

Regular Meeting of the Verona Town Board

Oneida County, New York

6:00 pm on Monday, February 3, 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
 Dan Breckenridge, Councilman
 Kenneth Brewer, Councilman

Others in attendance:

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

Citizens: 18

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

A. Supervisors' Report

Working with Elsie Stefanic's office for additional funding for the WD#3 project

B. Approval of minutes from January 6, 2025 Organizational & Regular Town Board Meeting and the January 23, 2025 Audit 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. County Legislator Reports:

Cindy Roger-Witt: Swore in new Legislators; Funding for the restoration of the B52 Bomber that was blown off it's pad during the tornado last year; voted to continue support for the Utica Zoo.

Keith Seibel: got together leaders from each of his districts to discuss issues each is facing, all 5 councilmembers from Verona were in attendance; hosting the next Town Hall Community Forum on 2/27 at 6pm at "The Spot"

Scott: We need to start working on the Air B&B law/code, this was one of the topics that was discussed at Keith's meeting with local leaders

Norm Leech: Sand Pipers are taking over the triangle by the airport, so there are plans to try and move them on.

D. Public Concerns

RC: When is the website going to be back up?

TB: The website is up – go to townverona.org the url has been updated

TB: NYS requiring the website for municipalities to be .gov – the process will take a , and we are looking at making that move – also looking at changing to outlook for email use as well.

RC: Parking on the side of the road near the Durhamville VFW – there use to be signs up No parking along the side of the road, signs are gone, and people are parking it the road. blocks through traffic, including fire trucks from accessing that area of town

TB: Be sure to email the information to Scott, he can follow up on that

RC: Just wondering if you have figured out that it's ok for the Codes guy to wander into people's yards?

TB: IF there is a noted violation, yes, the Codes officer has permission to his job. We also spoke with the property owner and was given permission to access the property.

100 RC: It is illegal for the land owner to give permission, I rent the property. Even the landowner cannot access the property without given legal notice ahead of time, so who do you think you are to be able to access the property. He supposed said I was burning garbage, I was not, it was the Indians across the street. He wondered around my house and scared the crap out of my kids, it is illegal to go on my property, I have already talked law enforcement, he has no right. Not to mention have you figured out if a chicken is a farm animal?

TB: chicken is poultry and considered a farm animal, the definition is listed in the Codes.

RC: I looked in the codes, it's not in there, and my neighbor had chickens for a year, you guys are selectively picking who can and cannot have chickens. The codes say nothing about chickens, I know I'm not going to get a ticket, so for him to come into my yard and scare my kids, with no cause, an officer of the law needs a warrant, even the DEC need a warrant, and if it was a burning garbage complaint, he should have contacted the DEC, that's a misdemeanor, it was illegal for him to come on my property. He scared the SHIT out of my kids, he does not belong on my property, he can get a warrant if he wants to come in my year. Get a warrant.

TB: Sir, please watch your language. I disagree with your statements.

RC: I don't care that you disagree.

TB: Sir, you have said your peace, now we'd like to move on.

RC: Where's your codes officer?

TB: He is on PTO.

RC: At a training, something was mentioned about the state forcing electric plow trucks on townships?

TB: This directive has stalled due to the cost to municipalities. There would need to be a major power grid issue, for that to go into place. Electric trucks are about 3 times the current price, and a current truck is over \$240,000.

RC: Some school will be able to opt out until 2035.

E. Reports:

1. Water Operator in Responsible Charge – Tim Dodge

- Plowed and shoveled pump stations
- DSNY requests
- Repaired 1 frozen water meter
- Changed out 1 grinder pump
- Repaired 3 grinder pumps
- Shoveled around fire hydrants
- Retired water/sewer service on Rte 365 (house no longer there)
- Repaired water service on Fairlane Road

2. Dog Control Officer – Sue Gardinier

- 1 dog picked up
- Heard a cruelty situation on horses, was in contact with the county, they handled it.

3. Assessor – Susan Strain

- Processing exemption renewals and address changes
- Processed 6 sales and sent out 2 welcome packets
- 48 open building permits on file
- Second notices were sent out for Senior Citizens, Limited Income Disability, and Ag Assessments recipients who have not completed their renewals.
- Lauren has completed the Fundamentals of Data Collection Class and is working on the Fundamentals of Assessment Administration

4. Codes Enforcement Officer – Dan Maciag

- Building permits 4
- Inspections 12
- Foundations 1
- Plumbing heating Framing 7
- Issulation 4
- Stop work orders 1
- Property maintenance 3
- Certificate of compliance 2
- Certificate of occupancy 2

5. Planning Board – Peter Kaido

- Held a joint public hearing
- Approved a 2-lot subdivision

6. Highway Superintendent – Billy Lohr
- Plowed 43 times (21 last year)
 - Sand pile still holding up
 - A gauge in the road from the powerlines to Stook Rd – Highway is aware of, looks like someone dragged something down the road
7. Town Clerk – Amy Kotwica
- Decals 1
 - Certified copies 3
 - Notary nonresident 1
 - Public hearing 1
 - Dog licenses 53
 - Submitted the Rome Humane Society contract to take dogs – there is no charge if no dogs are accepted
 - Collect 70% of the tax warrant
 - Held 1st Emergency Preparedness seminar – had about 20 people, will hold again around August
 - Don't forget to sign up for TEXT alerts from the Town – send VERONA to 91896
 - Trailer Park licenses 1
 - Junk yard renewal 1
 - Building permits 4
 - Culvert installation 1
8. Zoning Board – Henry Gerwig
- Held joint meeting with Planning
 - Reviewed a 12-foot variance on Main St Verona for a Salon add-on
9. SWOCO – Ken Brewer
- Approved bills
 - Selected officers (still the VP)
10. OCAOT – Fred Scherz
- Next Meeting March 20th 5:30/6:00 Location TBD

F. New Business:

1. Approve Payment of the MVP bill in the amount of \$32,358.10
 Councilman Brewer made a motion to approve.
 Councilman Kahler seconded the motion.
 All those in favor: 4
 Any opposed: 0
 Motion carries.
2. Discussion & Approval to allow Billy Lohr, Highway Superintendent to proceed with financing for the two New Holland Flail Mowers. This equipment was included in our 2025 budget.
 Includes replacing one tractor that will be sent to auction
 Councilman Brewer made a motion to approve.
 Councilman Scherz seconded the motion.
 All those in favor: 4
 Any opposed: 0
 Motion carries.
3. Discussion & Approval to allow Henry Gerwig, Harry Weismantle, Joe VanLieshout, Nelson Dodge & Carmen Compoli, Zoning Board Members to attend the Tug Hill conference at the Turning Stone Casino at a cost of \$90 per person on 4/1/25.
 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 pay the final retainage of \$60,888.91 to Preload LLC for their completed scope of work on the New London Tank. The start up and electrical work for the pump station will be completed under contract #4 with another contractor to be named in the coming months upon review of the bids.

Funds are from grants

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

- 5. Discussion & Approval to allow the Supervisor to solicit a short-term BAN (Bond Anticipation Note) from NBT Bank to fund the Pipe Bridge Installation for Water Extension #3 Project until the EFC grant funding is available in the coming months.

Looking at 1.7 million – this is just to solicit rates and numbers – currently waiting on Coast Garud approval – once approved it will take 7-8 months to fabricate

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 allow the Supervisor to sign the Sewer Pump Asset Upgrade Project Evaluation Agreement presented by Barton & Loguidice Engineering which will be funded by the Oneida Indian Nation.

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

- 7. Discussion & Approval to appoint Stacey Strong as Court Clerk with a start date of 2/18/25. This appointment fills our currently open account clerk position.

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

G. Vouchers:

- 1. Prepaids \$386,857.37

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

- 2. General \$ 57,487.12

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

- 3. Highway \$ 14,091.26

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


- No update on Willow Place – only verbal OK to break in access – waiting on paperwork – Final design maps moving along on Willow Place itself
- Bid 4 and 4A were accepted today; 5 came in for 4A and 6 for 4B waiting for B&L to complete a review on all bids and send a recommendation letter
 - o Bids are for the pump station building and pump station electrical

H. Adjournment

Councilman Kahler made a motion to adjourn at 6:49pm.
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: _____