

MINUTES of the TOWN OF VERONA  
BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING AND SPECIAL TOWN MEETING  
Town of Verona Town Hall, 7669 County Highway PD, Verona  
**Tuesday, November 19, 2019 at 7:00 PM**

Citizens Present: See sign in sheet  
Staff Present: Arnold, Barnes, and Wright

AGENDA

1. Call to Order/ Convene Special Town Meeting of the Qualified Electorate Pursuant to Sec. 60.12(1)(c), Wis. Stats. – Board Chair, Mark Geller, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. and reminded those who were continuing to arrive to please sign in on the prepared sheet and to take an agenda with the prior year minutes on the obverse.
2. Consider a Motion to Confirm/amend the Suggested Agenda – Motion to approve by Terry Schnapp, 2859 Cross Country Circle; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Doug Maxwell, 11691 Mid Town Road. Motion carried by voice vote.
3. Approve Meeting Minutes from 11/20/2018 – Motion to approve by Lee Stilwell of 1730 Beach Road; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bill Keen of 2021 Manhattan Drive. Motion carried by voice vote.
4. Presentation of 2020 Budget/Review on Long Range Funding Issues – Mark Geller asked that those present hold their questions until the PowerPoint presentation has concluded. Geller noted that the Town continues to have no general obligation debt. He briefly reviewed how the levy is determined and how that number divided by the Town's final equalized value determines the local mill rate. He reviewed the options for exceeding/increasing the allowable levy. The need has arisen and will continue due to increases to costs for senior services programs and emergency management services as well as increasing capital costs that include rolling stock, roads, bridges, computers, etc. Furthermore, he noted, the Town's reserve balance is in need of increase per the advice by Johnson Block, the firm that conducts the Town's annual financial audit. The current allowable levy would result in a local mill rate of about \$3.17 per thousand dollars of valuation; he noted that the local mill rate the preceding year was about \$3.75 per thousand – the reduction was due to the 2019 revaluation that was required to increase property values to current market value. After multiple special and regular budget meetings, the Town Board is seeking to exceed the allowable levy by 2.5% by resolution. This would result in a local mill rate of approximately \$3.26 per thousand dollars of valuation.

Geller noted that the proposed 2020 budget includes money for stormwater management to address regional stormwater issues. Also, more funds are to be set aside to address employee sick leave, obligations for retired employee health insurance, etc. The Town is also planning to contract for a more secure website so that online electronic payments will be possible. The budget includes the replacement of the 2007 plow truck. In 2023, the Town is planning to replace the existing bridge on Valley Road assuming a cost share with Federal aid. Per the annual audit review, the ideal amount to restore an emergency reserve is 15-30% of the annual budget; it is currently at 13%.

5. Public Hearing Regarding Proposed 2020 Town General Fund Budget – Mark Geller opened the public hearing at 7:24 PM. Martha Maxwell of 11691 Mid Town Road questioned whether the proposed 2.5% increase was every successive year beginning in 2020? Chair Geller stated that tonight's proposed action by resolution would approve a 2.5% increase over the allowable levy for 2020. Bob Bovy of 7648 County Highway PD asked about the reserve balance. There was a quick review of unassigned and assigned reserves. Unassigned funds included money left in the checking account at the end of each year. Assigned accounts include the one for future assessment costs associated with a future revaluation; the funds in this account were liquidated in 2019 to pay for the Interim Market Update and will need to be replenished before the next revaluation seven to eight years from now. Geller noted that the reserve accounts total around \$284,000 which is an approximate decrease of \$10,000 compared with the prior year. Lee Stilwell of 1730 Beach Road noted that the Net New Construction for the 2020 budget is \$13.1 million whereas the estimate for the 2021 budget is only \$12.99 million. He asked whether this number results in a net income for the Town. Geller responded that it is a difficult question to answer. Deb Paul of 6818 Cross Country Road wondered how the Town is compensated for annexation. Geller noted that annexation pressure for the Town of Verona is large compared with other Towns in Dane County due to the proximity and growth of the City of Madison and City of Verona. The Town is compensated for five years after the annexation for the portion equal to the local tax that would otherwise have been collected; however, much of the annexed land is undeveloped, so the compensation is typically low. Furthermore, each annexation extends the extraterritorial jurisdiction boundary deeper into the Town which further restricts some possible development potential within the Town. Deb Paul asked a follow-up question regarding the ability for the Town to

have a say in increases to senior services and emergency services. Geller noted that senior service costs are based upon the portion of the population eligible for the service, not the actual number of users.

Dale Beske of 6422 Shady Bend Road asked whether the Town has considered partnering with the City of Verona for senior services instead of the Sugar River Senior Center. Geller noted that the City of Verona has recently hired a new Director and Administrator. Beske noted that if the electorate approves a 2.5% increase beyond the allowable levy this evening, that amount of increase will automatically be part of future levies as part of the allowable levy; it does not need to be approved each subsequent year. Phil Meinel of 2025 County Highway PB questioned the future plan to replace the Valley Bridge rather than repairing it instead. Town Project Manager Chris Barnes responded that the bridge is one of six in Dane County that was deemed deficient due to its recent weight restriction. John Rowley of 1385 Himsel Road, who owns some property in the Town but is a Town of Montrose resident, wondered whether the Valley Road Bridge may be annexed into the City at some point in the future. He noted that it was not designed to overtop with stormwater, yet it has a number of times. He wondered what the cost would be to redesign the road to prevent overtopping. The cost is not known, but Geller would assume if the bridge was replaced and then annexed by the City of Verona, that the City would compensate the Town for a portion of the prorated value. There followed a brief discussion regarding the differences between Local Road Improvement (LRIP) Grants available every other year and Town Road Improvement Discretionary (TRI-D) Grants which are far more competitive. Thereafter, there was brief discussion of a newly available Multimodal Local Supplement Grant; if it was awarded, then up to 90% of a project would be funded by the state with the remaining 10% representing the local obligation. It was noted that the Town spent approximately \$367,000 on road maintenance in 2019.

6. Close Public Hearing/Reconvene Town Meeting – Geller closed the public hearing at 8:08 PM.
7. Authorize the Use of Unused Levy Capacity from the Prior Year as Determined by the Wisconsin Department of Revenue and as Approved by the Town Board under Resolution 2019-07, Adopted Pursuant to s. 66.0602(3)(f) Of Wisconsin Statutes – Tom Mathies of 3121 Nor Del Hill Road moved to approve Town Board Resolution 2019-07 to use the unused levy capacity from the prior year totaling \$3,466; 2<sup>nd</sup> John Senseman of 3199 Shady Oak Lane. Motion carried by a hand count of 33 in favor and 2 opposed. 2 non-residents in attendance could not vote.
8. Consider the Adoption of a Resolution by the Town Meeting Endorsing Town Board Resolution 2019-08 which Proposes that the Town Levy Exceed the State Allowable Levy Limit under s. 66.0602 of Wisconsin Statutes; Specifically a Proposed Tax Levy which Would Exceed the Allowable Town Tax Levy for 2019 Payable 2020, Before Adjustments, by 2.5 Percent, for a Dollar Increase of \$28,404 – John Senseman moved to endorse Town Board Resolution 2019-08 to exceed the allowable Town levy for 2019 payable 2020 by \$28,404; 2<sup>nd</sup> Bill Keen. Motion carried by a hand count of 18 in favor and 17 opposed. 2 non-residents in attendance could not vote.
9. Adopt the 2019 Town Tax Levy to be paid in 2020 Pursuant to Section 60.10(1)(a), Wisconsin Statutes for the Proposed Amount of \$1,162,049. Tom Mathies moved to approve a total levy of \$1,162,049; 2<sup>nd</sup> John Senseman. Motion carried by voice vote.
10. Motion to Adjourn Special Town Meeting – the Town Chair adjourned the Special Town Meeting/Public Hearing for the 2020 Budget at 8:18 PM.

Approved:

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John Wright  
Clerk/Treasurer, Town of Verona