

**Minutes
Town of Vermont Annual Meeting
April 16, 2019**

Town chairman Karen Carlock called the Annual Meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Proof of Posting

The clerk, Chris Christian, certified that the notice had been posted on the front door of the town hall, on the Town of Vermont website, sent to online subscribers and published in the Mount Horeb Mail and Star News.

Approval of the 2018 Annual Meeting Minutes

Todd Culliton moved and Doug Meier seconded that the minutes from the 2018 Annual Meeting be approved. The minutes were approved.

Annual Financial Report

Karen opens by describing the new layout of the graph showing the financial reports and points out that Public Safety is included in the levy limit. She states that Vermont has not asked for a levy limit increase and does not see a need for one at this time, but that it is something that may have to be considered in future years.

Jenna Schmidt presented the revenue portion of the report. Town revenue for 2018 totaled \$2,262,997. Intergovernmental income totaled \$117,836. Licenses and permits \$21,149 assessment \$1050 and misc. \$3,235.

Chris Christian presented the expenditures report with mandated expenditures for the year of 2018 totaling \$1,665,442. School expenditures were \$447,437 for Mount Horeb, \$727,809 for Wisconsin Heights and \$99,861 for MATC. State and county levy totaled \$383,313. General government totals, which include salaries totaled \$88,898. Public safety was \$198,245. Total public works expenditures were \$329,315. Grave expenditures were \$8,396 and the picnic cost \$1341. Total town expenditures were \$643,455. The carryover for 2018 was \$224,290. This reserve has been included in the 2019 budget. The current cash balance is \$1,197,859. The town debt is \$105,546, which is the payment for the Black Earth fire truck. This only affects residents of Black Earth.

The question was asked by a resident "Do you shoot for a particular carryover amount?" Karen replied that the plan is more to balance exactly, with reserve money being set aside for future road repair, vehicle expenses and so on.

A question was asked about the extent and cost of the flood damage over the summer. Jack replied that it had not been severe, mostly washouts, such as the shoulder of Braun Road.

Karen added that road repair was one example of an accrual item and Todd added that the Black Earth fire truck was another, as the department was likely to want to purchase other vehicles in the future, and it was better if the town didn't have to try to find money when that happens. Doug adds that the same is true for anticipated repairs to the town hall building and the garage, and that while some borrowing was inevitable the goal was to minimize this.

Sandy asked for clarification between accrual accounts and restricted accounts and Karen stated that since Budget amendments could always be made to move money from one item to another nothing is ever truly restricted.

Charlene made a motion to approve the 2018 Financial report and David seconded. The motion was passed.

Road Maintenance Report

In April, twelve culverts will be replaced and the county will be putting down an overlay on JJ and J to 78. In July and August a twenty foot wide swath of cold mix overlay will be put down on JJ. Local drivers should expect delays.

The bridge of County J has been closed after routine monthly checks had shown it to be unsafe. The county is bolting angle iron to the I-beams as a temporary fix, however the deck is losing chunks of concrete as skid steers are passing over it. The bridge needs replacement, but the county has not provided a timeline for the total replacement of the bridge. The current repairs should be done in a month to a month and a half.

One culvert on F/FF has been replaced in April and F/FF will also receive a twenty foot wide cold mix overlay in July or August.

A question was asked about the “red squiggles” on Forshaug Road, and Jack stated that he had been marking spots for wedging and chip sealing.

Karen thanked Jack, the town patrolman for the great job he does maintaining the roads, and said that the road conditions had been excellently maintained throughout the winter.

The chip sealing bids for 2019 came in over budget, for Blue Mounds Trail, Forshaug, Greenwald and Moe roads. Bids were rejected.

This year’s road project will be cold mix overlay on the full length of Old Indian Trail. This will be done in July and August. Residents in the area will receive a mailing with more details.

Barbara, who lives on Greenwald Road suggested that it did not really need chip sealing this year, and the town could save money by skipping it.

Cardinal Hickory Creek Update

Michael presented an update on work being done by various local organizations to oppose the Cardinal Hickory Creek Transmission line. He thanked everyone who has been active in this effort. He said that he and Karen Carlock had met with Marc Pocan and he was supportive of their efforts. Twenty seven towns and villages, three counties and several cities have also opposed the line and Tammy Baldwin has also agreed to write a letter opposing the line. Michael will be presenting formal written testimony and has filed a request for discovery related to Cardinal-Hickory Creek’s claims that 60% of residents support the project. Residents wishing to assist in opposing the line can attend public meetings and write thank you notes to Representative Pocan.

The commission will make a decision on the project in August. There is an upcoming fundraiser at Gary and Nancy’s house.

Dane County Zoning Ordinance Revision

Doug Meier provided an overview of the changes in the Dane County Zoning Ordinance and stated that the Town of Vermont has a year to approve the new Ordinance. The Planning Commission is currently going through each parcel to ensure that there are no significant differences between the old and new zoning.

Oaths of Office for Incoming Officials

Karen begins by thanking Todd Culliton for his years of dedication and service and his willingness to continue by serving on the Planning Commission. She thanked the outgoing treasurer and clerk, Jenna and Chris as well. Karen also recognized the hard work of the election inspectors.

Karen welcomed the new Board Member, Alex McKenzie.

Alex McKenzie, Board Member, Rebecca Thompson, treasurer, Scott Moe, Board Member, Karen Carlock, Board Chair and Kathryn Zelle, clerk all took their oaths of office as incoming officials.

Discussion of any other business to come before the meeting

David described efforts to work on a renewable energy plan for the town. The board has authorized a committee to develop a plan outline. The committee is looking for volunteers.

Karen mentioned that various ATV groups or clubs have been asking for approval to use town roads. The board recommendation was that the groups get more organized with their requests and that an advisory referendum was a possibility.

Barb described the opinions of her neighbors as being very against the ATVs primarily due to noise and proximity disturbing their cattle.

Suri (?) added that the noise and disturbance would not be worth the possible extra revenue and that it would interfere with the rural character of the area.

Gary expressed concerns over how violations such as speeding could be practically enforced.

Another gentleman expressed concern that the clubs making the request had no way to control non members who would also bring ATVs onto the roads and raised concerns about trespassers on private land.

David asked if anyone knew of referendums in other towns and Charlene mentioned that Blue Mounds Park was fighting the use of snowmobiles there.

Scott said that he felt some farmers would be in favor of allowing ATVs on the road because they use them as they move from field to field. Another gentleman said he believed that was already allowed as it was for any farm equipment on the roads. Another gentleman said that they were on the roads everywhere down near Arena, but his concern was about people who would abuse it.

Karen recognized Earl and Shirley Brant with a Community Award for their years of service to the town. Earl was one of the founders of the Vermont Voice and started a Little Free Library in the Town. He also served for many years on the Planning Commission. Shirley set up the filing system for records on land use, served as an election inspector and issued the town burn permits for many years.

Set date of 2020 annual meeting

The meeting will be the third Tuesday in April, April 21, 2020 at 7:00 pm.

Adjournment

Todd made a motion to adjourn and it was seconded by a town resident. Meeting was adjourned at 8:07 pm.