

Kerry Verenski Rebuttal Responses

DEVELOPMENT

1. You support controlled development that preserves rural character. How would you respond if preserving rural character conflicts with the need to expand the tax base?

Growth is inevitable, and responsible leadership means planning for it rather than reacting to it. At the same time, growth should never come at the expense of the rural character that makes our community desirable.

If preserving rural character appears to conflict with expanding the tax base, I would look for strategic, controlled solutions rather than extremes. That means evaluating where growth makes the most sense—using appropriate zoning, thoughtful land-use planning, and development that complements our landscape instead of overwhelming it.

TAXES & FISCAL STABILITY

2. You support minimizing the tax burden. How would you balance that with rising infrastructure and service costs?

Expanding the tax base does not require high-density or poorly planned development. It can come from encouraging small businesses, supporting local entrepreneurs, redeveloping underused properties, and prioritizing projects that fit our scale and infrastructure capacity. Smart growth increases revenue while preserving open space, protecting natural areas, and maintaining the pace and character residents value.

Community input is essential. Residents should help shape what growth looks like, where it happens, and what safeguards are in place.

I do not see this as a choice between preservation and progress. With careful planning, clear standards, and strong community engagement, we can expand our tax base while protecting the rural character that defines us.

PUBLIC INPUT

3. You highlight transparency and communication. How will you ensure that public input meaningfully shapes decisions rather than being limited to listening sessions?

Transparency only matters if it influences outcomes. My commitment is to build processes that not only collect input but clearly show how that input shapes decisions.

I support:

- **Structured feedback loops** - After gathering input through listening sessions, surveys, or workshops, the Village should publicly summarize what we heard, identify common themes, and explain how that input affected the final decision. If certain suggestions cannot be implemented, the reasoning should be clear.
- **Multiple, accessible ways to participate** - Not everyone can attend evening meetings. Online surveys, recorded meetings, and digital updates ensure broader representation. Input should also be gathered early in the process, not after decisions are nearly finalized.
- **Measurable follow-through** - Setting clear goals, timelines, and progress updates allows residents to see how their feedback translates into action.

Public service works best when residents feel heard, respected, and reflected in the decisions that shape their community. That is the standard I would hold myself to as Trustee.