

Draft
Town of Vermont Board Meeting

June 14, 2021

7:00 P.M.

Vermont Town Hall, 4017 County Road JJ, Black Earth WI 53515

In attendance: Karen Carlock, Doug Meier, Autumn McGree

1. Call to order and certification of notice posting
2. Karen called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Katie certified that the meeting had been published in the Mount Horeb Mail and Star News, the town website, the door of town hall and emailed to subscribers.
3. Approval of agenda

Doug motioned to approve the agenda. Motion carried 3-0

4. Approval of May minutes

Karen moved to approve the April minutes. The minutes were approved 3-0

5. Chairman's report and acknowledgments

Karen began the meeting by saying that it was great to see everyone's faces and nice to be back in person. She added that the town would like to continue making a call in option available in order to increase accessibility, however we are still working out the tech for that.

She also provided an update on her conversation with Focus on Energy, who suggested that the town would be best served by making improvements to insulation, etc, before considering solar.

6. Citizens' Input

Peter Antonie, vice chair of Gateway to the Driftless provided an update on the trails project they have been working on and asked to town to send a letter of support for the bridge project that would join two trail systems. The bridge would be a key component of the "Gateway to the Driftless Trail System." Doug pointed out that while the town generally only weighs in on issues that directly affect the town, the fact that the Village of Black Earth will be involved and does have extra-territorial jurisdiction over parts of the town makes it relevant. Autumn made a motion in support of sending a letter and the motion carried 3-0.

7. Treasurer's report

Total deposits for the month were \$4389.98 and we did receive our personal property aid this month. Our total account balance is \$570,762.28 with \$356,990.33 in reserve and an operating balance of \$213,771.95.

Karen made a motion to approve the treasurers report and the motion carried 3-0

8. Clerk's report

This was a fairly busy month for bill paying: we did go ahead and write the check for Black Earth Fire District, which is due July 15. We also paid Quercus \$3000 for garlic mustard control along town roadways. Additionally, there were costs for gravel and patch and the work to replace several culverts. We also wrote the check for the new lawn mower.

Doug made a motion to approve the clerks report and the motion carried 3-0

9. Payment of bills

Doug moved to pay the bills. Motion carried 3-0

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

Jack reports that he has put down 180 tons of cold patch and that 11 miles of chip sealing has now been completed. The winter chips have also been delivered and will be mixed with the salt on site this year. Vermont Church Road will need to be restriped after the roadwork.

Mount Horeb Fire Department reports that the new building is helping with training. Their new engine is late, but is coming in at or under budget due to the delay.

District 1 reports that they are on budget. Their \$380 K budget is \$320 K of that is covered by billing.

11. Zoning change, driveway and homesite approval, 3952 County Highway JJ, Jordan Faust

We are considering not requiring 66 feet of frontage for the property because of the steep slope. We do have a maximum of four homesites per driveway so any PDRs beyond four will be unusable.

Karen made a motion to approve the rezone of the existing homesite, Lot 3 from FP 35 to RR2. Motion carried 3-0. Karen made a motion to approve the rezone Lot 1 from FP 35 to RR2. Motion carried 3-0. Karen made a motion to approve the rezone Lot 2 from FP 35 to RR2. Motion carried 3-0. Karen motioned to approve the homesite envelopes for Lots 1 and 2. Motion carried 3-0. We do have the signed Ridgetop Protection Agreement on file. Karen made a motion to approve the driveway permit, following all town guidelines, including the requirement for a turnout. Motion carried 3-0. The town is aware of the lack of frontage and is exercising its rights under 75.19 section 8.

12. Black Earth Creek Watershed Green Infrastructure Planning project update

Karen provided an update of the planning that will help to mitigate flooding in the Black Earth Creek Watershed. We will need good local engagement and are looking for residents who own property along Vermont Creek to get involved.

13. Treatment of invasive species along township roads – discussion with Quercus

Jim reports that we have been treating the roads since 2008 and have been successful in limiting the spread of garlic mustard. For next year if we treat only the town roads it will cost \$3500. If we treat along the county roads as well it will be \$5000 and if we treat for parsnip as well it would be an additional \$1500.

14. American Rescue Plan Act – Local Fiscal Recovery Funds update and discussion

We have filed our paperwork with the Dept of Revenue to receive the federal funds designated for us from the American Rescue Plan.

We will receive \$92,108.33

\$46,054.16 this year and the same in 2022.

They can be used for the following things:

To support public health expenditures

To address negative economic impacts caused by the public health emergency

To replace lost public sector revenue (with supporting documentation showing that loss, which we do not have)

To provide premium pay for essential workers

To invest in water, sewer and broadband infrastructure

We are allowed to use any accrued interest as we chose

We cannot use the money on infrastructure, roads or to enable a tax cut

We will be receiving the first installment this month (possibly) and the second half next year. I believe we have until 2024 to spend it.

15. Agenda Items for July Meeting

American Rescue Plan spending

Black Earth Creek Watershed

CUPs from the planning commission

16. Adjournment

Autumn made a motion to adjourn. Motion carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:22

Posted:
Notice Published: June, 2021

Katie Zelle, Clerk