

Town of Verona
Town Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 2, 2024 – 6:30 pm

Town Board Members Present: Chair Mark Geller, Tom Mathies, Dave Lonsdorf, Deb Paul and Mike Duerst

Staff Present: Administrator/Planner Sarah Gaskell, Clerk/Treasurer Teresa Withee, Public Works Director Chris Barnes and Road Patrolman, Mark Judd

Others:

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 Lonsdorf. Motion carried by voice vote.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Public Comment – no comment
4. Approval of minutes from December 5, 2023. Motion by Duerst to approve the minutes from December 5, 2023, second by Lonsdorf. Motion carried by voice vote.
5. Committee Reports
 - A. Plan Commission – no meeting
 - B. Public Works – Duerst stated they discussed the purchase of a boom mower. The Public Works Committee will continue to work on the topic and bring it back to the board in February.
 - C. Finance Committee
 1. Discussion and Possible Action: 2024 Town of Verona Fee Schedule. Mathies introduced the recommended fee increases from the finance committee. Development escrow was discussed, there will need to be more research to determine fees, this will be brought back to the board at a later date. Motion by Mathies to approve the 2024 Town of Verona Fee changes as discussed, second by Duerst. Motion carried by voice vote.
 - D. Natural and Recreational Areas – Lonsdorf stated they finished the Draft Natural and Recreational Areas Plan for review.
 - E. EMS Commission – No Meeting
 - F. Senior Services Committee – Paul stated they were 35 applicants for the Case Manager position. They are short staffed, and they need a Lead Case Manager and Assistant Director. The Center has purchased a transportation van.

- G. Town Chair's Business – Geller stated he attended Country View neighborhood meeting; Joint City, Town and EPIC meeting regarding roads and the Fire District Annual Meeting. On December 18th, he attended the sentencing hearing for the former Bellville Senior Center Director. She received 4 months and must pay restitution. She will also face tax evasion charges. There are no contested races for town board.
- H. Supervisor Announcements – Duerst gave an update on the Herfel property. Mathies stated the Dane County Towns Association meeting this month will be via zoom. Paul asked about the information that was sent out from WTA changing speed limits on town roads. Mathies stated that there is a bill being reviewed to allow towns more control over speed limits.

6. Staff Reports

- A. Administrator/Planner Report was included in the packet. Mathies asked if she has heard back from residents regarding comp plan, she has heard back from four and some residents have declined.
- B. Public Works Director Report was included in the packet. Paul asked when the Fitchrona road is scheduled, Barnes stated 2025.
- C. Clerk/Treasurer Report was included in the packet. Withee stated that December tax collections were \$3,365,590 and today \$522,072 was collected. 68 dog licenses have been issued to date. Mathies asked if anyone has paid taxes online, Withee stated there has been one person so far.

7. Old Business

8. New Business

- A. Discussion: 2023 Budget to Actual Review. Gaskell presented an overview reviewed. Mathies would like the auditors to determine the Whalen Road payment from MG&E if this is considered a 2023 or 2024 expense. Paul asked if we can use the 2023 budget to increase other categories, Gaskell stated the 2023 budget was used as the basis for the 2024 budget.
- B. Motion by Geller to go into Closed Session per Wis. Stats. §19.85 (1) (c): Considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility. RE: discuss staff performance evaluations and compensation, second by Duerst. Roll call vote – Mathies; aye, Lonsdorf; aye, Paul; aye, Duerst; aye, Geller; aye. Motion carried.
- C. Motion by Duerst to return to open session, second by Mathies. Motion carried by voice vote. 8:58
- D. Discussion and Possible Action: Issues discussed in closed session. Motion by Mathies, second by Lonsdorf to approve staff bonuses as discussed in closed session. Motion carried by voice vote.

9. Motion by Mathies to adjourn, second by Lonsdorf, meeting adjourned without objection at 8:59 pm.

Prepared by Teresa Withee, Town Clerk

Approved: February 6, 2024