportionately higher rate than other community members which is the basis of the escalating costs for the next several years. Although Arnold discussed senior services with the City of Verona Administrator Mikorski, she has received no numbers from him to date. Arnold confirmed that the Town would have representation on the Sugar River Senior Center Board.

Discuss Potential Vehicle Fees (Wheel Tax) – Chair Dreger the results of some research she had done on a possible local wheel tax. Dane County adopted a wheel tax at a rate of \$28 that will be added to vehicle registration renewals although some vehicles are exempt such as Implements of Husbandry. She noted that state statute requires that any money collected from a wheel tax be used exclusively for the repair of roads. She further reported that the City of Madison had considered a \$17 wheel tax that ultimately was rejected. Member Senseman had calculated possible revenues of \$60,000 a year assuming 1.8 qualifying vehicles per home at a rate of \$25 per vehicle. Member Wolf liked the fact that such a tax could easily be removed. It was noted that a blanket rate made the tax regressive in that it did not put a higher rate for a more expensive vehicle.

Discuss Parameters for a Motion to Raise the Levy – It was reported that there will be another Special Town Board meeting on Saturday, October 27, 2018 to further discuss this possibility. It was further noted that the Special Town Meeting of the qualified electorate to approve the levy has been scheduled for November 20, 2018 at 6:30 PM. The Utility District Commission will meet after the adjournment of the Annual Budget meeting for the General Budget to discuss that budget and to hold a Public Hearing.

Schedule Next Meeting and Agenda Items – the next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 17, 2019 at 2:30 PM. Items on the agenda will include:

Call to Order, Approval of Agenda

Approve Minutes from October 25, 2018

Discuss the Impact of the Levy Adopted by the Qualified Electorate

Schedule Next Meeting and Agenda Items
Adjourn

Adjourn – Motion by Senseman; 2nd by Wolf. Motion carried at 12:03 PM.

Approved: February 27, 2019

Prepared by: John Wright with Amanda Arnold Review