

Regular Meeting of the Verona Town Board

Oneida County, New York

6:00 pm on Wednesday, September 3, 2025

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

Board Members in attendance:

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

Others in attendance:

Amy Kotwica, Town Clerk	Billy Lohr, Highway Superintendent
Debby Smart, Planning Board Secretary	Tim Dodge, Water Operator in Responsible Charge
Lauren Harris, Assessor	Henry Gerwig, Zoning Board Chairman
Dan Maciag, Codes Enforcement Officer	Sue Gardinier, Dog Control Officer

Citizens: 18

Call to Order at 6pm with the Pledge of Allegiance

A. Supervisors' Report

- Water Project still moving ahead, foundations are in place for the pipe bridge
- Pump station is moving along looking at best case for water service 2nd/3rd quarter of 2026

B. Approval of minutes from August 4, 2025, Regular Town Board Meeting.

Councilman Kahler made a motion to approve.

Councilman Scherz seconded the motion.

All those in favor: 4

Any opposed: 0

Motion carries.

C. Public Hearing @ 6:15pm: Durhamville Sewer Project Cost Amendment

Motion to open the Public Hearing at 6:17pm made by Councilman Scherz.

Councilman Brewer seconded the motion.

All those in favor: 4

Any opposed: 0

Motion carries.

Ken Knutsen, gave overview of project. A Map Plan and Report were submitted and efforts have been made to solicit grant dollars. Looking at a 2028 construction season, therefore we need to inflate the cost to \$13.3 million, to take into account inflation and unforeseen expenses. This also allows us to apply for additional grant dollars. Public hearing is to hear from the residents that are within the district.

Public Concerns/Comments on the amendment:

RC: Does this sewer take away the need for individual septic's?

TB: Yes, this will aid those residents with the current issues, including fecal matter found in the canal.

Once the funding is in place for the current district, extensions will be researched and pursued if needed.

RC: Is everyone in the sewer/water line mandated to hook up?

TB: No, they are not required, but they will be responsible for the debt service.

RC: Is every residence being tested to be an issue or cause the existing problem.

TC: No, the area has been deemed unsafe, if we don't do something, the county will step in and they do not look for grants and so on, the cost could be much greater. Income surveys were completed and the area qualifies for a 0% loan for 30 years.

This is only the hamlet of Durhamville.

TB: I understand the lines of \$7.8 million for Construction \$2 million in Engineering costs \$3.2 million contingency – do we feel the \$3.2 million contingency will be spent?

B&L: EFC requires, at this stage of the project is a 30% contingency.
TB: It's easy to reduce the cost and more difficult to increase the cost due to grant submissions and requests.
Motion to close the Public Hearing at 6:30pm made by Councilman Scherz.
Councilman Brewer seconded the motion.
All those in favor: 4
Any opposed: 0
Motion carries.

- 9. Discussion & Approval resolution for the Town of Verona, Oneida County, New York in accordance with Town Law Section 202-b, determining that it is in the public interest to undertake improvements to the Durhamville Sewer District and further authorizing the Town to submit applications to the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation and others for grant funding and financial assistance in connection therewith.

Resolution 25-010 The Town Board for the Town of Verona, Oneida County NY in accordance with town law section 202-b, determining that it is tin the public interest to undertake improvements to the Durhamville Sewer District and Further authorizing the Town to submit applications to the New York state environmental facilities corporation and others for grant funding and financial assistance in connection therewith.

The foregoing Resolution was read and put to a vote on the members of the Town Board of the Town this September 3, 2025, the result of which vote was follows:

Scott Musacchio, Supervisor	Aye
Ken Brewer, Councilperson	Aye
Daniel Breckenridge, Councilperson	Aye
Fred Scherz, Councilperson	Aye
Jeff Kahler, Councilperson	Aye

- 10. Discussion & Approval resolution for the Town of Verona, Oneida County, New York, adopted September 3, 2025 amending and restating a bond resolution adopted April 1 2024, authorizing improvements to the Durhamville Sewer District at an estimated maximum cost of \$13,300,000, appropriating said amount therefor, and authorizing the issuance of up to \$13,300,000 of bond anticipation notes and serial bonds of the town to pay the cost of the project.

Resolution 25-011 The Town Board for the Town of Verona, Oneida County, NY, adopted September 3, 2025 amending and restating a bond resolution adopted April 1, 2024, authorizing improvements to the Durhamville Sewer District at an estimated maximum cost of \$13,300,00, appropriating said amount therefor, and authorizing the issuance of up to \$13,300,000 of bond anticipation notes and serial bonds of the town to pay the cost of the project

The foregoing Resolution was read and put to a vote on the members of the Town Board of the Town this September 3, 2025, the result of which vote was follows:

Scott Musacchio, Supervisor	Aye
Ken Brewer, Councilperson	Aye
Daniel Breckenridge, Councilperson	Aye
Fred Scherz, Councilperson	Aye
Jeff Kahler, Councilperson	Aye

- 11. Consideration and authorization for Supervisor to execute the Agreement for Engineering Design, Bidding and Construction Phase Services with Barton & Loguidice for the Durhamville Sewer District.

12. Resolution authorizing the Town Supervisor to act on behalf of the Town of Verona as the Authorized Official to apply for a 2025 WIIA grant for the Town's Durhamville Sewer District.

Councilman Scherz made a motion to approve both 11 & 12.

Councilman Kahler seconded the motion.

All those in favor: 4

Any opposed: 0

Motion carries.

D. Kelly Ross: 2025 Park Program Update

- 96 kids (34 more than last year)

- Age range 3-13

- Field Trips:

Fort Rickey great place; Verona Beach again, great due to the heat; Marquee Cinema – great as well.

- Additional activities:

- Upscale Exotic

- Foam Lady

- Sherrill Library every Thursday – kids got cards that didn't have them

- They would do a book reading and a craft that goes along with the book

- Kids LOVED the sand pit – Great Job by Highway on the walkway, this allowed us to wheel everything right down to the pavilion.

- VVS provided 500 meals Breakfast/Lunch – delivered from JD George

- Pizza on Wed – Chicken Tenders – Milk, juice, pop tarts

2015 had 135 kids

2021 only 59 kids (covid year)

2024 62 kids

RC: Earlier in the year you had asked for permission to allow out of town children to attend, how many did you end up with this year?

Kelly: We had 2, they came in late in the program, we need to work on advertising better for next year!

E. County Legislator Reports: not in attendance

F. Public Concerns

RC: Cornell St. kids in the road, that will not move out of the way, they hit the car – a parent slammed his hand on my window and yelled at me

TB: The Sherriff's need to be contacted, we have not authority

RC: There is also basketball hoops in the road that they will not move

TB: Do we know these kids?

RC: They just moved to the area, it's more than one family, the parents do not care that the kids are wandering around

This has been going on for months, there have been numerous complaints and calls to the Sherriff's and Troopers. The most recent was on the 16th, a neighbor called the sheriffs, because the kids put a dent in her house. The kids, dug up all rock at end bay of FD property. Neighbors are directly being harassed by the kids as well. They are all ages, toddler up to teenagers. They are taunting neighborhood dogs, and individuals that are outside in their own yard. Sherriff said that the FD is a public building, so if someone gets hurt it's on the property owner. They broke the lights on the tree and deer, twice in the memorial park. Threats on Social Media from the parents to the general public about their kids getting charged and the repercussions to the residents.

TB: Kelly will get personal information and send to Scott. Scott will reach out to the Sheriff's and the Troopers.

RC: Who is in charge of the men working on the pump station?

TB: We ultimately are.

RC: We have asked repeatedly that they not park in in front of the bay doors.

TB: We will again speak with them, Ken (B&L) will contact the onsite director.

G. Reports:

1. Water Operator in Responsible Charge – Tim Dodge
 - Repaired sewer lateral Lake Shore South
 - DSNY requests
 - Installed 2 new fire hydrants in Durhamville
 - Lawn restoration, topsoil and seed
 - Working with B&L on Pump Station improvements
 - Pump Station in New London in underway
 - Snyder Road has been resurfaced but Time has not driven on it yet
2. Dog Control Officer – Sue Gardinier
 - 2 complaints,
 - 1 dog bite – no blood, no one wants to press charges
 - 2 dogs at shelter
 - 1 returned to owner
 - 1 has a skin issue and is being treated,
(phone call from Sue (after the meeting), that Rovers DO Over was there and will not take the dog, he is aggressive)
3. Assessor – Lauren Harris
 - Continuing with normal office procedures/responsibilities.
 - Starla has worked diligently on getting the permits caught up and entered into RPS.
 - I entered 45 sales, dating back to May due to our systems being froze. Starla has done 17 welcome packets. All Sales have been transmitted to county as of 8/28/2025.
 - A letter was submitted to Amy Kotwica on August 20th, 2025 to be posted on the town website and on the town Facebook page to inform the residents that the assessor's office will no longer be handling STAR exemptions. Moving forward STAR exemptions will only be handled through contacting New York State.
 - As of 8/27/2025 I have been enrolled in my final two courses to complete my assessor's certification. I will be doing the self-study Farm Appraisal course from now until November 7th. And I will be doing the online webex for the Fundamentals of Mass Appraisal from November 18th-November 20th.

RC: Who's decision was it to move the STAR Exemptions to the State?
Lauren: The State mandated the move.
4. Codes Enforcement Officer –Dan Maciag

• Building Permits 7 • Inspections 21 • Footings 2 • Foundations 0 • Plumbing, Heating, Framing 11 • Demos 2 • Misc. Inspections 6	• Stop Work Orders 0 • Property Maintenance 4 • Violation notices 1 • Certificate of Compliance 10 • Certificate of Occupancy 6
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RC: What is the status of the house in New London with the tall grass and hidden vehicles?

Dan: That issue was sited, and before the owner could be served, it was sold online to someone else. So the process needs to start all over again.

RC: How about the house near Satches, there have been homeless witnessed there.

Dan: Will look into it again.

RC: On Rt. 46 there is a collection of boats, campers, cars, trucks, what is going on?

Dan: will look into it.

TB: Dan be sure to include and of the books that you need, in your budget and any that were noted for 2025, should be ordered.

5. Planning Board –Debby Smart

- Two –lot subdivision
- Housing unit on Rt. 365, will be back into the see us, with revisions

6. Highway Superintendent – submitted by Billy Lohr

- Ditching
- Mowing
- Patching
- Driveway Culvert
- Inspections done on everything
- Fixing Road Signs
- Assisted Water & Sewer on installing 2 fire hydrants in Durhamville
- Assisted Water & Sewer with sewer repair in Verona Beach

7. Town Clerk – Amy Kotwica

- DECALS 5
- Marriage Licenses 2
- Certified Copies 15
- Public Hearings (Zoning) 1
- Sub/Boundary Line adj 2
- Sent out Billboard Invoices – received in 7 out of 11
- Held the ER Preparedness Training class, over 40 people attended and everyone loved it
- New computers are all set up
- Working on Records retention, sorting out files for destruction according to LGS-1
- Water Permit 1
- Dog Licenses 72
- Xerox Copies 7
- Culvert Purchase 1
- Building Permit 6

RC: is there a way to carry duck stamps?

Amy: I have only ever heard of them sold at the post offices

RC: you can get them at Runnings

Amy: I look into it and see what we can do.

8. Zoning Board – Henry Gerwig

- Public hearing for a garage on Tilden Hill Road
- Yager Road variance for a house behind the current garage
- Joint public hearing coming up

9. SWOCO – Ken Brewer

- Quite Summer

F. New Business:

1. Approve Payment of the MVP bill in the amount of \$29,682.24.

Councilman Kahler made a motion to approve.

Councilman Brewer seconded the motion.

All those in favor: 4

Any opposed: 0

Motion carries.

2. Discussion & Approval to schedule budget kick off meeting and set budget hearing dates for upcoming weeks.

9.8.25 at 4:30 pm for Budget Workshop Kickoff

set up a game plan including meeting dates moving forward

Councilman Scherz made a motion to approve.

Councilman Brewer seconded the motion.

All those in favor: 4

Any opposed: 0
Motion carries.

3. Discussion & Approval to accept pay application #1 for \$35,625.00 from Jablonski Construction for the New London pump station project.

1st Draw: Grant funds

Councilman Brewer made a motion to approve.

Councilman Kahler seconded the motion.

All those in favor: 4

Any opposed: 0

Motion carries.

4. Discussion & Approval to accept pay application #1 for \$69,920.00 from Falter Construction for the New London pump station project.

Councilman Kahler made a motion to approve.

Councilman Brewer seconded the motion.

All those in favor: 4

Any opposed: 0

Motion carries.

5. Discussion & Approval to pre-register for our NYC AOT annual training 2/14/26 through 2/17/26 at a cost of \$150.00 per person. We will confirm the seven attendees. This will allow us to receive the discount.

Councilman Scherz made a motion to approve.

Councilman Kahler seconded the motion.

All those in favor: 4

Any opposed: 0

Motion carries.

6. Discussion & Approval to re-appointment Carmen Campoli to the Board of Assessment Review {BAR} for a 5-year term, ending 9/30/2030.

Councilman Kahler made a motion to approve.

Councilman Scherz seconded the motion.

All those in favor: 4

Any opposed: 0

Motion carries.

7. Discussion & Approval to transfer \$20,000.00 from 13204.1 to 14404.1, General Fund – Engineering Line.

Moving due to pump station and projects that we will be reimbursed for

Councilman Kahler made a motion to approve.

Councilman Scherz seconded the motion.

All those in favor: 4

Any opposed: 0

Motion carries.

8. Discussion & Approval to transfer \$388.79 from 73102.1 to 73101.1, General Fund – Park Program.

Councilman Brewer made a motion to approve.

Councilman Kahler seconded the motion.

All those in favor: 4

Any opposed: 0

Motion carries.

See above for 9.,10.,11.,12.

G Vouchers:

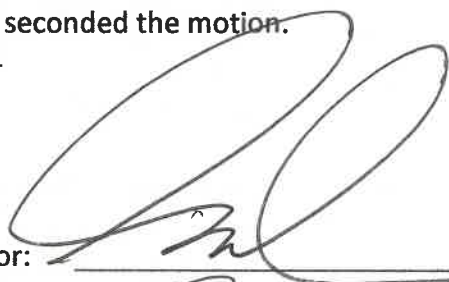
1. Prepaids \$467,550.44
 Councilman Brewer made a motion to approve.
 Councilman Kahler seconded the motion.
 All those in favor: 4
 Any opposed: 0
 Motion carries.

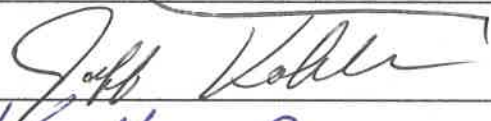
2. General \$ 68,690.50
 Councilman Brewer made a motion to approve.
 Councilman Scherz seconded the motion.
 All those in favor: 4
 Any opposed: 0
 Motion carries.

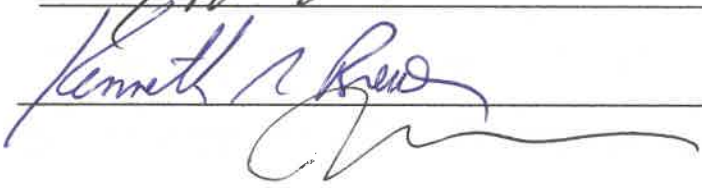
3. Highway \$298,940.44
 Councilman Brewer made a motion to approve.
 Councilman Scherz seconded the motion.
 All those in favor: 4
 Any opposed: 0
 Motion carries.

H. Adjournment

RC: Check on the tree removal in my yard.
 TB: Scott will get with Billy and ask him to call you.
 Councilman Kahler made a motion to adjourn at 7:21pm.
 Councilman Scherz seconded the motion.
 All those in favor: 4
 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: 