

DRAFT - Minutes
Town of Vermont Annual Meeting
April 17, 2018

Town chairman Karen Carlock called the Annual Meeting to order at 7:25 p.m. The clerk certified that the notice had been posted on the front door of Town Hall, on the Town of Vermont website, sent to the online subscribers and published in the Mt. Horeb Mail and Star News.

Approval of the 2017 Annual Meeting Minutes

Charlene Taymor moved and Sharon Gaskill seconded that the minutes from the 2017 Annual Meeting be approved. The minutes were approved.

Year in Review Presentation

Karen thanked Alex McKenzie for joining Plan Commission in 2017. She announced that we are looking for additional Plan Commission members and encouraged anyone interested to contact the chair or clerk. This involves monthly meetings at about 2.5 hours each and site visits when available. The Plan Commission has been engaged in reviewing and updating ordinances, and streamlining and updating land use processes, where possible, to increase consistency and transparency. John Hallick and Doug Meier will be continuing in their roles on the Town Board as they were uncontested in the April election. Last year we began sending Welcome Letters to new Vermont residents, providing most commonly needed information. Mt. Horeb Fire District new public safety building is under construction. The Town of Vermont is seeking a representative on the Fire Board; this person must live in the district served by Mount Horeb Joint Fire District. Black Earth Fire District has purchased a new truck; Vermont has paid our portion. The last town picnic was held at the Town Hall last October. We would love to have the event at Tyrol again this year and are looking for volunteers to take on event planning.

Annual Financial Report

Jenna presented the Revenue portion of the Annual Financial Report, the largest portion being tax collection at \$1,979,770. Intergovernmental revenues, the largest of which is Transportation Aid at \$84,337, make up the next significant portion of revenues, totaling \$112,397. Licenses and Permits total \$17,834 and total revenue for 2017 including carryover, revenues, and borrowing proceeds (BE Fire Truck \$116,145) equals \$2,320,691. The total minus loan proceeds is similar to last year's number.

Chris presented the Expenditure portion of the Annual Financial Report. Most of the taxes collected by the town are simply passing through before we pay the necessary school district and state and county levies, which are considered Mandated Expenditures and totaled \$1,549,939 in 2017. General Government, which includes Board, Clerk and Treasurer salaries, as well as Town Hall and Garage expenses, was \$85,445. Public Works total was higher than average, with a total of \$298,424, due to bridge construction occurring in 2017. Total Town Budget Expenditures equaled \$501,420, Cash and Investments as of the end of the year were \$1,193,909, and debt was \$116,145 due to the aforementioned fire truck purchase. Todd Culliton made a motion to approve the 2017 Financial Report, Sharon Gaskill seconded and motion passed.

Road Maintenance Report

Roads were chip sealed last summer and same process of patching followed by chip sealing will take place this year. The roads to be chip sealed this summer include: Amble, Bakken-Stenli, Blue Bird, Cowan, Evanson, Howery, Kremerl, Mineral Point Rd., Broderick Rd., Zwettler, Pleasant Valley, Bluto, and Carpenter. We are planning an overlay of Old Indian Trail in 2019 with some assistance from state funding. The Road Committee has been doing an evaluation of town turn-arounds with the goal of ensuring that all turn-arounds are safe for our equipment and that there are agreements in place to protect both the town and property owners. Warren Gaskill inquired about plans for county roads, specifically County JJ. Karen recalled a date of 2020/2021 for JJ and F. There was also a comment about the maintenance done on Bluto Blvd., which resulted in poor drainage of the east ditch. Karen will let Jack know. Another comment was made commending town patrolman Jack Schulenberg for the wonderful job he does clearing the roads.

Report from Citizen Broadband Committee

John Hallick provided a broadband update. There are a total of 12 areas with plywood boards set up in the town with fiber cable run into each one, which are currently being brought online or are in some state of installation. John expects completion of project in the fall, with everyone hopefully having access by the end of the year.

Cardinal Hickory Creek Project Update

Michael McDermott gave an update on the ATC line, reporting that we are now on the “alternate” route for the line. He acknowledged all the work that has been done to prevent the line coming through Town of Vermont, and while we may be relieved, we would prefer the line not affect our neighbors either, and will continue working to prevent that from happening.

Dane County Zoning Ordinance Revision

Karen asked if anyone had further questions from the gathering before the annual meeting started. No one had any further questions at this time but folks are welcome to contact clerk, chair, or plan commission members with any questions or concerns.

Review and Discuss the Goals of the Comprehensive Plan

We went through a comprehensive revision of our town plan in the past year. Doug explained the purpose of the Comprehensive Plan and how it reflects the values of the town as well as state requirements, and the need to revisit it periodically. Building height, ridgetop building, density, flood plains, and commercial areas are all covered, among other items. Karen received questions about whether the changes in zoning affected anyone’s potential development rights, and this is not the case. We evaluate the Comprehensive Plan every five to seven years to determine if changes need to be made.

Proposal Regarding Appointed Clerk & Appointed Treasurer

Karen introduced this discussion to get feedback from electors on whether or not there is support for moving from elected Clerk and Treasurer positions to appointed Clerk and Treasurer positions. If support exists, this would be decided via referendum at the November 6th election. She stressed that the positions would remain separate in order to support checks and balances. Wisconsin Towns Association reports that many towns are considering this change because: 1. Responsibilities of these positions are becoming more complicated and require a specific skill set, 2. Towns may be unable to find an elector who is interested in running and serving, and 3. Town Boards may prefer to set the job description, qualifications, term, and compensation, and have these positions become more accountable to the Board.

Some important considerations in the discussion include: 1. An appointed Clerk or Treasurer does not need to be an elector or resident of the Town of Vermont; an elected Clerk or Treasurer does need to be an elector of the Town. 2. When the positions are appointed, the Town Board may meet in closed session to interview, discuss employment, promotion, compensation or performance. When the positions are elected, the Town Board may not discuss these things in closed session. 3. Town Board determines the compensation and job description for the appointed positions; compensation is established by the electors and job description is limited to that specified in state statute when the positions are elected. 4. Positions may be appointed for a period up to three years and may be appointed as full-time or part-time. Elected officials hold two-year terms that start in April of odd-numbered years. Jim Elleson made a motion to place the decision of whether we move to Appointed Clerk and Treasurer on the November ballot, Charlene Taymor seconded, and motion passed.

Discussion of any other business to come before the meeting.

Warren Gaskill made a motion to place the following referendum on the November 6, 2018, Town of Vermont Ballot:

Shall the Town of Vermont adopt the following resolution?

Resolved, that "We the People" of the Town of Vermont seek to reclaim democracy from the expansion of corporate personhood rights and the corrupting influence of unregulated political contributions and spending. We stand with communities across the country to support passage of an amendment to the United States Constitution stating:

- 1. Only human beings are endowed with constitutional rights-not corporations, unions, nonprofits or other artificial entities, and*
- 2. Money is not speech, and therefore regulating political contributions and spending is not equivalent to limiting speech.*

Referendum vote options on ballot: "Yes" or "No"

Discussion included suggestions to make language more neutral while keeping substance the same. Sandie Stanfield seconded the motion, Charlene Taymor wanted to note strong support as well, and the motion passed. The language will be adjusted to be more neutral, this will be placed on a board agenda before November and the board will provide more information to the electors.

Set Date for 2019 Annual Meeting

The 2019 Annual Meeting will be on the 3rd Tuesday in April, which in 2019 will be April 16th at 7:00 p.m. Michael McDermott moved and Diane Anderson seconded to approve the date and time for the 2018 Annual meeting. Motion approved.

Adjournment

Todd Culliton moved and Eitan Zohar seconded that the meeting adjourn and the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.