

Regular Meeting of the Verona Town Board

Oneida County, New York

6:00 pm on Wednesday November 6, 2024

Verona Town Office Building, 6600 Germany Road, Durhamville, New York

Board Members in attendance:

Scott Musacchio, Supervisor
Jeff Kahler, Councilman
Fred Scherz Jr., Councilman
Dan Breckenridge, Councilman

Absent:

Kenneth Brewer, Councilman

Others in attendance:

Amy Kotwica, Town Clerk
Debby Smart, Planning Board Secretary
Tim Dodge, Water Operator in Responsible Charge
Dan Maciag, Codes Enforcement Officer
Sue Strain, Assessor

Citizens: 16

Call to Order with Pledge of Allegiance @ 6:01pm

A. Supervisors' Report:

Ken Brewer will not be with us today, due to an emergency at work.

B. Approval of minutes from the October 7, 2024, Regular Town Board Meeting.

Councilman Kahler made motion to approve minutes as presented.

Councilman Breckenridge seconded the motion.

All those in favor: 3

All opposed: 0

Motion passes

C. Public Hearing: 2025 Budget Adoption @ 6:15 pm

Councilman Scherz motioned to open the public hearing at 6:18pm.

Councilman Kahler seconded the motion.

All those in favor: 3

All those opposed: 0

Motion passes.

Good News, the tax rate has dropped from last year – \$1.86 per thousand, last year was (\$2.04 per thousand) Board was able to move funds and utilize surplus from 2024.

Projections from Oneida County for sales tax are 10-12% more over last year, HW held the line with expenses, added in new water system WD#3 – if there is a sales tax formula change (board has no say) or the economic devolvement funds (OIN \$350,000) changes in the future, changes will need to be made in the taxes – There will be additional monies laid out for the new water district. We will need to send a letter to the state, explaining there is no need for the Tax Cap.

RC: How much do we get for the cell phone tower?

TB: \$15,000 annually – it's on the ground lease, and we get extended coverage here at the building.

RC: If OIN owns the land, and leases it to another entity, do they have to pay taxes?

TB: This still falls under the agreement with the County / State no tax moneys will be collected.

The cap for the OIN to purchase is 25,000 acres across all of Madison and Oneida County.

Councilman Scherz motioned to close the public hearing at 6:37pm

Councilman Kahler seconded the motion.

All those in favor: 3

All those opposed: 0

Motion passes.

Councilman Kahler made a motion to adopt the 2025 Preliminary Budget as the final budget for 2025. Attached.

Councilman Scherz seconded the motion.

All those in favor: 3

All those opposed: 0

Motion passes.

A roll call vote for passing the 2025 Final Budget resulted as follows:

Councilman Scherz Aye

Councilman Kahler Aye

Councilman Breckenridge Aye

Supervisor Musacchio Aye

The 2025 Final Budget is hereby duly adopted.

D. County Legislator Report.

Cynthia Witt: Reminded everyone that is breast cancer awareness month and to do self-exams, it saved her life.

Keith Scheibel: Norman Leech in Vienna tonight; Tornado relief funding, approved \$500,000 supplemental appropriation for Family and community Services, Money for Sherri road patrol vehicles; Elections commissioners reappointed

There is a Town Hall Community Forum on 11/20 at 6pm at "The Spot" in Vernon and another one on 12/11 at 6pm at "The Spot"

E. Public Concerns

RC: House next to Scatches in New London, where is that at? It's dangerous.

TB: The owners have a couple weeks to respond to the violation notice/ticket. If there is no response from the owner, the town will have to take down the house, then the cost gets added to the tax bill for the parcel. There are several places around town that, that should happen with. It's a matter of the town taking on that cost, and waiting to get reimbursed.

RC: What about Canal St house?

TB: The owner was also sent a notice.

RC: Every year the state sprays the Cicero Swamp, why don't they spray the canal?

TB: Scott can write to the DEC for that, we don't own the land, therefore it has to be via the state.

RC: Did we send trucks to Rome for the Tornado clean up?

Billy: Yes, it was under the shared services agreement.

RC: What did Verona get out of it?

Billy: Rome helped with a 17' culvert in Verona Beach and always allows use of their equipment when asked.

RC: I see a new furnace out in the garage? What was decided on?

Billy: Propane boiler – 3 bids were accepted and Ber-more was the lowest.

RC: Sterling Road, paved not long ago – we dug it up and put in a pipe. Why?

Billy: the culvert collapsed on it. That is why the culverts on Germany Road were replaced this year, due to it being on the plan for paving in 2025.

RC: Low bid High bid stuff – (directed to Scott) last month you mentioned comparing apples to apples it doesn't compare, what does that mean?

TB: The county bid is sent out and each company has a scope of work that needs to be bid, some companies have additional options that are available. You can choose from the additional options/services that are needed per road/area.

RC: You choose Suit-Kote every year – they were the high bid.

Billy: They were not the high bid and they did pave and milling.

TB: Are you going to get in on the Bid?

RC: It doesn't matter, you don't have to use the County bid – you can bid it out yourself.

You don't use milling every year – it's separate.

TB: The Highway Superintendent runs the roads, he discusses with the Board, but it is the decision of the Superintendent. He has the training for roads management, we defer to him.

RC: On sidecut road they used more than 2" of pavement, it was close to 6-7" – there is no 2% grade. Start at the center of the road, not the edge.

TB: Billy starts looking at paving companies via the county Bid in the Spring, we will keep that in mind.

F. Reports:

1. Water Operator in Responsible Charge – Tim Dodge

- Serviced wastewater pumps at all three pump stations
- DSNY requests
- Drained and pumped water mains in the Ext3 district
- Winterized Town Park restroom and concession stand

- Inspected new sewer service for the Dollar General
- We (Scott) want to meet with Rome Mayor next week – he is willing to eliminate the quarterly min charge until next year. Ken K. will you be around to go over/meet with Brandon? The meeting will be set.

2. Dog Control Officer – Sue Gardinier

- No complaints
- 4 dogs picked up – 1 went to Rover do Over - 3 owners pick up and licensed

TB: Dog Kennel will be about \$100,000; Amy was able to find a 90/10 grant that will definitely aid in that cost to fulfill those regulations.

RC: Where will that be built?

TB: possibly near the pump station, not close to the road – don't want any dogs barking at passers-by.

3. Assessor – Susan Strain

- Processed 21 sales, 16 welcome packets sent out
- 73 open building permits
- Training new assessor
- Preparing exemption renewals to be sent out in December

4. Codes Enforcement Officer – Dan Maciag

- Building permits 12
- Seawall Insulation 1
- Stop work orders 1
- Property Maintenance 5
- Violation notices 2
- Certificate of compliance 10
- Certificate of occupancy 4
- Inspections 24
- Footings 6
- Foundations 4
- Plumbing Heating Framing 7
- Misc inspections 5

(2) 911 call – Verona Post Office and Marion Apartments – both vehicles hitting buildings

RC: the town is liable for volunteer Fire Departments comp; therefore, can homes be condemned so fireman do not enter?

Dan: send me an email with the locations of concern and I'll look into them.

Also, fire on Sconodoo Road, owner has no way to remove the debris, town getting information on costs for that removal.

5. Planning Board – Peter Kaido

- Bell Atlantic Cell Tower for review
- Veneto scheduled for a public hearing at 7:15

6. Highway Superintendent – Billy Lohr

- Finished up mowing
- took care of tree stumps and trimming
- Cut in shoulders
- all summer equipment washed and put away

7. Town Clerk – Amy Kotwica

- Decals 4
- Certified copies 8
- public hearings 1
- Dog Licenses 65
- Building permits 13
- sewer installers license 1
- Other permits 1

Route 46 Bridge to be opened on or about the 27th of November 26, 2024

8. Zoning Board – Henry Gerwig

- Special permit for Beautician out of their house, public hearing is scheduled

9. SWOCO – Ken Brewer – not in attendance

10. OCAOT – Fred Scherz

- Dinner on November 21 at Michael T's in New Hartford
- Veterans Thank you Dinner at the Verona VFW Hosted by the Scherz Family

G. New Business:

1. Approve Payment of the MVP bill in the amount of \$27,559.23
Councilman Kahler motioned to approve the MVP bill.
Councilman Breckenridge seconded the motion.
All those in favor: 3
All those opposed: 0
Motion passes.
2. Discussion & Approval to accept the Map and Plan for the existing sewer districts for the proposed Comprehensive Pump Station Asset Renewal project.
Ken: Study start a while ago, a comprehensive evaluation of the pump stations that were built in the mid 90’2 and 100% paid for by the Oneida Indian Nation. Each station is about 30 years old. A few pump replacements and work over the years. With the expansion of the sewer districts, the pumps have started to hit their capacity. Improvement of facilities project, gives us a map and plan including flows, and maps of locations. A laundry list of improvements – project is just over 4million (included inflation) Identified max amount of \$4.24 million to be expended with a mid-point of construction of in 2026. All sewer users in Verona will use these upgrades. Nation accounts for about 84% of EDU’s. Any debit service will also be allocated accordingly. 10 years at 4.5% interest – (no grants for this type of service) would equal about \$114 per EDU annually for residents.
Councilman Kahler motioned to accept the map and plan.
Councilman Breckenridge seconded the motion.
All those in favor: 3
All those opposed: 0
Motion passes
3. Discussion & Approval for consideration of the Part 1 Short EAF for an Unlisted Action and to initiate a coordinated review with resolution of intent for the Town of Verona to be Lead Agent for the proposed Comprehensive Pump Station Asset Renewal Project
Ken: Part 1 of the short EAF all work is tied to existing sites – no environmental impacts
Resolution 24-012 Comprehensive Pump Station Asset Renewal Project declaring the intent of the Town of Verona Town Board to act as lead Agency.
Adoption of the forgoing resolution was duly put to a vote, and upon roll call, the vote was as follows:
Councilman Scherz Aye
Councilman Breckenridge Aye
Councilman Kahler Aye
Supervisor Musacchio Aye
4. Discussion & Approval for no-cost amendment to cover the ongoing funding and pipe bridge services regarding Water Extension Project #3.
No-Cost amendment – moving from one budget line to another
Ken: continuing to look for additional grant funds, pipe bridge has been submitted, waiting on approval from Coast Guard – then the DOH and EFC to authorize change order
Councilman Kahler motioned to approve the no-cost amendment.
Councilman Breckenridge seconded the motion.
All those in favor: 3
All those opposed: 0
Motion passes
5. Discussion & Approval to accept the Map, Plan and Reports for the proposed NYSTA Water District and proposed NYSTA Sewer District for the extension of public water and sewer to the NYS Thruway Authority Maintenance Facility located at Exit 33 and NY Rte. 365
Councilman Kahler motioned to accept the map and plan.
Councilman Breckenridge seconded the motion.
All those in favor: 3
All those opposed: 0
Motion passes

6. Discussion & Approval for consideration of the Part 1 Full EAF for a Type I Action and to initiate a coordinated review with resolution of intent for the Town of Verona to be Lead Agent for the proposed NYSTA Water and Sewer District formations and associated infrastructure improvements.

Resolution 24-011 Resolution declaring the intent of the town of Verona town board to act as lead agency

Adoption of the forgoing resolution was duly put to a vote, and upon roll call, the vote was as follows:

Councilman Scherz	Aye	Councilman Breckenridge	Aye
Councilman Kahler	Aye	Supervisor Musacchio	Aye

7. Discussion and Approval to transfer the following General (.1), Highway (.3), Willow Place Project (.36) & Sewer District (.37) funds:

- \$48,200.00 from 13204.1 to 16204.1
- \$1,800.00 from 13204.1 to 90558.3
- \$530.70 from 71104.1 to 71101.1
- \$2,862.92 from 51122.36 to 14402.36
- \$8,479.74 from 51122.36 to 50202.36
- \$.01 from 81104.37 to 97107.37
- \$1541.38 from 51201.3 to 51101.3
- \$1537.93 from 51201.3 to 51121.3
- \$11,000 from 5120.4 & \$25,000 from 5140.4 to 5130.4

Councilman Kahler motioned to approve the transfers

Councilman Scherz seconded the motion.

All those in favor: 3

All those opposed: 0

Motion passes

8. Discussion and approval to pay Barton & Loguidice Invoice #24 for \$1,259.88 for the Willow Place Project.

Grant Driven Funds

Councilman Kahler motioned to approve payment.

Councilman Scherz seconded the motion.

All those in favor: 3

All those opposed: 0

Motion passes

9. Discussion and approval to pay Barton & Loguidice Invoice #25 for \$4,087.98 for the Willow Place Project.

Councilman Kahler motioned to approve payment.

Councilman Scherz seconded the motion.

All those in favor: 3

All those opposed: 0

Motion passes

10. Discussion and approval to WA Rutz Contracting Invoice #11052024 for \$2,740.57 for the purchase of materials to insulate the boiler room.

Materials at cost – preform the installation on duty

Contacted Ber Mor and the estimate was over \$6,000

110 gallons worth of product

All the roofing needed to be re-done as well

Concrete has been poured, by HW employees

Old fuel oil, is going to shared service – the newer equipment it's not recommended to use the oil

Propane tanks to go outback and travel underground to the furnace

Councilman Scherz motioned to approve payment.

Councilman Kahler seconded the motion.

All those in favor: 3

All those opposed: 0

Motion passes

H. Vouchers:

1. Prepaids

\$376,297.44

Councilman Kahler motioned to approve.

Councilman Breckenridge seconded the motion.

All those in favor: 3

All those opposed: 0

Motion passes
2. General

\$ 23,949.56

Councilman Kahler motioned to approve.

Councilman Scherz seconded the motion.

All those in favor: 3

All those opposed: 0

Motion passes
3. Highway

\$ 23,941.00

Councilman Kahler motioned to approve.

Councilman Scherz seconded the motion.

All those in favor: 3

All those opposed: 0

Motion passes

I. Adjournment

Councilman Scherz made a motion to adjourn at 7:44pm.
Councilman Kahler seconded the motion.
All those in favor: 3
Any opposed: 0
Motion carries.

Scott Musacchio, Supervisor: _____

Jeff Kahler, Councilman: _____

Ken Brewer, Councilman _____

Fred Scherz Jr., Councilman: _____

Dan Breckenridge, Councilman: _____

Amy Kotwica, Town Clerk: _____