

**Town of Verona**  
**Town Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, February 6, 2024 – 6:30 pm**

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

1. Call to Order/Approval of the Agenda – Chair Geller called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Motion by Duerst to approve the agenda, second by Mathies. Motion carried by voice vote.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Public Comment – Mike & Pat Ehly, 6370 Demarco Trail, submitted a list of questions regarding the Fitchrona Road reconstruction project.
4. Approval of minutes from January 2, 2024. Motion by Mathies to approve the minutes from January 2, 2024, second by Lonsdorf. Motion carried by voice vote.
5. Public Hearing: Discontinuance of a Portion of Hidden River Road
  - a. Motion to open Public Hearing by Geller at 6:38 pm
  - b. Dusty Post, 1990 Hidden River Road; he asked if the discontinuance is complete after the board meeting tonight
  - c. Public hearing closed at 6:41 pm by Geller
6. Committee Reports
  - A. Plan Commission
    1. Discussion and Possible Action: 2023-OA-068 Amending Chapter 10 of the Dane County Code of Ordinances Regarding the Review Process for Conditional Use Permits. Gaskell introduced the ordinance changes from the county. The Plan Commission voted to recommend approval at their January meeting. Motion by Geller to approve Dane County 2023-OA-068 Amending Chapter 10 of the Dane County Code of Ordinances Regarding the Review Process for Conditional Use Permits, second by Mathies. Discussion by board. Motion carried by voice vote.
    2. Discussion and Possible Action: Land Use Application 2024-01 Rezone of 2744 Cross Country Circle submitted by the Town of Verona to correct a zoning clerical error. Gaskell reviewed the rezone application. The Plan Commission voted to recommend approval of the rezone at their January meeting. Motion by Mathies to approve Land Use Application 2024-01 Rezone of 2744 Cross Country Circle to correct a clerical error that occurred after county board approval of the Town's Blanket Rezone Petition 11772, second by Duerst. Discussion by board. Motion carried by voice vote.
  - B. Public Works

1. Discussion and Possible Action: Inter-Governmental Agreement with the City of Fitchburg for Design Engineering Cost Sharing re: the Fitchrona Road Reconstruction Project. Barnes introduced the agreement. He addressed all of the Ehly's questions. Discussion by board. Motion by Geller to approve Inter-Governmental Agreement with the City of Fitchburg for Design Engineering Cost Sharing re: the Fitchrona Road Reconstruction Project, second by Duerst. Motion carried by voice vote.
  2. Discussion and Possible Action: Resolution 2024-1 Discontinuance of a Portion of Hidden River Road. Motion by Duerst to refer Resolution 2024-1 Discontinuance of a Portion of Hidden River Road to the Town of Verona Plan Commission for consideration at their next regularly scheduled Plan Commission meeting, second by Mathies. Motion carried by voice vote.
  3. Discussion and Possible Action: Motion by the Public Works Committee to recommend to the board that the town purchase a tractor boom mower combination unit (used tractor) not to exceed \$160,000 based on the best value of combination of available equipment. Duerst explained the options for purchasing the boom mower. Motion by Duerst to approve ordering a boom mower for \$160,000, second by Mathies. Discussion by board. Mathies asked how much will this be used annually– Duerst stated we only rent one once per year. Barnes stated that we mow right of ways 3 times per year, it is difficult to mow, this would replace the ditch bank mower. Lonsdorf is concerned about oak wilt damage and asked about how this will pay for itself over time. Barnes stated the 6-to-9-year payback is based on 200 hours per year. Lonsdorf feels this isn't really a cost saving but is allowing the town more service ability. Geller wants to budget for the maintenance of the mower. Barnes stated that he estimated about \$5,000 per year for maintenance. Geller respects the public works decision to purchase but feels more information is needed.  
Motion to table by Mathis, second by Paul. Motion carried by voice vote.
  4. Discussion and Possible Action: Motion by the Public Works Committee to recommend to the Board to add Flint Lane to the 2024 Road Projects for bidding. Barnes explained that estimate is under budget and stated this is a good road to add to this year's projects. Motion by Geller to add Flint Lane to the 2024 road projects for bidding, second by Duerst. Discussion by board. Motion carried by voice vote.
- C. Finance Committee – no meeting
- D. Natural and Recreational Areas – no meeting
- E. EMS Commission – Lonsdorf was unable to attend
- F. Senior Services Committee – Paul stated meeting scheduled for February 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:45 pm
7. Town Chair's Business – Geller stated that Country View Road will be closed the end of February for at least 10 months. Annual Town Board Workshop will be held in May.
  8. Supervisor Announcements - none

## 9. Staff Reports

- A. Administrator/Planner Report was included in the packet. Gaskell stated that we will need to reschedule April meeting due to the election.
- B. Public Works Director Report was included in the packet. Barnes stated that this is his 5<sup>th</sup> year and he really appreciates working for the town. Mathies asked about the MMSD stakeholder meeting, Barnes stated that this month they will be combining ideas and will look at what the objective is and what is necessary to achieve that objective.
- C. Clerk/Treasurer Report was included in the packet.

## 10. Unfinished Business

## 11. New Business

- A. Discussion and Possible Action: Amendment to the Town of Verona Employee Manual to address sick time accrual. Gaskell introduced the proposal and is requesting changing the employee manual to 4 hours for part-time employees and 8 hours for full time. Motion by Geller to update the employee to 2 hours per 40 hours worked, equal to 8 hours per month, second by Duerst. Motion carried by voice vote.
- B. Discussion and Possible Action: Resolution 2024-02 Amendment to Chapter 1 of the Town of Verona Code of Ordinances. Gaskell stated she spoke to the town attorney regarding updating the order of business. Mathies states that this should be an ordinance change not a resolution. Lonsdorf requested that Reports from Department Heads be changed to Staff Reports. Geller suggested that this be cleaned up and brought back to board. Item L needs to remain per town attorney. Discussion by board.
- C. Discussion and Possible Action: Letter from Allen D. Reuter regarding the Intergovernmental Road Maintenance Agreement between the Towns of Verona and Middleton. Motion by Mathies to approve letter from town attorney regarding the intergovernmental road maintenance agreement between the Towns of Verona and Middleton, second by Duerst. Motion carried by voice vote.

## 12. Check Register Review

## 13. Other

- 14. Motion by Mathies to adjourn, second by Duerst, meeting adjourned without objection at 8:54 pm.