

Regular Meeting of the Verona Town Board

Oneida County, New York

6:00 pm on Monday, April 7 2025

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

Board Members in attendance:

Scott Musacchio, Supervisor

Jeff Kahler, Councilman

Fred Scherz Jr., Councilman

Kenneth Brewer, Councilman

Absent:

Dan Breckenridge, Councilman

Others in attendance:

Amy Kotwica, Town Clerk

Dan Maciag, Codes Enforcement Officer

Debby Smart, Planning Board Secretary

Lauren Harris, Training Assessor

Billy Lohr, Highway Superintendent

Tim Dodge, Water Operator in Responsible Charge

Citizens:

Call to Order with Pledge of Allegiance at 6:00pm

A. Supervisors' Report

1. Pipe Bridge site work has started, bridge is under construction, it will be several months out before the install can happen

B. Approval of minutes from March 3, 2025 Regular Town Board Meeting.

Councilman Brewer made a motion to approve March Meeting Minutes.

Councilman Kahler seconded the motion.

All those in favor: 3

Any opposed: 0

Motion carries.

C. County Legislator Reports

Cindy Rogers-Witt:

County looking to hire about 50 CO's that were fired from the state and some started their training already

Tipping fee at Oneida Herkimer Solid Waste was reduced for farmers that suffered collapsed barns due to the heavy snow load

D. Public Concerns

Keith Breckenridge: What's going on with the 4-wheeler trail?

TB: A couple weeks ago, I received an amendment that the club would like added, nothing has been acted on, we need to get feedback from the Board and speak with our attorney.

There will need to be a Public Hearing, prior to any changes.

They proposed changes need to be weighed, to determine the impact on the residents.

Keith Breckenridge: I get 6 hours a sleep a night for the rest of my life, because of the 4 wheelers but this is in the public interest? Who is this serving?

TB: Your complaint is justified; we have heard from others about the issues. We were for the law, due to law enforcement said they couldn't patrol without a local law – it was passed and they still have patrolled. The town is not holding anything up. It is a process. If we decide to move forward the public hearing will be in May or June.

Keith Breckenridge: They need to fix my darn road too, it's horrible.

TB: We are working with OIN, they have about 15,000 more yards of dirt to go through and then they will review.

Keith Breckenridge: Not that section, the section in front of my house. The sides of the road are falling apart. We should be embarrassed at the roads we have.

TB: asked Billy to address the road

Billy: Rough winter, the shoulder is due to widening the road, we have the guys out fixing roads now

Keith Breckenridge: That is not a shoulder

When they went through with the water line, that hasn't been fixed – I have a 4" drop into my driveway. You should be embarrassed.

Cyndi was called by a resident from Heelpath Road about a bridge/culvert, there is no guardrails and it's plugged.

TB: That land is owned by Canal Corp and there for state owned. Nothing can happen on land that the town does not own. We have gotten permission to clean out the culvert in the past, looking into that.

TB: Also, the Erie Canal grants that had been set up, have not been funded yet. We are looking for grant funds, but again we can do nothing to the canal, as we don't own it. It will cost millions and millions of dollars to get it cleaned up, water flowing again or filled in, the town can not spend tax payer money on something the town does not own. The water is key, and the canal corp. will not run water down through it. They did a 10/12 mile stretch in Rotterdam and it cost 35 million dollars – Verona has 15 miles.

RC: Are they just going to fix the Aqueduct –

TB: That Aqueduct has been leaking for years, they are trying to find and fix the issue now, they said it will take about 2 months to fix – it is under

RC: I FOIL requested both your and Dan Maciag's Oath of Office, where you swore to uphold the constitution of the US and that constitution of New York State, when I done maybe you can address that.

TB: You have threatened to sue the town all correspondence will need to go through the Town attorney.

RC: I have 3 minutes to speak – you tried to violate my first amendment right, by calling the cops on me and then trying to have me removed from a Board Meeting for addressing my grievances. (Resident, then read from the NYS Codes book on what the Codes Officer can and cannot do and what they are supposed to be doing.) And you, Scott, refuse to do anything about, the fact Mr. Maciag is not doing his job. I do not want to sue this town, I'm going to let the State handle this. Everyone should be scared, because he could happen to you. Everyone in this building with the exception of you two (Scott & Dan) are very nice to me. You have tried to have me removed from Town Hall, and you want privacy in a public building, yet you won't give me privacy in my home.

RC: Trying to find information about the building going up behind our home on Tilden Hill Road, across from BOC ES, near the solar field.

TB: you'd have to speak with the Planning Board.

Dan: It's a Maple Syrup business. They are Agriculture, we can't tell them what they can and can't do.

RC: We are concerned, because the roadway was supposed to be for the solar farm, and now it's going to be open to the public and it runs along our property. Isn't this something that should be brought to the neighbor's attention, if a business is going up near someone's property?

TB: I would strongly suggest you go to the Planning / Zoning Boards.

RC: Neil said he was going to be doing, BK, tastings and events. Selling Christmas Trees, so it doesn't sound like Ag to me.

TB: I'd attend next Mondays evenings meeting and ask your questions.

RC: STR's are they any decisions that have been made?

TB: Not yet, we are having a challenge with the difference in the hamlets within Verona, we have been looking at samples from local STR laws. Hoping by summer we'll have a draft, then we can hold a public hearing. We don't want to hinder people, but need to create something that protects all.

RC: Violation Notices, can they include a date and time that they drove by?

TB: What violation?

RC: There is supposedly weeds and two unregistered vehicles, which I have moved one to another property

TB: you will need to get with Dan

RC: When I've gotten one of these before, and I thought I did everything that was needed, I didn't get a notice saying everything was ok.

TB: how long ago was that?

RC: I don't remember, it was a different guy.

TB: where do you live?

RC: Townline Road

Dan: is this the property that you own and someone else lives there?

RC: yes, my brother lives there. Can I get a list of what needs to be taken care of?

Dan: it all has to be cleared.

RC: I just don't want to hold my breath and hope it's all good

Dan: I'm going to give you about a month, and I'll be back around and let you know if you're all set.

RC: Back to the ATV and public hearing, can we get the public hearing in May?

TB: possibly, we need to talk with the Town Attorney. Here is the thing – they talked to me about this last October, and then I didn't hear anything until 2 weeks ago.

Reports:

1. Water Operator in Responsible Charge – Tim Dodge

- Plowed and shoveled pump stations
- DSNY requests
- Started lawn and shoulder restoration from winter repairs
- Changed 2 grinder pumps
- Repaired 3 water service leaks
- Repaired 2 grinder pumps
- Valve replacement on 5/8 – for OIN near Cancer Center

2. Dog Control Officer – Sue Gardinier

- 2 complaints that were resolved

3. Assessor – Lauren Harris, Assessor in Training

- Continuing with normal office procedures/responsibilities.
- We ran notice and had available for examination the assessment inventory and valuation data as required by NYS.
- We have completed our tentative assessment roll for 2025 and sent it to the county on Thursday, April 3.
- We processed 32 sales and mailed out 12 welcome packets.
- We have 28 open building permits.
- We attended the Tug Hill Conference for Local Government on April 1. Our classes were architectural features that influence property values; the history of property tax; and equalization rates, what they are and why we need them.
- The next OCAA meeting will be on the 17th.

4. Codes Enforcement Officer – Dan Maciag

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| • Building Permits 10 | • Septic Systems or tanks 2 |
| • Inspections 20 | • Misc 8 |
| • Footings 2 | • Property maintenance 3 |
| • Plumbing, Heating, Framing 7 | • Violation notices 3 |
| • Insulation 1 | |
| • COC 9 | |
| • COO 4 | |
| • Completed and submitted Dept of State Building Standards and Codes report for 2024 | |

TB : What is the current status of the Oneida Street property ?
Dan : someone lives there, we cleaned it up and it will be attached to her taxes.

5. Planning Board – Debby Smart, Secretary
- Vento Housing project was in and addressed the concerns from B&L – hoping to give that to them next week.

6. Highway Superintendent – Billy Lohr
- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| • Went out sanding 6 times in March | • 12 tires |
| • Brush and tree clean up | • 2 bike |
| • Working on plow clean up | • 4 coolers |
| • painting plows | • 1 TV |
| • picked up 128 bags of garbage | • 1 Table |

TB: a resident from Tilden Hill road would like the HW guys to take a look at the drain near his property, a few years ago someone came out and the culvert was plugged.
Billy: Send me the resident address and we'll take a look.
TB: Does the County tell you when they start cleaning up or digging ditches?
Billy: no, they don't tell us when they plan to come out

7. Town Clerk – Amy Kotwica
- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| • 43 Certified Copies | • 1 Water Permit |
| • 2 Non-resident Notary | • 74 Dog Licenses |
| • 1 Public Hearing for Zoning | • 12 Building Permits |
| • 1 Site Plan review for Planning | • 2 Genealogy Searches |
| • 1 Sewer permit | • 1 Culvert Installation |
- EE hand book review is complete, for Board review/approval today
 - 2 PILOTs have been paid (Gwilt Memorial, Marion Manor)
 - Taxes are closed as of 3.31 collect \$4,039,470.09 89.57% of total warrant and over 2.5% was collected online
 - Started the .gov process, could take anywhere from 2 weeks to 30 days.

8. Zoning Board – Henry Gerwig
- Public hearing for a 1 foot variance in Verona Beach
 - Tear down a house and on the same foot print
 - Stoney Creek Road, train tracks

9. SWOCO – Ken Brewer
- Got a new lawn mower and will be selling the old one
 - Confirmed testing to just one per year going forward

E. New Business:

1. Approve Payment of the MVP bill in the amount of \$31,664.36
Councilman Scherz made a motion to approve.
Councilman Brewer seconded the motion.
All those in favor: 3
Any opposed: 0
Motion carries.

2. Discussion and Approval to allow Billy Lohr to purchase the 2025 Budgeted Volvo Excavator for \$280,687.00.
3. Discussion and Approval to amend the 2025 budget adding \$280,687.00 to 51302.3 Equipment and adding \$280,687.00 to revenue 3501.3 Consolidated Highway Aid.
 - Paying for the unit via the CHIPS program
 - RC: Do you have a vehicle to haul this thing on that is DOT Approved?
 - Billy: Yes, we do and it's a wheeled machine.
 - RC: Grad-all will still be kept and in good condition – it will be out ditching all the time.

Councilman Brewer made a motion to approve.

Councilman Scherz seconded the motion.

All those in favor: 3

Any opposed: 0

Motion carries.

4. Discussion & Approval of soliciting potential firms for the engineering services regarding the upcoming Durhamville Sewer Project. There will be an advertisement and review process.

- This is a required process for the grants that we have applied for.

Councilman Brewer made a motion to approve.

Councilman Kahler seconded the motion.

All those in favor: 3

Any opposed: 0

Motion carries.

5. Discussion & Approval of adopting the updated Town Employee Handbook upon review of the enacted New York State Policy Mandates prepared by the Town of Verona and One Group Inc.; a Human Resource Consulting Company.

- This should be reviewed annually, we updated all of the required policy and procedures and had OneGroup's Human Resources department review to be sure everything was included.

Councilman Kahler made a motion to approve.

Councilman Brewer seconded the motion.

All those in favor: 3

Any opposed: 0

Motion carries.

6. Discussion & Approval of the Barton & Loguidice amendment #7 submittal for \$150,000 to cost the additional engineering costs for bidding and construction of the Water Extension #3 Project which will be paid through EFC grant financing. This will be contingent on the approval modified plan of finance through the EFC Grant Program.

- Amendments 1 – 6 have been no-costs fee shifts – allocated funds to additional services
- Amendment 7 – submitted updated budget to EFC of about \$44 million within the budget there was an additional \$150,000 in engineering fees (refer to the breakout sheet) We still need to bid out Contact 1 which is the Tank rehab
- Funds are via the Grant process, not from General Fund
- About 8% of budget has been fees to B&L

Councilman Kahler made a motion to approve.

Councilman Brewer seconded the motion.

All those in favor: 3

Any opposed: 0

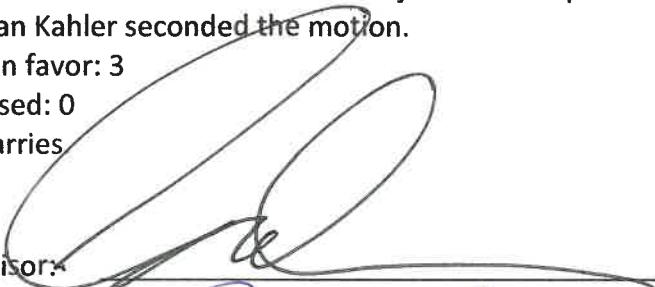
Motion carries.

1. Prepaids \$693,361.15
 Councilman Kahler made a motion to approve.
 Councilman Brewer seconded the motion.
 All those in favor: 3
 Any opposed: 0
 Motion carries.

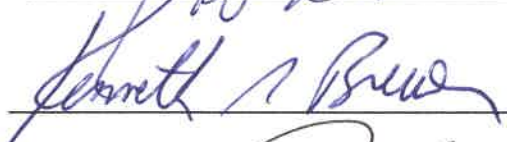
2. General \$77,075.77
 Councilman Brewer made a motion to approve.
 Councilman Kahler seconded the motion.
 All those in favor: 3
 Any opposed: 0
 Motion carries.

3. Highway \$ 220,055.18
 Councilman Brewer made a motion to approve.
 Councilman Kahler seconded the motion.
 All those in favor: 3
 Any opposed: 0
 Motion carries.

H. Adjournment
 Councilman Scherz made a motion to adjourn at 6:58pm.
 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: 