

Draft

Town of Vermont Board Meeting

February 8, 2021

7:00 P.M.

Due to Covid-19 this meeting is via conference call. Call in to the meeting by dialing (608) 422-4798
In attendance: Karen, Alex, Doug, and Scott

1. Call to order and certification of notice posting

Karen called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Katie certified that the meeting had been published in the Mount Horeb Mail, the town website, the door of town hall and emailed to subscribers.

2. Approval of agenda

Doug motioned to approve the agenda. Motion carried 4-0

3. Approval of January minutes

Karen moved to approve the January minutes. The minutes were approved 4-0

4. Chairman's report and acknowledgments

Alex and Karen continue working on the cooperative boundary agreements and will be sharing that when they have it completed.

5. Citizens' Input

none

6. Treasurer's report

Deposits for the month totaled \$840,861.27. Most of this was property tax collections, and we also received the first installment of our state transportation aid. That brings our current balance to \$1,329,74.34. The 2020 reserve balance is 353,199.34.

Scott made a motion to approve the treasurers report and the motion carried 4-0.

7. Clerk's report

There will be an election on Feb 16. Absentee ballots that have been requested have been mailed and our poll workers are in place. Expenses of note this month included the distribution of Property Tax revenue to the school and fire districts and county, our annual insurance premium and some work on the IH truck.

Karen motioned to approve the clerks report. Motion carried 4-0

8. Payment of bills

Doug moved to pay the bills. Motion carried 4-0

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

It has been a stormy month. The turboboost on the IH truck is acting up. It had to go in the shop and is actually there again. The new IH truck will be delivered for buildout on May 28. The one ton pickup needs some work as well.

Black Earth Fire District finished the year with a surplus and will be able to cover the whole cost of replacing the roof. They are also moving towards an accrual system for vehicle replacement, so that they will no longer have to ask the townships directly to take on debt when they need to replace vehicles.

District 1 also finished strong for the year with their funds in good shape. The total calls in Vermont for 202 were 21.

10. 2020 Draft Financial Report and Reserve and Carryover Review

The carryover amount for the year was \$126,520.81. As the town voted to return to a quadrant schedule for chip sealing we saved a fair amount of money by doing less this year. Karen motioned that \$125,000 of the carryover be allocated towards the IH purchase, with any leftover funds being placed in unallocated reserve. The motion carried 4-0. The full cost of the IH replacement will be covered by funds already accrued plus this carryover amount.

11. Financial Policy Review

Our property tax overpayment and insufficient funds policies have been updated. Scott made a motion to adopt them as part of our revised financial policy. The motion carried 4-0

12. Land Use Review Follow Up Discussion: Farmland Preservation Acreage and Rezone Policy

The town of Vermont is designated a Farmland Preservation district. As such, 80% of the land has to remain zoned for Ag. While losing that designation would not affect our density policy it would result in the loss of the FP tax credit for residents who are currently eligible. As such, we will need to watch the changes in zoning as the township experiences growth to ensure that does not occur.

13. Consideration and possible approval of Land Use Intent Form revision

Karen motioned to approved the revised Land Use Intent Form as discussed in the January meeting without any further changes. Motion carried 4-0

14. Wisconsin Heights School District Auditorium Referendum discussion

Because many taxpayers have expressed concerns about the increase to their tax bills following the Nov. referendum the town is considering whether it would be appropriate to share information with our voters about how referendum amounts would affect their tax bills, taking into account the effects of our Equalized Value. We will write something up and consider sharing through the website or Vermont Voice.

Joanie Haugen spoke to the need to update unsafe and aging auditorium facilities.

15. Agenda Items for March Meeting

Wisconsin Heights School District Auditorium Referendum discussion

Financial Report

16. Adjournment

Scott made a motion to adjourn. Motion carried 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:48

Posted:

Katie Zelle, Clerk

Notice Published: Feb 4, 2021