

Draft Minutes
Town of Vermont Board Meeting
July 8, 2019
7:00 P.M.
Town Hall: 4017 County Road JJ

1. Call to order and certification of notice posting

Karen called the meeting to order at 7pm. Katie certified that the meeting notice was posted in three locations, including the door of town hall and additionally the town website.

2. Approval of agenda

A motion was made by Doug to approve the agenda and seconded by John. Motion approved 5-0

3. Approval of June minutes

A motion was made by Alex and seconded by Doug to approve the June minutes. Motion carried 5-0

4. Chairman's report and acknowledgments

The chair has nothing to note today.

5. Citizens' Input

Michael provided an ATC update. The hearing is now over, and formal testimony is complete. Michael didn't have to testify. Public hearings in Lancaster, Dodgeville and Madison. There were lots of good people who spoke, internet comments were taken for three days. 300 people attended the meeting at Dodgeville. The volume of internet comments crashed the server, they had to extend the comment period. A decision will be made in August or September. Briefs can still be submitted and Michael will continue to work on that.

The PSC staff were there and were cross examined. PSC staff were critical of the ATC proposal.

Karen asks if we are supportive of Michael submitting a brief on behalf of the town? General agreement

6. Treasurer's report

7. Total deposits 35473.84 largest part of that was building proceeds from the fire dept, brings total acct balance to \$585,244.23 operating balance \$353,089.02 reserve \$232,155.21

8. We don't yet have a final loan amount for the new building project to know what our part will be. It is in our Money Market account earning interest. Doug moves to approve the treasurers report and John seconds; the motion carries 5-0

9. Clerk's report

Katie will attend training next week in Green Bay. She will continue to check and respond to email and voicemail during the week.

There has been a complaint about the loose gravel on Forshaug Road and the fact that work was done on the 4th of July

Electrical work has been completed at town hall. A list of the work done is in the meeting packet.

The warranty will be up on the Bobcat this fall. If any warranty work needs to be done, we should take care of it before October.

Motion to approve the clerks report by Alex, John seconds and the motion carries 5-0

10. Payment of bills

A motion is made by Doug and seconded by Karen to pay the bills; the motion carries 5-0

11. North Road Culvert

At North Road and Thumper there is a 2x2 concrete culvert with an 18 inch tube through it. It is caving in. It is currently covered up as there is another culvert close enough to handle the water. We should probably do it sometime before the spring.

Doug made a motion for a budget amendment for replacement, John seconds and the budget amendment was passed 5-0

12. Renewable Energy Plan – overview of a draft of a plan. An outline was presented... Dave is a great reporter and has been asking great questions. The goal is to support TOV residents to transition away from fossil fuels and to more renewable energy resources. There is background information; regarding state law and energy. The meat of it is 4 action areas that are all interrelated. Action 1: We have a lot of resources currently available. We aren't making up new information. A big opportunity is communication and awareness building among TOV residents. We can do presentations for the township and perhaps surveys to help engage town residents in what's going on and engage in taking action. Action 2: support energy efficiency – Letting people know about programs regarding energy efficiency. Support and expansion of renewable energy. There is support, tax credits, rebates, no cost assessments, and then everyone can make their own decision. Right now, some solar programs are occurring in Wisconsin. Dave S is communicating with MH utility to check on interest and opportunities. Action 4: Disruptive energy events. Fields are overflowing. So, we think this should be part of the focus. What are we going to do about this? How big can we make these culverts? This was most clearly evidenced last August and there is probably more coming. We want to recruit others and have already person on each of those action areas. Karen asked is action 4 more of emergency preparedness versus the energy plan. They think it's part of the picture. Karen responded that we have an emergency plan done in 2015 and when we redo it, we would have a lot more to put in after last year.

Karen asks, "Do you have a prioritization?" I think they are interrelated, John, "How would you promote that? Using energy efficiency as an example." To provide information for homeowners, etc., so they can make the best decision. Perhaps Focus on Energy could hold a public meeting or through the various nonprofits, like Black Earth Watershed. In answer to your question, I look at the "Therefore" on page two of the plan. Karen, What I hear you saying, is that you want our approval of the plan and then you will come back to us with what you want us to do.

Doug, I concur, but with the town board members, there isn't really enough bandwidth for us to do much, we would need ongoing support of possibly a committee. John, maybe we approve the plan as is, and we get a list of what actions would be from the committee. Perhaps a booth at the town picnic. Action area 4, is more for the town board and patrolman or Dane County. Doug, it prompts us to update the emergency plan to make sure it addresses these issues.

Katie will follow up with Dane County to update the town emergency preparedness plan.

Motion approve energy plan, moving item 4 to additional background, second John, motion carried 5-0

13. Vehicle Maintenance

Very high Premiere Co-Op bill on the International Truck, Jack says he thinks Premiere are sharp mechanics and the shop rate is the same as in Madison. Expenses were oil pan, leaf springs, air conditioner, Doug asks would Premiere do any kind of maintenance agreement. Jack, no, not really, perhaps we need to look at budgeting more for reserve towards a new truck, if the replacement cycle is about 9 years.

The board approved the budget amendment for the Bobcat 5-0

14. Garage Addition

This is just starting the discussion, what are the next steps for better handling the garage storage space Doug, it would be interesting to look at the building and see how efficiently the space is being used right now. Jack says, I have made it all a lot more efficient, is about as efficient as it is going to get.

Doug, what are our accruals for Buildings? Jack, we need to check on the setback from the well. We should also look at better insulation. John, we should do a needs assessment

We also need a spreadsheet of all our equipment and where it is stored. Jack, what are we storing off site, batwing mower, bobcat trailer, bale chopper, broom, extra snow bucket.

John, we need to get an inventory

Question, have you ever done an energy efficiency audit? It would be terrible, but no. Karen asks what an audit run? Focus on Energy might just do it, the energy committee will look into it This will be revisited next month

15. Obsolete Records Ordinance first reading last month, we can make edits or changes.

The historical society will look at everything first just to make sure and we won't destroy any of our historically valuable records. Do we have any other changes to suggest other than the removal of section 7? Concerns? Doug points out it is recommended, makes motion, Alex seconds, motion carries 5-0

16. Agenda Items for August Meeting

Garage Addition

Budget Update including Accrual Items and Reserve

Equipment Inventory

Patrolman's report, chip sealing, Forshaug, Moe done, Cleaned up debris and downed trees after storms, replaced blades on the woods mower, finished Brody's culvert. Had surgery on the 25th of June and will be off until July 22.

17. Adjournment Karen motions to adjourn Alex seconds, motion carried 5-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 8:19

Posted: July 5, 2019

Katie Zelle, Clerk