

## **Town of Verona, Annual Town Meeting, April 16, 2019**

### **Minutes**

The ANNUAL TOWN MEETING for the Town of Verona was held on Tuesday, April 16, 2019 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. The date was included in the annual newsletter mailed to the billing addresses on property tax bills mailed in December 12, 2018. A meeting date reminder was emailed to subscribers of the Town of Verona listserv.

Staff present: Planner/Administrator Amanda Arnold

Town of Verona Board Supervisors present: Manfred Enburg, Mike Duerst, Doug Maxwell, Tom Mathies, and Chair Mark Geller

Others: See sign in sheet. Approximately 24 people were present

Call to Order – Town Chair Mark Geller called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and gave an overview of the purpose and tradition of the annual town meeting. He then gave a presentation that covered accomplishments of the last year, work in progress, and ongoing concerns. Mark highlighted the work of the committees and commissions and asked for more volunteers, particularly for the new seats on the Sugar River Senior Center Board and fund raising committee. He reviewed an audit summary, an upcoming blanket rezoning and the interim market update. He congratulated Tom Mathies on his election and expressed thanks for Laura Dreger's work on the Board. He then turned the meeting over to the group.

Motion by Manfred Enburg of Riverside Drive to approve the minutes from the 2018 meeting; second by Bill Keen of Manhattan Drive. Motion carried by voice vote.

David Lonsdorf of Beach Road presented a draft weed policy. This was a follow up to a conversation held at last year's annual meeting. Through a series of conversations it had been determined that having a Weed Commissioner may be too heavy-handed, but education is encouraged and needed. There followed a conversation about what weeds should be listed in the policy with Heathcliffe Riday of Rolling Meadow Road questioning the inclusion of sweet clover and reed canary grass. David Combs of Valley Road said there are certain invasive weeds listed in state statute. He later looked them up and found they were not the same as ones listed in the draft policy. Manfred Enburg of Riverside Road suggested just using links to other resources to avoid having to specify which species were concerns. Mike Duerst of Riverside Drive suggested tabling action, but going ahead with education. His concern was that the Town needs to be more proactive with weed control in the right-of-way before instructing others. Motion by David Lonsdorf to adopt the policy without the list of top ten invasive plants; second by Rosemary Bodolay of Sunset Drive. Mike Duerst said he was concerned about the first sentence of the policy because it seemed hard to enforce. Motion by Heathcliffe Riday to amend the first motion to strike the first sentence; second by Mike Duerst. Motion failed by voice vote. A vote was then taken on the first motion which passed by voice vote.

Susan Pigorsch suggested that there be additional citizen involvement in looking at growth in the Town. She presented percentage increases in development and suggested that a new committee be established to look at the issue. Manfred Enburg said he agreed that the current committee work has a silo nature to it and cross coordination would be useful. He also raised concerns about taking on new public roads. He said the Town has to grow but the impacts on budget need to be

fully understood. Rosemary Bodolay added that she thought a new committee was a great idea and suggested that it could be an ad hoc committee with a specific timeframe for study. Bill Keen raised a concern about being able to get people involved. Doug Maxwell of Mid Town Road endorsed the idea of a committee to look at growth, but also cautioned most of the impacts on the Town like road wear and tear are regional impacts. Motion by Susan Pigorch to suggest that the Town Board establish an ad hoc committee to work across the other committee and study the impact of growth on the Town. Manfred Enburg offered a friendly amendment that the committee be charged with making specific recommendations to the Town Board; second by Rosemary Bodolay. Motion carried unanimously.

Bill Keen asked about any updates on the sand mining operations on Highway 69. Mark Geller responded that a representative from Payne and Dolan had come to the Board about six months ago and given a report, but no new or additional information was available. He offered to follow up and get an update. David Combs reminded the group that there were several provisions to the Conditional Use Permit for the operation and suggested that those be reviewed. He also raised concerns about the Town potentially improving roads that could be annexed into the City of Verona or Madison, like Valley Road.

Mark Geller asked for final comments. Being none, Manfred Enburg moved to adjourn at 8:35 p.m.; second by Bill Keen. Motion carried.

Approved:

Minutes Prepared by: Amanda Arnold