

Draft Minutes
Town of Vermont Board Meeting
September 11, 2023
Vermont Town Hall
4017 County Rd JJ, Black Earth WI 53515
7:00 P.M.

To Join the meeting by phone: +1 347-896-0991 PIN: 481 262 925#

In attendance: Karen, Nick, Alex, Doug, Kirk

1. Approval of agenda

Karen called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and Katie certified that the notice had been posted according to statute

2. Approval of August minutes

Nick Made a motion to approve the August minutes. Motion was seconded and carried 5-0

3. Chairman's report and acknowledgments

Karen expressed that the town picnic was a great success.

4. Citizens' Input

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5. Treasurer's report

We received the August settlement payment for taxes. Not much activity for the month, total account balances is \$354,688.44. Karen made a motion to approve the treasurer's report and the motion was approved 5-0

6. Clerk's report

Bills this month were routine and we have likely not received all the bills due to the holiday and meeting that falls relatively early in the month. We paid for the food, entertainment, etc for the town picnic. Karen made a motion to approve the clerks report. Motion passed 5-0

7. Payment of bills

Doug made a motion to approve the payment of the bills. Motion passed 5-0.

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

Jack reported that it was a routine month, finished patching and got the trucks cleaned up, about a third of the way through mowing. Tim says union negotiations are continuing for MHFD. Nothing to report for Black Earth Fire. Scott reports that District 1 is doing preliminary budget meetings. District 1 is asking for some of the Municipal Relief Bill. They are continuing the search for someone to replace Jim.

9. MATE deputy visiting to answer questions about ATV use on town roads

Kelsey Gilmore, MATE deputy from Dane county came to talk about ATV routes. She mentioned that you don't have to have a driver's license to operate an ATV, and also, there is not an open container law for ATVs, there are also people with revoked licenses driving ATVs. Most ATV accidents involve younger people or people who have been drinking. The original idea of ATV routes was to connect to ATV trails, however there are no ATV trails in Dane County. Municipalities can add things to their local ordinances such as requiring a valid WI drivers license, age restrictions, no open containers, etc, but those are just municipal tickets. Several residents expressed opinions both in favor of and against the use of ATVs on town roads.

10. Consideration of approach to ATV survey given that local advisory referendums have been banned by the State of Wisconsin

The board discussed options for surveying the town residents about their opinions. A mailer with a QR code to a survey was discussed. The board will continue to discuss what all should be put on the survey mailer.

Karen made a motion to move to item 13. Motion carried 5-0

11. Consideration and possible action regarding visibility/safety at intersection at County JJ and Blue Mounds Trail

Because this is a county road we would need to talk to the county about safety here.

The county did remove some trees, but to improve visibility it would require digging back some. Karen will email the Dane County highway contact and also suggest a stop sign.

12. Cooperative Boundary Agreement progress discussion

Karen provided an update on the potential agreements with Blue Mounds and Black Earth. Katie will print on town letterhead and send. Kirk moved to send the letters.

Motion carried 5-0.

13. High Level discussion regarding 2024 Town of Budget budget preparation, including discussion and possible action on proposed Mount Horeb Fire/EMS budget increase

Jenny Minter from MHFD was here to talk about their 2024 budget request. MHFD is asking for money from Act 12. Jenny shared a presentation on needs the department is facing, including the need for additional staff. Ambulance calls are up sharply in the past year and there have been 18 instances where an ambulance crew has not been available to staff the second ambulance and a fire vehicle has to be dispatched instead. Karen moved to approve the budget proposal, seconded by Kirk. In the discussion Karen and Nick stressed the importance of finding a long term solution to a more sustainable budgeting solution. Jenny invited the board to attend the budget meetings for the fire department and the board agreed that would be an important step to take for next year. Motion carried 3-1-1.

14. Discussion and possible action regarding Comprehensive Plan revision process

Karen made a motion to task the planning commission with beginning the Comprehensive Plan revision process yet this year. Karen amended the motion to say that the process should be completed and approved by the end of 2025. Motion seconded and passed 5-0

15. Backup patrolman recruitment and compensation discussion

The board will keep the current rate of \$25. Tim will serve while Jack is on vacation and will help with plowing this winter.

16. Town of Vermont 2023 Picnic debrief

The picnic was held at the prairie restoration area of Vermont Lutheran Church. We came in under budget, with a total spend of \$1491. We used 103 plates, so the clerk estimates total attendance to have been about 90. Everyone agreed that the location was so beautiful and had so many features such as a play area for kids that it would be worth continuing to have the picnic there in the future.

17. Agenda items for October

Bohn Road Bridge project

Budget/Reserve discussion

Black Earth Fire/Public Safety Spend
Black Earth/District 1 EMS discussion
ATV survey

18. Adjournment

Doug Made a motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 10:38.