

Regular Meeting of the Verona Town Board

Oneida County, New York

6:00 pm on Monday, May 5 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
Dan Breckenridge, Councilman

Others in attendance:

Amy Kotwica, Town Clerk	Dan Maciag, Codes Enforcement Officer
Debby Smart, Planning Board Secretary	Lauren Harris, Training Assessor

Citizens: 20

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

A. Supervisors' Report:

- Dog Kennel Grant approved.
- Town email was changed/is changing to .gov
- Severe weather over winter, roads are being assessed to repair

B. Approval of minutes from April 7, 2025, Regular Town Board Meeting.

Councilman Brewer made a motion to approve April Meeting Minutes.

Councilman Kahler seconded the motion.

All those in favor: 4

Any opposed: 0

Motion carries.

C. County Legislator Reports

Keith Seibel:

- Copy of complete minutes are with the Board
- Chobani coming into Griffiss Park, an additional parcel of land (old golf course) was offered, as they required a larger footprint.
- Looking to re-instate the community topic forum in the summer/fall
- Housing continues to be a focus in the Mohawk Valley and with the addition of large business moving in, locally this will be a hot topic as well.

D. Public Concerns

RC: What is the stand on front yard variances? I came in a year ago for a front yard variance, and the meeting was taken over by the Codes Officer. I didn't get a vote by the 5 guys on the board.

TB: Dan is a consulting member on that board, 3 of the 5 members have been replaced in the last 6 months (or so), Dan's job is to direct the Board members in what the codes are. I'm not sure what specifically you were looking at, we'd have to research it.

RC: This is in reference to a variance that was given to a home on Main Street. They received the variance I was looking for.

Dan: They went to the ZBA to get the variance; you could have gone to the ZBA as well.

RC: I tried and you took over the meeting....

Dan: You decided to just put the garage next to a shed that was already there.

RC: I asked to see in the codes book where all of this was stated and you would not let me see the book. I'll ask again what is the distance off the road it needs to be.

The conversation continued back and forth, discussing the distance off the road and from where on the road that distance is measured.

TB: The code book needed to be re-vamped in the 80's, due to very little be done. Every municipality has to follow the Universal Code.

RC: As a resident shouldn't I have the right to see those codes?

TB: Yes, the code book is on the website.

E. Public Hearing @ 6:15pm: ATV Local Law Amendment.

Motion by Councilman Ken Brewer to open the public hearing at 6:20

Seconded by Councilman Jeff Kahler

All those in favor: 4

Any Opposed: 0

Several complaints were received over the weekend, as they just opened the trails.

RC: (Keith) Serious issues with this, wife wants to walk with grandkids – road has no shoulder – plus quality-of-life issue with 18 hours a day of 4wheelers.

TB: 2 years ago, when this was presented, the Sherriff/Troopers said we needed a local law in order to patrol and issue tickets. They have not done any patrols. They are under staffed, however this still needs to be handed.

RC: If there is no enforcement than maybe there should not be a trail.

TB: If the trail was to go behind your house, would you be, OK?

RC: (Keith B.) It would be better.

RC: (Brandon) The trail is not opened passed his house. There is not a lot that goes past (Keiths) house, Verona is just a small portion of the system – there is over 60 miles of trail.

Complaints came from all over Verona, not just Rock Road – I understand not all the members are from Verona, the point is those that are members riding in Verona, some of them are not complying.

TB: This amendment will include a fee to the town of Verona, to cover road maintenance.

TB: It the lack of law enforcement that is the issue.

RC: (Simon Breckenridge) People are flying down Dwyer Rd. and are waking up my kids. There are still no signs up. And there is no respect from the members for the residents.

TB: we need to verify that the Sherriff and Troopers are willing to enforce the local laws that are in place currently, before any additional routes are added, including this amendment.

RC: live on Merry Street – on the roads at all hours, flying up and down the street

RC: live on Tilden Hill – resident has already spoke with Brandon and at this time,

RC: What would it take to get a Troopers/Sheriff's substation in Verona?

TB: to get a Sherriff/Trooper substation in Verona, it's a conversation with those departments, they tried to do this a few years back and the County backed out. I have meetings with both parties coming up, it will be mentioned again.

RC: (Mr. Tiller) I Agree with Mr. Keith Breckenridge, Mr. Dan Breckenridge is full of crap..we don't care what you did as a child. We are in a different time.

TB: (Ken Brewer) Can we do a portion of the amendment? Snyder Rd. I don't think we can't do that. I don't see how you would get to Snyder?

RC: (Brandon) the trail may use a county or state or OIN owned road/property to get from A to B.

RC: (Michelle Vance) in defense of the club, they are out cleaning the road and talking about speed limits. Just because they are going by your house, doesn't mean they are club members.

RC: (Brandon) We are trying to re-route all of the trails to non-residential areas. We don't want to go by house after house, we are doing what we can avoid any homes.

TB: I do believe that it's not the majority of the members that are causing the issues. We need to get law enforcement backing.

Councilman Scherz made a motion to close the public hearing at 6:46.

Councilman Brewer seconded the motion.

All those in favor: 4

Any opposed: 0

Motion carries.

Councilman Scherz made a motion to table the amendment until further discussions can be had with law enforcement.

Councilman Kahler seconded the motion.

All those in favor: 4

Any opposed: 0

Motion carries.

D. Additional Public Concerns:

RC: (Jim Hitchings) I told Billy about the pot holes in front of my house – the guys that go out and patch, patched up the road, then around the corner and then down the road. They back up to within 10' of the potholes and didn't fill them. The same individual that dumps snow in my driveway is ignoring instructions because he doesn't like Jim Hitchings.

TB: They are going to be re-paving Germany Road, but I will mention this to Billy. We do have lateral in if an individual is not doing their job, they can be sent home or terminated.

F. Reports:

1. Water Operator in Responsible Charge – submitted by: Tim Dodge

- Retired a water service on Main St. Durhamville
- DSNY requests
- Installed new Fire Hydrant on Merry St.
- Worked with Highway Dept. repairing sewer break on Lakeshore south
- Repaired 1 grinder pump

RC: (Mr. Tiller) Wants an update on why we have fire hydrants and no water, why we are spending money we don't have.

TB: The project has been continual, due to COVID and price increases, we couldn't go under the barrage canal as originally designed, we changed course and went with a pipe bridge, that takes time to build and put in place on top of the delays we already had.

RC: why would we have started the project if we couldn't get under the canal.

TB: We were not aware of that – test drills showed no issues

RC: someone needs to take responsibility, if the project was not funded, it should not have moved forward

TB: The project is funded in part by grants, including the increase in cost that was unforeseen due to COVID.

RC: Why do we have no water than. There is one hell of a mess that was left – on both sides of the road. This water project is a joke.

TB: If there are items that need to be addressed, please send me an email with a list of items that need to be addressed.

RC: Now some insurance company wants me to send them \$8 a month to cover water pipes that don't have any water in them.

TB: We believe that is possibly a scam. If you leave the information with us, we can look into that for you. All the water pipes are owned by the Town; the only expense will be

for the water line that is 10' from you foundation and lines running into your house. You will only have to pay for the usage and debt service.

2. Dog Control Officer – Sue Gardinier

- 3 complaints all resolved

3. Assessor – Susan Strain

- Processed 29 sales and sent out 19 Welcome packets
- 27 active building permits
- Attended the Tug Hill Conference on April 1
- Sent tentative roll to Oneida County on April 3 received back on April 30 only owner and address changes only changes authorized by the BAR
- Sitting with tentative roll 5/7 noon -4; 5/8 9am – 1pm; 5/14 4pm – 8pm; 5/17 8am – 12pm.
- Grievance day is Tuesday, May 27th 9am – 12 & 6pm – 8pm.

4. Codes Enforcement Officer – Dan Maciag

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|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| • Permits 14 | • Violation notices 3 |
| • Inspections 12 | • COC : 2 |
| • Footings 3 | • COO : 2 |
| • Foundations 1 | • Buck St RV removal completed |
| • Plumbing Heating Framing 5 | • annual codes training is complete |
| • Demo's 2 | • 6 violation notices sent out |
| • Insulation 1 | |
| • Misc inspections 2 | |
| • Property maintenance 4 | |

5. Planning Board – Peter Kaido

- A resident from Tilden Hill Rd, showed up regarding the Sap House project
- Conditional approved discussed for the Twomey Project
The group wants to shallow the water lines, B&L and the Town are saying no, it needs to be 5', ultimately the Town will own the lines

6. Highway Superintendent – submitted by Billy Lohr

- Unharnessed plow trucks
- Washed sanders and plows
- Finished painting plows sewer repair in Verona Beach
- Picked up trees from storm damage
- Hauled green waste
- Hauled gravel
- Out Patching
- Cleaned up cemeteries and mowed
- Fixed Benches in the Park

7. Town Clerk – Amy Kotwica

- DECALS 3
- Certified copies 15
- Public Hearing/Zoning 3
- Dog Licenses 63
- Building permits 15
- Genealogy Search 1
- Culvert Installation 5 / 3 people
- New Website active with .gov domain
- Companion Animal Grant (approved)
- Annual Training
- Judged BOCES "Skills" competition at NYS Fair Grounds
- Interest and fees collected from taxes was handed over to Supervisors Office

8. Zoning Board – Henry Gerwig

9. SWOCO – Ken Brewer
No meeting

F. New Business:

1. Approve Payment of the MVP bill in the amount of \$31,664.36
Councilman Kahler made a motion to approve.
Councilman Brewer seconded the motion.
All those in favor: 4
Any opposed: 0
Motion carries.
2. Discussion and approval to pay B&L invoice #29 \$1,509.76 and invoice #30 \$7,102.85 for the Willow Place TAP project.
All Grant driven funds.
Councilman Brewer made a motion to approve.
Councilman Kahler seconded the motion.
All those in favor: 4
Any opposed: 0
Motion carries.
3. Discussion & Approval to reappoint Neil Collins to the planning board for a term period from 1/1/2025 to 12/31/2031.
Missed the appointment in January.
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 allow Lauren Harris, Assessor in training, to attend the 2025 Cornell Seminar on Professional Development in Ithaca NY, for a cost of \$470.00. The training is scheduled for 7/13/25 to 7/18/25.
This is an online training.
Councilman Scherz made a motion to approve.
Councilman Brewer seconded the motion.
All those in favor: 4
Any opposed: 0
Motion carries.
5. Discussion & Approval to appoint David Fallon as Court attendant effective May 5, 2025.
Councilman Brewer made a motion to approve.
Councilman Scherz seconded the motion.
All those in favor: 4
Any opposed: 0
Motion carries.
6. Discussion & Approval of Marcellus Construction final payment application #24 in the amount of \$64,011.79 for Water Extension Project #3.
Councilman Brewer made a motion to approve.
Councilman Kahler seconded the motion.
All those in favor: 4
Any opposed: 0
Motion carries.

7. Discussion and approval to transfer \$84.60 from Contingency 19904.1 to Unallocated Insurance 19104.1.
Councilman Scherz made a motion to approve.
Councilman Brewer seconded the motion.
All those in favor: 4
Any opposed: 0
Motion carries.
8. Discussion and approval to update/change the handbook:
Bereavement. Allowance - Full-Time employees are eligible for up to 3 days of absence per death with pay for Immediate family. Immediate Family Member – add Aunt, Uncle, Niece and Nephew
Sick Leave: Accumulation - Sick leave can be cumulative and carried over up to a max of 1,200 hours.
Councilman Brewer made a motion to approve.
Councilman Kahler seconded the motion.
All those in favor: 4
Any opposed: 0
Motion carries.
9. Discussion regarding reviewing current sign law within our code book. We are considering making all sign fees to be invoiced biannually.
 - Current reading of the Code Book, reflects all SIGNS in the town are to be charged a biannual fee. In the past we have only charged Billboards. What does the board want to do, as this is a billing year.
 - Confirming, a brick-and-mortar building business with a sign should not be charged – this is the past understanding. If that is the case, the code needs to be researched and updated.
 - Topic is tabled until next month, for further research.
10. Discussion and approval to remove Charles Collins from the Oneida County Civil service listing of Laborer effective his last day of work 10/24/24.
Charlie retired from politics and then came on an employee. There was no resignation letter, therefore his leaving needs to be reflected in the minutes for Civil Service.
Councilman Brewer made a motion to approve.
Councilman Kahler seconded the motion.
All those in favor: 4
Any opposed: 0
Motion carries.

G. Vouchers:

1. Prepaids \$266,525.55
Councilman Brewer made a motion to approve.
Councilman Kahler seconded the motion.
All those in favor: 4
Any opposed: 0
Motion carries.
2. General \$157,148.24
Councilman Brewer made a motion to approve.
Councilman Scherz seconded the motion.
All those in favor: 4
Any opposed: 0
Motion carries.

3. Highway

~~\$266,525.55~~ Error should be \$305,007.44

Councilman Brewer made a motion to approve.

Councilman Scherz seconded the motion.

All those in favor: 4

Any opposed: 0

Motion carries.

H. Adjournment

Councilman Scherz made a motion to adjourn at 7:27pm.

Councilman Brewer 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: