

OWN OF VERMONT, WISCONSIN

WHAT'S INSIDE: Our town board Meet the candidates Karen Carlock Bridge out Nitrate testing

AGRICULTURE • ENVIRONMENT • RECREATION

SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY Meet the people who keep things running

Vermont has a long history of civic participation. We see this demonstrated by the voter turnout each election day. But day-to-day there are friends and neighbors who have taken that next step and participate in the local government that keeps our roads clear, our schools funded, polling places open, emergency services engaged, and plans in place to keep Vermont, well Vermont. In this issue we will highlight some of those neighbors and give you some information about your choice for who might lead the township next. Karen Carlock, the outgoing town chair shares her views on local government and what it's meant to serve the community these past 10 years.

If you have a story idea or a photo to share, please email coxco@chorus.net. We hope you enjoy this issue of Vermont's Voice.— Gary Cox





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Meet the people who

keep things running



Town Chair



Supervisor 1 How many years have you been on the town board 3 years

How long have you lived in the township? 5 years

What are your special talents and experience that you bring to this position?

As a town board member, I call on my experience in leadership I gained as an executive with the Ricoh Corporation. At Ricoh I led a large and complex division covering three states with over 350 employees on my team. There I learned the importance of listening, gathering input, and using that information to make decisions that were consistent, aligned with policy, and created the maximum benefit for all stakeholders involved. I also learned the importance of strong stewardship of the resources in my care and making sure the allocation of those resources benefited the organization and its members in the best way possible. I feel all of this is directly transferable to the role of board member.

I also bring the perspective as a landowner who has built a home in the Town of Vermont. I leverage this experience to put myself in the shoes of the town residents who both want to protect the value of their land and the rural nature of the township, as well as the desire to maximize the potential for the use of their land and their respective land rights.



How many years have you been on the town board 2 years on Plan Commission 5 Years on Town Board

How long have you lived in the township? 7 years

What are your special talents and experience that you bring to this position?

Through my experience in development and construction in the City of Madison, I have attended numerous city council meetings and collaborated with city staff to create impactful projects. I believe that balancing my role as both a town resident and board member provides me with a unique and well-rounded perspective.



Nick Balster Supervisor 2

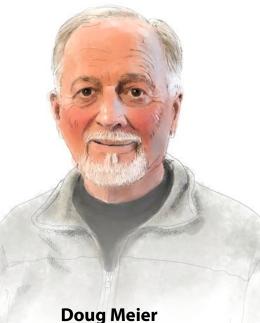
How many years have you been on the town board 3 years

How long have you lived in the township? 7 years

What are your special talents and experience that you bring to this position?

I guess I would say I have a talent for true listening, curiosity, critical thinking, generosity, fascination with nature, creativity, and building things. As far as experience, I have worked as a researcher and teacher in and outside the university for almost 30 years. My focus of study includes Soil, Hydrology, and Forestry with broad training in environmental science and

ecology. My professional experience is informed by my "real-world" experience working outside the university with growers and practitioners in my local community, the state, and abroad. I take pride in that I always seek to combine my scientific training with a humble pursuit to understand the environment by getting my hands "dirty" and experiencing the value of hard work, mental and physical, by doing. I have been delighted to serve the Town of Vermont and am so blessed to have met so many wonderful folks in my short three years as a town supervisor. Oh, and I hope one or two of you have enjoyed my regular column in the Vermont's Voice on Soil – I've had fun digging into this topic!



Supervisor 4

How many years have you been on the town board Around 1999 I was appointed to the Planning Commission (PC) and a year later ran for Town Board. I served two terms until 2004 and did not run again. In 2010 I re-engaged joining the PC and ran for Board again in 2014; over 14 years on the Board now

How long have you lived in the township? We moved into the Township in late 1997, but I've been familiar with the township since the early 1960's. Our home farm was on the Sugar River just west of Verona. While we lived in Madison and had a renter on the farm, most weekends and summers were working on the farm. Part of the farm was the Goodwin Cheese Factory where I remember the large wheels of Swiss cheese aging in the back cellar. It closed in the mid '50s. Lucille and Edward streets in Verona are named after my parents. I am a mix of city and country with Vermont never being far away. I've always loved the Vermont hills and knew one day I'd live here.

I strive to approach issues facing the Town with an objective perspective, recognizing that there are multiple viewpoints to consider. As a resident of the town, with no plans to leave, I take the responsibility of serving on the Town Board very seriously. I listen to the residents feedback and strive to guide the towards decisions that serve the town's best interested for the long term. I enjoy the privilege of collaborating with fellow board members, town staff, and residents who are equally committed to making our town a great place to live.

What are your special talents and experience that you bring to this position?

My past is quite varied; 21 years in the WI Air National Guard in emergency management and intelligence, various sales and business management roles, and 10 years with WI DNR Forestry. I've been a Cub Scout Master, with the Boy Scouts, National Ski Patrol and am a National Ski Patrol Outdoor Emergency Care instructor. What brings me to the town service? It's a sense of doing what's right in a unbiased manner; yes I have my own values, but they are only as good as what Town residents call for. I hope to always be responsive to town residents and will always encourage people to be engaged and volunteer. It just makes the world a little better.

O U R ELECTIONS



Spring Election - April 1 General election

Their unedited answers are included below.

In addition to State elections, the April 1st election will include Town of Vermont Town Chair and Supervisor 1 Elections. The Supervisor 1 seat is running unopposed and the Town Chair position has two candidates.

We asked the two candidates for some basic information and a few questions.



Kirk Lynch Candidate for Town Chair

Age: 56 **Years in the township:** 5 years

Opening Statement:

Hi, my name is Kirk Lynch, and I am running for Town Chairperson in the spring election. I have been serving as a town Supervisor for over 3 years. I look forward to continuing where Karen Carlock is leaving off and sincerely appreciate what she has done for the town of Vermont! I look forward to continuing to develop a strong relationship with the community and working to make sure the Town Board meets the needs of the residents going forward. I know I am lucky to live in such a wonderful location and treasure the opportunity to maintain the community.

What issue do you see as the most important for the future of the Town of Vermont? As the future Chairperson, I will have a unique opportunity to make a real impact on our community. There are two areas that stand out as uniquely important to the success of the township and the protection of the residents' interests.

First, the maintenance and preservation of the rural nature and feel of the Town of Vermont is paramount. The town has an excellent land use plan in place. Ensuring we consistently follow this plan, will protect both landowners' rights and the land values within the Town of Vermont. The Chairperson is charged with making sure that communications and actions are open, transparent, and thorough. I feel that providing an opportunity to hear from the community stakeholders and soliciting input from all, before any decisions are reached, is also required. When approving and evaluating development within the township, these decisions must be made consistently and with both the preservation of the rural nature of our town and the rights of the landowners in mind.

Second, is responsibility and accountability for budgeting of town fiscal resources. The Chairperson and Board are responsible for maximizing the benefits to the town residents from their tax contributions. I will leverage our county and state partners, negotiate with our township vendors, and work with our Fire and EMS Districts to keep costs down and seek alternative funding opportunities through grants. With ever increasing costs for public safety, EMS and fire protection as well as road and infrastructure maintenance, it is fundamental that the Chairperson works hard to identify the most cost-effective ways to maintain a high level of support while not increasing the tax burden on the township.

I feel the Town of Vermont is a special place to live, work, and play. I am committed to preserving its beauty, respecting landowner rights, and keeping our taxes low.

What talents and skills will you bring to the position of Town Chair?

I have had the opportunity to serve on the Town of Vermont Board as a Supervisor for the past 3 years. During this time, I have had the opportunity to see how our local government works, hear what matters to the residents, and understand the challenges the Town of Vermont faces. This perspective and experience have been invaluable to my development as I seek the Chairperson position. I understand the importance of preserving the rural nature of our community and the value that brings to the property owners and residents. I also see the complex fiscal challenges associated with the ever-increasing costs associated with maintaining our roads and bridges, along with Fire and EMS services.

During my time as Supervisor, I have leveraged my many years of business experience as a Senior Leader managing a large, complex organization. I am very familiar with the need for strong financial stewardship to develop and maintain a budget. I also have the acumen to lead productive community discussions to efficiently and effectively arrive at outcomes that benefit all parties involved. I have strong listening skills, and I am open to gathering and soliciting input to make sure the best decisions are made to benefit the Town while consistently aligning those decisions with the town goals and policies.



Candidate for Town Chair

Age: 66 Years in the township: 26 years

Opening Statement:

I'm retired by disability, acquired by reaching for my bootstraps to solve life's challenges. As a resident of the Town of Vermont for the past 26 years I have seen many changes and more are coming as Dane County's population continues to grow. Our choice to move here was based on a desire to raise our family in a rural area that had a sense of community and the land use plan which restricted over-development in order to keep the rural aspect.

What issue do you see as the most important for the future of the Town of Vermont? First, we all contribute substantial taxes to support services we require. Our family exercises fiscal responsibility and I will do so as Chair.

Second, the land use plan is a vital component to keeping the rural aspect of the township. As it continues to become more restrictive, making decisions impacting and on behalf of Town residents and taxpayers, should always be made with the greatest caution. Where problems arise solutions should be available and loopholes closed. The claim to an open fair process depends on it.

What talents and skills will you bring to the position of Town Chair? I have a B. S. in Law Enforcement w/minor in Political

Science, as well as an associate degree with honors from MATC in Civil Engineering and Land Surveying.

I have proven skills as a technical engineer communicating effectively with engineering firms throughout Dane County, City/County engineering departments, union manufacturing plant leadership/personnel, underground contractors and the occasional farmer.

I also served as President of Vermont Lutheran Church in 2001 and a Boy Scout leader of Pack 63 and Troop 58 in Mazomanie/Black Earth.

My Law Enforcement and Political Science education is useful in understanding statutory code and the workings of the process.

I represented the interests of the property owner as an agent and shepherded all the rezoning processes prior to developing and building our home. Been there, done that.

I will listen to your concerns/ideas and will strive to work together with the town board and employee staff to provide results that promote our communities stated goals.

Should I be elected, I will donate the Chairpersons compensation to Habitat for Humanity.



Mark Haukos at 3 yrs. old image supplied by Mark Haukos

I love living in the Town of Vermont and I only want what is best for all our residents. I am confident I can follow in the footsteps of our previous strong township leadership and preserve and protect this great community.



Polly Kawalek Supervisor 1

How long have you lived in the township? 4 years

What are your special talents and experience that you bring to this position?

I was lucky to work for Quaker Oats for over 25 years, beginning just out of school in "consumer packaged" goods marketing" and (eventually) running the whole food business. (If you eat Quaker Oatmeal, I am grateful to you.) Quaker was a great place to work and taught us all that "leadership is service to others". I learned to understand the needs of all constituencies, identify issues, solve problems, and, most of all, make sure everyone understood where we were headed and why. I look forward to learning how the board works together to maintain our roads and infrastructure, listen to all points of view, and look ahead to any changes we may encounter.

Paul and I have embarked on a great adventure to restore our oak savanna and woodlands. We're inspired every day by the many examples of thoughtful stewardship in the township. Serving on the board is one way to express appreciation to our wonderful neighbors.

OUR PEOPLE

KAREN CARLOCK 10 vears of community service



Karen has served Vermont Township for the past10 years, first as Town Clerk, and then as Town Chair. Her 8-year tenure as Town Chair makes her one of our longest serving officials in that position. Her commitment to transparency and consideration of all viewpoints in all decisions has served the township well. During her term she has been proactive in managing funds and positioning the township for a more stable economic future by anticipating expenditures and setting aside reserves to prevent sharp swings in township tax bills. And she has done it all efficiently, gracefully, respectfully and with humility and genuine care and kindness.

Kirk Lynch says: "Karen has demonstrated what leadership is, and I have watched her guide the township over my past three years on the Board with caring and resolve to the township goals and interests. Karen is a great listener and has given a voice to so many in the town as she guided the Board through the challenges we have faced. She has been a great community leader, steward of the township resources, and neighbor!"

Alex McKenzie adds: "Karen's passion and dedication to the Town of Vermont have been truly invaluable and will be difficult to replace. She has been the only Town Chair that I have had the privilege of working with, and I have no doubt that she is leaving the Town in a stronger position than when she first took office.

Nick Balster comments:" I am so thankful to have joined the board with Karen as chair. I have learned so much from her balanced, respectful, and mindful approach!" We posed a few questions to Karen about her time in public service:

What motivated you to be in public service?

Originally, I applied for the interim clerk role as I was looking for local, part-time work that would allow me to primarily be home with my young children. The wonderful people in the community and the desire to improve consistency, transparency and our operational processes motivated me to continue to be engaged.

What is your proudest achievement as Town Chair?

Over the past 10 years, we have continually tried to enhance our notification and communication processes in an effort to maintain and increase community engagement in topics and decisions that impact the Town and its residents. We are fortunate to live in a unique and beautiful area, filled with thoughtful, caring and vibrant individuals. It has been an honor and privilege to meet many of our community members over the past 10 years, and I hope that I was able to promote an atmosphere that enhanced community engagement, consistency and respectful dialogue.

Have you formed an approach to town government that you would like to share?

It is of utmost importance to me to listen to varying perspectives. I value the perspective and opinions of each Town Board member and Planning Commissioner and intentionally seek out individuals who may have different approaches or opinions when evaluating topics.

What changes have you seen in town government and the township?

Within the township, there has been a continual, gradual shift away from traditional farming and toward alternative agriculture or toward splitting land for residential building. As a Township, I have seen us continue to grapple with how the current community defines 'rural' and what aspects of 'rural' we value and which we may no longer value as much as we did previously as a community.

Within Town Government, there have been a number of technology changes since I began my role. The majority of operational processes have shifted from paper to electronic. What hasn't changed in my time as part of our local government is the involvement of committed, thoughtful and collaborative Town Board members and Planning Commissioners. We also have consistently had the best Town Patrolman imaginable. Jack truly cares about his role in keeping our Town safe and maintained.

Openings available on the Plan Commission

There are positions opening in the Plan Commission.

Be a part of the process that determines what Vermont will look like in the future.

If you are interested in applying, please fill out the interest form linked here by March 1, 2025.

New appointments to the Town of Vermont Planning Commission will begin April 15.

QUESTIONNAIRE

Join the Town Picnic Planning Committee.

Another option for community service is to volunteer on the Town Picnic Planning Committee. If you are interested, please contact the town clerk, Katie Zelle clerk@townofvermontwi.gov

HIGH PINE, A RECREATIONAL AREA

David and Katherine Feddima-Enerson bought the Ernest Marquette farm in 1964. David had for several years nurtured the dream of operating a year-around recreational area for young people. His dream has been realized at High Pine.

The most impressive feature is a gigantic half mile long toboggan slide- a strip of ice about two feed wide in a chute which yields a speedy but controlled slide.

The area also has five or six miles of hiking trails, a skating rink, and a beautiful reconditioned barn, which has been made into a warming house complete with heat, a fireplace, concession stand, pool table and pinball machine.

The Enerson's have five children. Scott, Andrew and Michelle were born before they moved to Vermont; Jill and Flint were born after they became "Vermonters". From *Town of Vermont History*

OUR ROADS



The Town of Vermont is replacing the Bohn Road bridge over Bohn Creek at JG. The route will be closed during construction for a planned replacement of the bridge.

Construction bids are aiming to be opened/considered in April with work to be approved in May 2025. Build plan would be over the summer and dates have not been set, but desired completion is prior to end of August.

OUR WATER

FREE NITRATE TESTING FOR PRIVATE WELL OWNERS

Dane County Land & Water Resources Department is offering free nitrate testing to private well owners in Vermont township. Well water sample data will be used to create maps to identify targeted areas for conservation practices such as nutrient management and cover crops.

Free nitrate tests are available on a first come, first serve basis and are available until funds are depleted. If you are interested in participating in the testing, please contact:

Walter Entenmann

608/516-4861

Entenmann.Walter@countyofdane.com

The deadline to sign up is March 7, 2025

CONTACT VERMONT'S VOICE

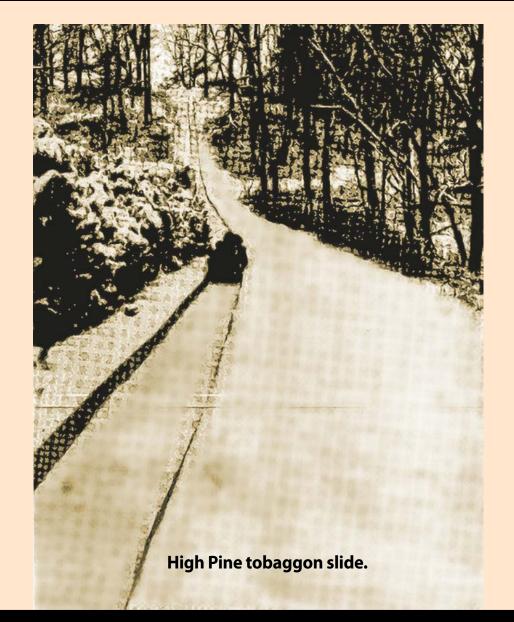
ERMONT TOWNSHIP BOARD	
Town Board Chair Karen Carlock	773-682-8599 email <u>chair@townofvermontwi.gov</u>
Town Clerk Katie Zelle	608-767-2457(x1) email <u>clerk@townofvermontwi.gov</u>
Town Treasurer Heather Richter	608-963-0939 email <u>treasurer@townofvermontwi.gov</u>
Town Board Supervisor Doug Meier	608-219-1886 email <u>supervisor2@townofvermontwi.gov</u>
Town Board Supervisor Nick Balster	
Town Board Supervisor Alex McKenzie	
Town Board Supervisor Kirk Lynch	supervisor1@townofvermontwi.gov

608-767-3953	
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WHAT'S INSIDE: Our town board Meet the candidates

> Karen Carlock Bridge out

Nitrate testing



Bohn Road

Bohn

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Tyrol Basin

BRIDGE

OUT

JG