

Town of Vermont Board Meeting

Oct 14, 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 7:01 PM. Katie certified that the meeting had been noticed as required.

2. Approval of agenda

Scott motioned to approve the agenda and John seconded. The agenda was approved 5-0

3. Approval of September minutes

John motioned to approve the September minutes with corrections made to the spelling of a name and to the number for the requested funding increase for Dane County Senior Services. Scott seconded and the September minutes were approved 5-0

4. Chairman's report and acknowledgments

The chair reported that this month she followed up with the Villages of Black Earth and Mount Horeb and both are open to an initial discussion regarding cooperative boundary agreements. Meetings are tentatively scheduled for January and February of 2020.

5. Citizens' Input

An announcement was made that the Black Earth Creek Watershed newsletter is available at Town Hall.

6. Treasurer's report

This month there were \$3991.14 in deposits, mostly building permits. Our total account balance is \$354,997.08

Karen motioned to approve the treasurer's report and Doug seconded it. The report was approved 5-0

7. Clerk's report

The DS200 voting machine will receive scheduled maintenance this week. The Automark is being retired and returned to the county. The Expressvote machine that will replace it has been ordered. We should not need to pay for that machine or the maintenance contract for the DS200 until early 2020.

Doug made a motion to approve the Clerks report. Alex seconded and the report was approved 5-0

8. Payment of bills

Doug made a motion to pay the bills and Scott seconded. The paying of the bills was approved 5-0

9. Vermont Citizens Committee for Cardinal Hickory Creek – Update from Michael McDermott

Michael reported that the PSC has indicated that there will be many more transmission lines coming. The committee will continue with their appeals but as the northern route for the CHC line is no longer being discussed the continued involvement of the town is no longer needed.

Karen moved to formally disband the town committee on the Cardinal Hickory Creek line. John seconded it and the motion carried 5-0. Michael asked that he be given the opportunity to present to the board in the future should any new developments arise.

10. Patrolman Report, Mt. Horeb Fire Department, Black Earth Fire District and District 1 EMS Reports

Jack reports that culvert work, blacktop and mowing are done for the year. The IH truck is in Madison for repairs and the salt has been delivered. The front of the Mickleson property on Union Valley Road will need to be ditched out with a backhoe to prevent ice forming across the road.

For the new Mount Horeb fire building, the interest rate may go down and the project is under budget. Staffing costs however, are increasing.

Black Earth Fire Department will have a 2% budget increase, a total of \$2,200. They have purchased a new extractor washer as they had been using the one in Mount Horeb.

Dane Com is in early discussions about purchasing a new system.

The new truck for District One has been built but won't be ready until 2020. The budget is the same as last year. They are currently experiencing a shortage of weekday volunteers and have discussed adding a part-time employee.

11. Event Permit Madison Nordic Ski Club Roller Ski Up, Up and Away Event

The event this year is not held on any town roads so there is no application for the Town board to approve but they did notify us of the event.

12. 2020 Budget discussion and review. Schedule public budget hearing.

The request from NW Dane Senior Services would take us to \$4896. We would like to better market their services to reach more of our population. We will put an article about them in the next Vermont Voice. Our projected income for next year is \$621,009.19. We are still putting twenty thousand in reserve for the IH replacement and another twenty thousand for road maintenance accrual. The only flexibility in the budget is the six miles of chip sealing. The budget meeting will be on November 11.

13. Discuss vision for development in the Town of Vermont and identify focus areas for the planning commission related to comprehensive land use plan updates

Currently according to the Comprehensive Plan, the entire township is designated as a Farmland Preservation area and therefore, 80% of the township must remain zoned as Farmland Preservation (zoning districts FP-35, FP-1). However as development has occurred in recent years, it seems that most concerns from town residents are related to issues of viewshed rather than Farmland preservation. Many issues, such as driveways, homesites and land division could be handled differently to meet goals of viewshed preservation and rural character or farmland preservation. Karen made a motion that the Planning Commission look at our development strategies in our land division ordinance and comprehensive land use plan to discuss whether they are consistent with the vision set forth in the comprehensive plan. John seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0-1 (Moe).

14. **Closed Session:** Annual employee performance evaluation

15. Agenda Items for November Meeting

Haunted Tour Review

16. Adjournment

Scott made a motion to adjourn and Doug seconded. The motion was approved 5-0 and the meeting adjourned at 9:22 pm

Katie Zelle, Clerk