

**Town of Fortville**  
**07.07.2025**  
**Town Council Meeting**

**Opening of Meeting:**

The meeting was held at Fortville Town Hall, 714 E. Broadway. Meeting was called to order by Council President Tonya Davis at 6:30 pm.

**Present:**

Tonya Davis, President; Ryan Rummell, Vice President; Libby Wyatt, Council Member; Fritz Fentz, Council Member; Vanessa Battaglia, Council Member; Joe Renner, Town Manager; Alex Intermill, Town Attorney; Adriana Krueger, Deputy Clerk Treasurer.

**Not Present:**

N/A

**Approval of Agenda:**

Ryan Rummell made a motion to approve the agenda for today July 7th, 2025; Libby Wyatt second the motion. Motion carried, passed 5/0.

**Approval of Minutes**

Ryan Rummell made a motion to approve the minutes for the June 16th, 2025, town meeting. Libby Wyatt second the motion. Motion carried, passed 5/0.

**New Business:**

- a) The council will consider a Special Event Request for Blazer 88 Foundation's 6<sup>th</sup> annual charity ride – Saturday, August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025, from 9am-10pm.
  - i. Steven Daniels: would like to request additional closure of the alley between the Mexican restaurant/Church/American Legion due to foot traffic for that day. Courtesy notice will need to be sent out to the businesses in that area.

Ryan Rummell made a motion to approve the Special Event Request. Libby Wyatt second the motion. Motion carried, passed 5/0

- b) The council will consider an appointment to the Redevelopment Commission for the seat vacated by Amy Lawson.
  - i. Mike Kelty: Spoke about his request to be considered for the position.

- ii. Bob Sterrett: Spoke about his request to be considered for the position.
- iii. Agnese Kaulina-Feldmanis: Spoke via phone. Spoke about her request to be considered for the position.
- iv. Erica Ryan: was not present and was unable to speak.

Tonya Davis poses to the board to postpone the appointment of the seat until next meeting so that the fourth candidate could be present to speak about her request for consideration. All agreed to wait until the next board meeting.

- c) Council will hear the proposal for the 2026 Vernon Township Fire Department Budget- VTFD Chief Mark Elder presents. The budget will be reviewed and voted on by the council, according to the interlocal agreement.
  - i. Growth Appeal will be applied for this year. It will be the last year the town will be eligible.
  - ii. Final Revised Budget amount of \$7,799,023.00 based on a recommendation from the financial advisor. 83% of that budget will go to personnel services. This will allow for the hiring of 6 additional people. If approved it will give us two more people on each shift, allowing us to put the second Medic truck in service with a dedicated crew. This will help during the times there are multiple calls at once.

Ryan Rummell made a motion to approve the 2026 Vernon Township Fire Department Budget in the amount of \$7,799,023.00. Libby Wyatt second the motion. Motion carried, passed 5/0

- d) Council will consider a petition to appeal for an increase above the maximum levy from the VTFD.

Ryan Rummell made a motion to approve the Growth Appeal for an increase above the maximum levy from the VTFD. Libby Wyatt second the motion. Motion carried, passed 5/0

- e) Council will hear the 2024-25 Vernon Township Assistance Report- VT Trustee Florence May presents.
  - i. Township Assistance: there has been growth in requests coming in. Requests which include House: Rental/ Mortgage assistance, Utility Disconnects, Food, & Medicine. We are seeing the increases in requests as we see the number of apartments and assisted living housings get built in the town. This is short term assistance to get past a dire situation. There are programs that help those requesting assistance, to get back on their feet. We have a community garden where the community can come and either help with the cultivation or gather food items.

- f) Council to consider a Letter of Intent (LOI) with SC Bodner regarding development of the Mercho Property, east of the Old Town area. Alex Intermill presents to the board. Explanation of the LOI to develop an agreement of exclusivity with SC Bodner. There was a PUD already approved for that area. A proposed development agreement will come back to the Town Council for approval. Discussion was held.

Ryan Rummell made a motion to approve the signature of the letter of Intent so the RDC can take into consideration. Libby Wyatt second the motion. Motion carried, passed 4/1

### **Old Business:**

N/A

### **Department Head Reports:**

#### **Town Manager: Joe Renner**

Heath Luther was not able to attend tonight, but he asked me to let the council know that he will be replacing the basketball goals and poles down at the basketball court along with some concrete work around the playground.

Dave Thompson: Water and Sewer superintendent is requesting the purchase of a new lawnmower. He has obtained 4 different quotes with the trade in of the old used mower. Highest quote is \$15,949.00 and the lowest was \$14,299. from Midstate Trucking Equipment in Greenfield.

Tonya Davis made a motion to approve the purchase of the new lawnmower not to exceed \$15,000. Libby Wyatt second the motion. Motion carried, passed 5/0

Community Crossing Matching Grant. The majority of the ADA ramps have been replaced, and they are identified other areas that will need to be addressed. Quotes are being gathered for that work.

#### **Planning & Building Director: Adam Zaklikowski**

No Comment.

#### **Parks Manager: Heath Luther**

Not Present.

#### **Police Chief: Chief Patrick Bratton**

Quarterly report will be available soon for the council to review. One position at the PD is still open. The surplus Durangos will be delivered in the morning. There is one officer out on Extended leave. He is having surgery this week.

## **Town Attorney: Alex Intermill**

Dora update: This has been approved, and signage will be going up soon; both on the outskirts of the boundary and in business entrances. All businesses that have applied for the DORA and have been approved to participate will receive their new alcohol license soon. Any businesses that would like to be added to the participating list will need to apply. Andy Williams will be going door to door distributing signage.

## **Deputy Clerk-Treasurer: Adriana Krueger**

No comment.

## **Public Comment:**

Jenny Rumble – Civil Air Patrol, U.S.A.F. Auxiliary: Commander of Fort Ben Composite Squadron. Youth program for cadets 12-18. We have been meeting at Creek Fire Department right by the Mount Comfort airport which we are going to be losing as construction is going to be starting soon for bigger warehouse. We are requesting to be able to utilize a space in Fortville for a meeting space. Wednesdays from 6:30-9:00pm. MT Vernon Fire Department has a new training room that can be utilized. Chief Mark Elder and VT Trustee Florence May will communicate directly with them to see how they can help.

## **Council Members:**

### **Tonya Davis:**

No Comment.

### **Ryan Rummell:**

No Comment.

### **Libby Wyatt:**

No Comment.

### **Fritz Fentz:**

Due to the waiting times for receiving replacement traffic lights, should we buy extra so that we can have backups that will not take 4 ½ months to receive.

### **Vanessa Battaglia:**

No comment.

**Approve and Sign Vouchers:**

Ryan Rummell makes the motion to approve and sign vouchers; Libby Wyatt seconds the motion. Motion carries passed 5/0.

**Adjourn:**

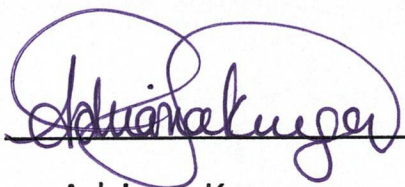
Tonya Davis makes the motion to adjourn at 8:15 pm, Ryan Rummell second the motion. Motion carries passed 5/0.

President: \_\_\_\_\_



Tonya Davis

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer: \_\_\_\_\_



Adriana Krueger