

Regular Meeting of the Verona Town Board

Oneida County, New York

6:00 pm on Monday, **June 3, 2024**

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

Board Members in attendance:

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

Others in attendance:

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

Citizens: 18

Call to Order with the Pledge of Allegiance @ 6pm

A. Supervisors' Report:

- Thank you to the VFW in Durhamville and Verona for wonderful Memorial Day services.
 Ken Knutsen from Barton and Loguidice updates from ongoing Town projects:
- Water Extension #3 project is moving forward, the new tank in New London (Contract #3) is finished, the Contract #2; Main line throughout the town is complete, waiting on the pipe bridge over the canal. Connection at Rt 365 and Rt 31 is complete, MCI is currently working on restoration in some areas. The Pipe Bridge over the canal will be roughly 200' and will be 12' wide with walkways on either side of the pipe. Each pipe end will have a perimeter fence with barbwire and lighting to meet the Coast Guard's requirements. MCI has been instructed to obtain 3 to 4 quotes on the pipe bridge. Construction is being estimated at about 1.5 million and will be roughly November before it is onsite to complete any hook ups.
- Contracts 1: repainting and rehab of the existing water tower on Beacon Light and Contract 4: pump station build in New London, near new tank; separate funding project.
 We were granted a 1.25 million grant via CDBG, for a portion of the entire project, there is also a request with Senator Gillibrand and Schumer's office for additional grant funds (roughly 2 million).
 The pipe bridge will not be completed covered in the original bid process; the difference in cost should be covered by additional grants funds.
 Resident hook ups will happen after the pipe bridge is in, B&L are currently working on additional grant funds to cover the install costs.
- Durhamville has qualified for the hardship funding for the sewer project, B&L is working on additional funding for the project
- A resolution is needed to allow the Supervisor to sign the application for a WIIA grant submission.

Councilman Brewer made a motion to allow the Supervisor to sign the required documents to apply for the WIIA Grant.

Councilman Scherz seconded the motion.

All those in favor: 4

Any opposed: 0

Motion passed.

- Where is the Willow Place project at?
 Once the Deed to the land is in hand, we can approach the DOT to review the road pattern and move forward with plans.
 Are there any issues with the grants that we have already received?
 Not at this time, we still have room to complete the projects that have already been awarded funding.
- Has there been any additional inquiry from the NYS Thruway on water/sewer hook up?

16 Yes, they reach out monthly, once we get the deed we can move forward. They will need to approach the board to get new extension created for both the water and sewer districts.

RC: What about selling the land, possibly to OIN?

TB: That option has been discussed, however, if OIN is not willing to pay the town what we have in it, that would be a loss for the town. There are also already grants that have been awarded for the project that need to be fulfilled.

B. Approval of minutes from the May 6, 2024, Regular Town Board Meeting.

Councilman Brewer made a motion to approve the minutes.

Councilman Kahler seconded the motion.

All those approved: 4

Any opposed: 0

Motion passes.

C. County Legislator Report.

Keith Schiebel:

- Youth Deer hunting program was extended,
- Construction inspection service for DPW projects,
- Snowplowing contract with municipalities for 25-26 approved,
- Stop-DWI selective enforcement patrol funding for departments

Norm Leech:

- Higginsville Bridge looks like it will be completed soon.
- Verona OIN monies will be on docket next month.

D. Public Concerns

RC: Don't like 6am to Midnight with the 4-wheelers.

TB: We already have a meeting scheduled next week to discuss this along with a few other issues that have arisen.

RC: Because the School district is being forced to purchase electric only by 2030, is that due to affect the Town in any way?

TB: Not currently, we have not heard of them trying to enforce anything at the Town level.

RC: Verona Beach, property that is owned by TOV, the State is making money on it. Cozy Corners.

TB: That property you are referring to is NOT owned by the TOV, it is state owned.

RC: The house next to Satches Tavern, is half torn down, no fence, free standing chimney – that is a dangerous building.

TB: A violation notice was sent out last week, to stop work.

RC: Canal Street, house has grass growing so high the car in the driveway will not be seen soon, that was a tax sale property. Fire Department believes the basement is full of water and the Chief will not be sending any firemen in the house, due to safety concerns. They also believe the power is still on.

RC: Rock Road resident, complaint on Truck traffic and speeding through the section near the railroad tracks. Maybe an electronic speed limit sign? 35mph is fine, but that is not being adhered to – up and down the road.

TB: Speeding is a law enforcement phone call; we can set up the speed limit sign to bring awareness to the area. The Nation is hauling spoils from the expansion by the Casino to the area behind the fire department field. This is a public road way; we cannot prohibit people from using the road. I will call the nation and police and bring them up to speed with resident concerns.

RC: Vernon Library voted is tomorrow, please everyone should be showing up to vote. Most of us will be voting at the Verona Fire Hall. Doing some research, there was only 880 votes for the last VVS budget vote – roughly 300 people in the town of Verona voted from a pool of over 3,000. Less than 10% are voting.

RC: Numerous residents never received card for the upcoming vote.

RC: The bridge on Stoney Creek Road, is that out of service?

TB: That bridge is still in service, we have taken dump trucks over it.

RC: Any thing further on the Rt. 46 Bridge?

TB: next meeting will be in July, I should hear something.

RC: Any more talk about the burn on Germany Road?

TB: Nothing yet, it can be done at any time. No guarantee how long it will be shut down for.

E. Reports:

1. Water Operator in Responsible Charge – Tim Dodge

- Changed out 2 grinder pumps
- Repaired water service on east Main Street
- DSNY requests
- Working on inspecting extension 3 for punch list items
- Performed several data logs due to customer complaints
- Repaired 1 grinder pump

2. Dog Control Officer – Sue Gardinier

- 2 complaints, both resolved
- 1 ticket issued for un-licensed dog
- Town dog is going to Herkimer County, later this week

3. Assessor – Susan Strain

- Sat with tentative roll 4 times
- Grievance day was May 28th 3 residents attended; 2 assessments remained the same and one was lowered BAR members did a great job, and thank you again to Debby Smart for stepping up as the Chairperson.
- Processed 10 sales and sent out 9 welcome packets
- Finishing up final roll and uploading to Oneida County this week
- Files will be frozen until after final roll is printed and the new year changed over – currently cleaning out files and preparing for the 2025 roll.
- Oneida County Assessors will hold their annual banquet on June 20th.

4. Codes Enforcement Officer – Dan Maciag

- Building permits 18
- Inspections 14
- Footing 2
- Foundations: 2
- Plumbing, Heating Framing 5
- Seawalls Insulation 2
- Septic Systems or tank 1
- Misc Inspections 2
- Property Maintenance 3
- Violation notices 3
- Certificate of compliance 2
- Certificate of Occupancy 2

5. Planning Board – Peter Kaido

- 1 Boundary Line Adjustment
- A resident inquiring information on subdividing his property
- Worked on questions for the Dollar General project with B&L on DEQR part 2.

6. Highway Superintendent – Billy Lohr

- Hauled Stone
- Hauled Green waste
- Moved road sides, parks and ditches
- Oil and Stoning done
- Pressure washed the town office

7. Town Clerk – Amy Kotwica

- DECALS 2
- Marriage Licenses 3
- Marriage Officiant 1
- Certified Copies 23
- Notary Non-Resident 1
- Dog Seizures 2
- Public Hearing Zoning 3
- Site Plan Review 1
- Subdivision Boundary Line Adjustment 1
- Dog Licenses 71
- Building Permits 18
- Completed OIN Tracking of all purchased properties in Verona and set up a "PIOLT" type tracking system.
- Working with OCIDA on 2 Solar Pilot updates
- Updating the Employee handbook
- Wrote Policy's for review in social media, Fund Balance, Records Retention and Remote work
- Community Day is only 40 days away
- County Town Clerks meeting this Thursday

8. Zoning Board – Henry Gerwig

3 Public hearings next week

Addition in Verona Beach

Apartment building on Rt. 31

Garage in Verona Beach

Discussed fencing in Verona Beach

9. SWOCO – Ken Brewer

Mowing, discussed challenges with adding Solar Panels

10. OCAOT – Fred Scherz

Only 6 people showed up to the last meeting

Spoke on grant for Oneida Herkimer Area Roads

June 16th @ Franklin Hotel in Rome will be the next meeting

Fritz Scherz Sr. Scholarship is accepting applications until June 17th

F. New Business:

1. Approve Payment of the MVP bill in the amount of \$31,004.12

Councilman Kahler made a motion to approve payment.

Councilman Scherz seconded the motion.

All those in favor: 4

Any opposed: 0

Motion passed.

2. Discussion & Approval to appoint Andrew Condes to the full time Water/Sewer Meter reader position per the 2024 budgeted position.

Councilman Brewer made a motion to approve hire for 6/10 start.

Councilman Scherz seconded the motion.

All those in favor: 4

Any opposed: 0

Motion passed

3. Discussion & Approval to appoint Hannah Stemp to the vacant part time clerk position for the court.

Councilman Brewer made a motion to approve hire.

Councilman Kahler seconded the motion.

All those in favor: 4

Any opposed: 0

Motion passed

4. Discussion & Approval to allow Stephanie Doane to attend the introduction of Government Accounting on 9/5/24 & 9/6/24 and Accounting Principles and Procedures on 10/8/24 & 10/9/24 at a cost of \$85.00 each. These are online courses.

Councilman Kahler made a motion to approve training.

Councilman Brewer seconded the motion.

All those in favor: 4

Any opposed: 0

Motion passed

5. Discussion & Approval to pay \$100.00 Application for Affiliation with the NYSAPF (NYS Animal Protection Federation)

Councilman Brewer made a motion to approve payment.

Councilman Kahler seconded the motion.

All those in favor: 4

Any opposed: 0

Motion passed

6. Discussion & Approval to pay Barton & Loguidice Invoice #22 for Willow Place in the amount of \$3,582.36.

Covered by the TAP Grant funds

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

- 7. Discussion & Approval to transfer \$58.32 from 1355.4 to 1355.2
 Councilman Brewer made a motion to approve payment.
 Councilman Scherz seconded the motion.
 All those in favor: 4
 Any opposed: 0
 Motion passed

- 8. Discussion & Approval to pay Verona Water District Extension #3 Pay App #22 Marcellus for \$394,733.08.
 Covered by part of the original Grant
 Councilman Brewer made a motion to approve payment.
 Councilman Kahler seconded the motion.
 All those in favor: 4
 Any opposed: 0
 Motion passed

- 9. Discussion & Approval to transfer the following funds
General Fund
 - a. Increase Unallocated Insurance 1910.4 by \$5,066.22 from excess Other General Government Income 1298.1
 - b. Increase Dog Control 3510.4 by \$5017.45 from excess Other General Government Income 1298.1
 - c. Increase Environmental Control 8090.4 by \$5,000.00 from excess Other General Government Income 1298.1 \$4,227.46 and Excess Interest & Earnings 2401.1 \$772.54
 - d. Increase Unemployment Insurance 9050.9 by \$102.30 from Excess Interest & Earnings 2401.1
 - e. Transfer \$23.97 from Historian 7510.4 to 7510.2
 Councilman Scherz made a motion to approve transfers.
 Councilman Kahler seconded the motion.
 All those in favor: 4
 Any opposed: 0
 Motion passed

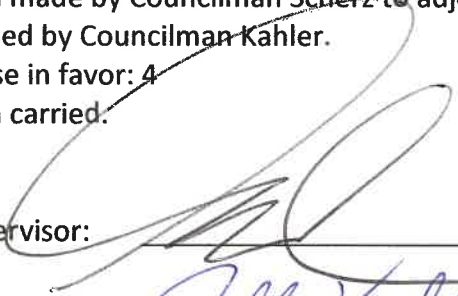
H. Vouchers:

- 1. Prepaids \$301,819.37
 Councilman Brewer made a motion to approve payment.
 Councilman Scherz seconded the motion.
 All those in favor: 4
 Any opposed: 0
 Motion passed
- 2. General \$ 47,599.85
 Councilman Brewer made a motion to approve payment.
 Councilman Kahler seconded the motion.
 All those in favor: 4
 Any opposed: 0
 Motion passed
- 3. Highway \$ 97,489.92
 Councilman Brewer made a motion to approve payment.
 Councilman Scherz seconded the motion.

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

I. Adjournment

Motion made by Councilman Scherz to adjourn at 7:08pm.
Seconded by Councilman Kahler.
All those in favor: 4
Motion carried.

Scott Musacchio, Supervisor: 

Jeff Kahler, Councilman: 

Ken Brewer, Councilman 

Fred Scherz Jr., Councilman: _____

Dan Breckenridge, Councilman: 

Amy Kotwica, Town Clerk: 