

Regular Meeting of the Verona Town Board

Oneida County, New York

6:00 pm on Monday, November 5, 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
 Debby Smart, Planning Board Secretary
 Dan Maciag, Codes Enforcement Officer
 Billy Lohr, Highway Superintendent
 Tim Dodge, Water Operator in Responsible Charge
 Sue Gardinier, Dog Control Officer

Citizens: 12

Call to Order at 6pm with the Pledge of Allegiance

A. Supervisors' Report**B. Approval of minutes from October 6, 2025, Regular Town Board Meeting.**

Councilman Brewer made a motion to approve.
 Councilman Breckenridge seconded the motion.
 All those in favor: 4
 Any opposed: 0
 Motion carries.

C. Public Hearing @ 6:15pm: 2026 Preliminary Budget Adoption.

Public Hearings was call to order at 6:17pm on motion by Councilman Brewer.
 Seconded by Councilman Scherz.

All those in favor: 4
 Any opposed: 0
 Motion carries.

- Sales Tax revenue from the County is predicted to be down in 2026
- Inflation is up
- Budget is a spending plan, a fluid document
- Started off around \$2.41 worked it down and was able to get it down to \$2.07
- Current (2025) rate was \$1.86 per thousand
- This is a Highway Tax – there is NO Town Tax (at this point)

Note:

Medical went up 23% over last year
 Retirement payments went up drastically
 Union Contract has built in annual increases that can not be changed
 The land in the town that is taxable is finite

RC: Everything is going up, insurance, National Grid, county tax now, and still the town wants more. How do we come up with the additional money needed for taxes – our income is not going up?

TB: Unfortunately, everyone is dealing with that, including us (Board Members) – it's the cost of doing business, like we mentioned, insurance, retirement, our national grid all have gone up too. We've tried to get additional funds from the County, as the host city of OIN, the county will not budge.

RC: We can't keep passing everything on – the town needs to cut back. How many trucks does the town have?

TB: Highway and Water can not share trucks, it's a different pool of funds, HW is taxed for Water funds come from water customers.

RC: Turn off lights when not in use – pennies lead to dollars

RC: When/If we go to the County Budget meetings, what are we asking for?

TB: When speaking to the County, it just needs to be reiterated that the town is functioning on roughly 75% of the income.

RC: What happens when the Casino's new hotel opens in June 2026?

TB: OIN pays for the water / sewer usage just like any other resident.

Public Hearings was closed at 6:35pm on motion by Councilman Scherz.

Seconded by Councilman Kahler.

All those in favor: 4

Any opposed: 0

Motion carries.

A motion to accept the Preliminary Budget was made by Councilman Scherz.

Seconded by Council Brewer.

All those in Favor: 4

Any opposed: 0

Motion Passes.

A motion was made to accept the Preliminary Budget as the 2026 Final Budget via roll call vote.

Results are as follows:

Councilman Breckenridge	Aye
Councilman Brewer	Aye
Councilman Kahler	Aye
Councilman Scherz	Aye
Supervision Musacchio	Aye

D. County Legislator Reports:

Legislator Keith Schiebel:

- Spoke on new even year election law, future ballots will be very full – especially on a presidential election year
- Chobani development
- Safety and security in schools
- Roadside mowing agreements with towns is going up slightly
- The proposed County Budget is currently showing an increase.

E. Public Concerns

RC: dumping on a newly cleaned up property

TB: Codes, as seen, looks like mostly firewood, but will look into it further

RC: Place on Rt. 46 is collecting materials and vehicles

TB: Codes, owner has been in to get a building/barn permit, codes will be onsite during the build for inspections.

RC: What is going on with the building at State Bridge and all the garbage out front

TB: Codes has spoken to him and the property owner

F. Reports:

1. Water Operator in Responsible Charge – Tim Dodge

- Repaired 1 grinder pumps
- DSNY requests
- Flushed water mains in all districts
- Installed 2 new water services
- Installed new Fire Hydrant on Canal Road w/ Highway Assistance
- Will follow up with neighbor next to Oneida Creek Pump Station

2. Dog Control Officer – Sue Gardinier

- 3 dogs
 - 2 to Rovers do Over
 - 1 at Sue's
- 3 Complaints
 - 1 abandonment
 - 1 Dog Bite
 - 1 unresolved matter

3. Assessor – Lauren Harris
- Received 9 sales and sent out 4 welcome packets
 - 60 Open Permits
 - Residents received emailing from Assemblyman Miller, confused some residents, had incorrect information, working with residents to understand options

4. Codes Enforcement Officer –Dan Maciag
- Building Permits 21
 - Inspections 26
 - Footings 3
 - Foundations 0
 - Plumbing, Heating, Framing 14
 - Demos 1
 - Insulation 2
 - Septic systems or tanks 2
 - Misc. Inspections 3
 - Property Maintenance 5
 - Violation notices 3
 - Certificate of Compliance 6
 - Certificate of Occupancy 6

5. Planning Board –Debby Smart
- 1 public hearing that was approved

6. Highway Superintendent – Billy Lohr
- Patch Work
 - Driveway Culverts
 - Ditching
 - Finished mowing
 - Washed and put away spring/summer equipment
 - Serviced Dump Trucks
 - Pick up of trees from high winds
 - Hauled green waste
 - Waiting to hear from the state on Higginsville Road Bridge - there are concerns with plowing, busses and state turn around.

7. Town Clerk – Amy Kotwica
- DECALS 2
 - Marriage Licenses 2
 - Certified Copies 8
 - Public Hearings (Zoning) 3
 - Sub/Boundary Line adj 2
 - Records Retention clean out in the Maintenance Building
 - Official Certified Town Official
 - Dog Grant was released, working on requested documents before any work can be completed / ordered
 - Water Permit 1
 - Dog Licenses 46
 - Culvert Purchase 1
 - Building Permit 21
 - Culvert Permit 1

8. Zoning Board – Henry Gerwig
- 3 residents came in for variances for public hearing (set for 11/8)
 - 2 variances passed

9. SWOCO – Ken Brewer
- Didn't meet

G. New Business:

1. Discussion & Approval of the MVP bill in the amount of \$30,673.30
 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 appoint Stephen Otto as Court Attendant effective immediately.
 Councilman Scherz made a motion to approve.
 Councilman Kahler seconded the motion.
 All those in favor: 4
 Any opposed: 0
 Motion carries
3. Discussion & Approval to appoint Lauren Harris as Sole Assessor; Town of Verona, effective immediately for a term of 7 years.
 Councilman Scherz made a motion to approve.
 Councilman Kahler seconded the motion.
 All those in favor: 4
 Any opposed: 0
 Motion carries
4. Discussion & Approval of a resolution for the final order establishing the Water & Sewer Districts at the New York State Thruway Authority Maintenance Center located on Route 365 and Exit 33 Exchange.
 B&L were paid directly from NYSTA for all drawings for this project.
 Resolution 25-013 The Establishment of the NYS Thruway Authority Sewer District in the Town of Verona, Oneida County, NY
 By Roll Call Vote, as follows:
- | | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Councilman Brewer | Aye |
| Councilman Breckenridge | Aye |
| Councilman Kahler | Aye |
| Councilman Scherz | Aye |
| Supervisor Musacchio | Aye |
- Resolution 25-012 The Establishment of the NYS Thruway Authority Water District in the Town of Verona, Oneida County, NY
 By Roll Call Vote, as follows:
- | | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Councilman Brewer | Aye |
| Councilman Breckenridge | Aye |
| Councilman Kahler | Aye |
| Councilman Scherz | Aye |
| Supervisor Musacchio | Aye |
5. Discussion & Approval to advertise for bids the Willow Place TAP Grant Project. Projected Project Start June 2026.
 Councilman Brewer made a motion to approve.
 Councilman Kahler seconded the motion.
 All those in favor: 4
 Any opposed: 0
 Motion carries
6. Discussion & Approval for a resolution to obtain an EBO account (Equitable Business Opportunity) identifying the Town Supervisor as the point of contact. This is required for Willow Place Project bid processing.
 Councilman Scherz made a motion to approve.
 Councilman Kahler seconded the motion.
 All those in favor: 4
 Any opposed: 0
 Motion carries
7. Discussion & Approval for a resolution regarding Supplemental Agreement #1 for the Willow Place Sidewalk Improvement Project.
 Resolution 25-014 Authorizing the implementation, and funding in the first instance 100% of the federal-aid and State "Marchiselli" Program- aid eligible costs, of a transportation federal-aid project, and appropriating funds therefore.
 Councilman Brewer made a motion to approve.
 Councilman Kahler seconded the motion.
 All those in favor: 4

Any opposed: 0
Motion carries

8. Discussion & Approval to approve Falter Construction pay application #4 for \$280,060.00. regarding the New London pump station construction project.

Grant funded

Councilman Brewer made a motion to approve.
Councilman Kahler seconded the motion.
All those in favor: 4
Any opposed: 0
Motion carries

9. Discussion & Approval to transfer \$1904.58 from 90608.3 Medical Insurance to 9055.8 Disability Insurance.

Councilman Brewer made a motion to approve.
Councilman Kahler seconded the motion.
All those in favor: 4
Any opposed: 0
Motion carries

10. Discussion & Approval to Increase 83101.10 Durhamville Water Personal Service line by \$860.00 from excess metered sales received 2140.10

Councilman Brewer made a motion to approve.
Councilman Scherz seconded the motion.
All those in favor: 4
Any opposed: 0
Motion carries

11. Discussion & Approval to transfer \$9,700.00 from 90608.1 Medical Insurance to 13551.1 Assessor Personal Service Line.

Councilman Scherz made a motion to approve.
Councilman Brewer seconded the motion.
All those in favor: 4
Any opposed: 0
Motion carries

12. Discussion & Approval to allow Amy Kotwica to attend the New York State Town Clerks Regional Training on December 15th in Corning NY. Including travel expenses including mileage.

Councilman Brewer made a motion to approve.
Councilman Scherz seconded the motion.
All those in favor: 4
Any opposed: 0
Motion carries

13. Discussion & Approval to increase Highway 51124.3 by \$599.63 from excess revenue 2655.3

Councilman Brewer made a motion to approve.
Councilman Kahler seconded the motion.
All those in favor: 4
Any opposed: 0
Motion carries

14. Discussion & Approval to increase Highway 51124.3 by \$25,000.00 from excess revenue 3589.3

Councilman Brewer made a motion to approve.
Councilman Kahler seconded the motion.
All those in favor: 4
Any opposed: 0
Motion carries

15. Discussion and Approval to transfer \$30,000.00 from 13204.1 to 51124.3

Councilman Scherz made a motion to approve.
Councilman Brewer seconded the motion.
All those in favor: 4

Any opposed: 0
Motion carries

16. Discussion & Approval to approve Jablonski Construction pay application #3 for \$5,597.71 regarding the New London pump station construction project.

Note: There are 2 contracts – 1 for the physical building – 1 for the pump/electric

Councilman Scherz made a motion to approve.

Councilman Kahler seconded the motion.

All those in favor: 4

Any opposed: 0

Motion carries

17. Discussion & Approval to transfer \$10,832.35 from SW1 83104.9 to 97107.9

Councilman Brewer made a motion to approve.

Councilman Kahler seconded the motion.

All those in favor: 4

Any opposed: 0

Motion carries

18. Discussion and approval to transfer \$44,496.68 from SW4 83104.12 to 97107.12

Councilman Scherz made a motion to approve.

Councilman Brewer seconded the motion.

All those in favor: 4

Any opposed: 0

Motion carries

19. Discussion & Approval to increase 97107.10 by \$3,034.93 from excess water sales 2140.10

Councilman Scherz made a motion to approve.

Councilman Brewer seconded the motion.

All those in favor: 4

Any opposed: 0

Motion carries

20. Discussion & Approval to transfer \$19,454.66 from 19904.38 to 97107.38

Councilman Brewer made a motion to approve.

Councilman Scherz seconded the motion.

All those in favor: 4

Any opposed: 0

Motion carries

21. Discussion & Approval to transfer \$27.00 from 19904.38 to 97106.38

Councilman Scherz made a motion to approve.

Councilman Kahler seconded the motion.

All those in favor: 4

Any opposed: 0

Motion carries

22. Discussion & Approval to approve Falter Construction pay application #5 for \$370,560.00 regarding the New London pump station construction project.

Councilman Scherz made a motion to approve.

Councilman Kahler seconded the motion.

All those in favor: 4

Any opposed: 0

Motion carries

23. Discussion & Approval to allow Nate Netzband (W/S Department) to attend the IIB water certification class in Morrisville from November 17th through the 21st. The cost includes \$575.00 for the class plus \$135.00 for the training booklet.

*Change to amounts cost is \$650 + \$14 SH = total of \$811.00

Councilman Scherz made a motion to approve.

Councilman Kahler seconded the motion.

All those in favor: 4
Any opposed: 0
Motion carries

F. Vouchers:

1. Prepaids \$370,773.22
Councilman Kahler made a motion to approve.
Councilman Brewer seconded the motion.
All those in favor: 4
Any opposed: 0
Motion carries.

2. General \$ 47,267.43
Councilman Kahler made a motion to approve.
Councilman Brewer seconded the motion.
All those in favor: 4
Any opposed: 0
Motion carries.

3. Highway \$ 95,816.34
Councilman Scherz made a motion to approve.
Councilman Brewer seconded the motion.
All those in favor: 4
Any opposed: 0
Motion carries.

RC: Jim Hitchings: How come politicians don't come around door to door anymore?

TB: During election year, many of us come door to door to get ballot signatures. WE could do a Town Hall meeting at one of the Fire Stations?

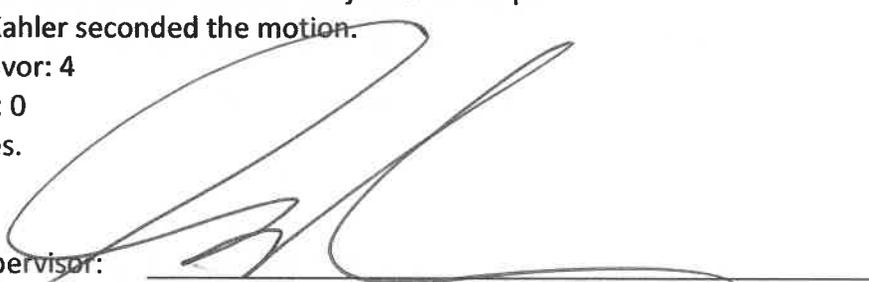
RC: No, residents will still have to leave their homes -

TB: There really has been no opposition over the past few years, and we answer questions at board meetings and are available any time to talk, if you'd like to call.

G. Adjournment

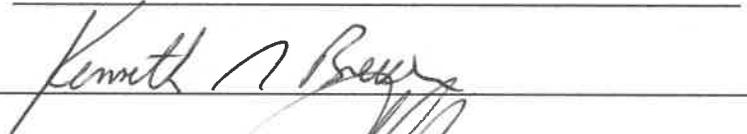
Councilman Scherz made a motion to adjourn at 7:30pm.
Councilman Kahler seconded the motion.
All those in favor: 4
Any opposed: 0
Motion carries.

Scott Musacchio, Supervisor:



Jeff Kahler, Councilman:

Ken Brewer, Councilman



Fred Scherz Jr., Councilman:



Dan Breckenridge, Councilman:



Amy Kotwica, Town Clerk:

