

TOWN OF ST. GERMAIN
OFFICE OF THE CLERK
P.O. BOX 7
ST. GERMAIN, WISCONSIN 54558
www.townofstgermain.org

MINUTES TOWN BOARD MEETING: November 13, 2023

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Tom Christensen called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Roll Call to Establish a Quorum:** Jim Swenson, Brian Cooper, Tom Christensen, Ted Ritter and Kalisa Mortag along with Jeanna Vogel town treasurer, Jenn Jones deputy clerk/treasurer and June Vogel town clerk are in Community Center in room 4 with 31 community members. There were 22 community members present via Zoom.us.
4. **Open Meeting Verification:** Mr Christensen noted that Mr Ritter had posted the meeting agenda at three locations in town on Friday, November 10, 2023 before 6:30 pm.
5. **Citizen's Comments – Citizens are encouraged to share their concerns and ideas with the Board. Please limit your comments to five minutes or less.**
6. **Cemetery Sexton's Report** Sexton was not in attendance, had submitted report of 1 cremation and 1 headstone marking.
7. **Fire Department Report** Fire chief was not in attendance.
8. **Discussion/Action Items:**
 - a. **Discuss rumored septic waste disposal field** Mr Ritter explained that he has been in communication with the DNR and others involved in permitting of septic fields. This falls under NR 113 administrative rule. He explained we have no jurisdiction over this, our ordinance is superseded by NR 113. DNR will consider before issuing permit; location from residential properties, location from service water, location from lakes, soil has to meet certain criteria, DNR looking for flat land with no more of a 6%. Local and county zoning cannot prohibit NR 113; will be permitted given NR 113 guidelines are followed.

Citizen comments from Al Anderson, Andrew LaFrombois, Sue Anderson, Samuel Lustig, Richard Hanson, Bill Krueger, Jake Long, Tim Kiesow, Tracy Wendt, Paul Novorolsky, Bob Schell, Marv Anderson and Jack Peil all voicing concerns regarding what this will do to property values, water levels, run off, environmental impact, ecosystem, odors, well water and condition of Hwy 155. Asking for DNR representative to speak to community members. Pay attention to what is happening in Lac du Flambeau, lawsuit happening as there are current violations on sewage field. Keep fighting for local rights.

Fred Williston asked background questions.

This is a 2-3 year project; bermed, purchase equipment, training for employees. Plant crops, when grown spray effluent and lime mixture in 10 acre crops at a time, harvest and hauled away. With a heavy rain, will this mixture affect weed problems in the lakes.

Ella Baltus – Father owns the property, heard false information during this conversation. Thinks having a DNR representative come and talk is a good idea.

Break 7:24 – 7:30
 - b. **Continue discussion of ownership of Buck Inn Way** Kalisa did some research on this, obtained records on how to abandon a road back at that time. Reached out to previous property owner to ask questions regarding this. Reached out to Greg Maines to interpret the plat as to what intention was at that time. Currently everything learned tends to lean toward this being a town road. Still researching for further evaluation.
 - c. **St. Germain Chamber of Commerce Quarterly Room Tax report** Chamber report received timely and no questions or discussion.
 - d. **Approval of Town bills for payment.** Motion by Mortag to approve bills as presented with additional bills as discussed with exception of check to 29228 and 29235; second Swenson. Discussion none. The motion passed by voice vote unanimously. Motion by Swenson to approve checks 29228 and 29235; second Christensen. Discussion none. The motion passed by voice vote unanimously, Mortag and Cooper abstained.
 - e. **Approval of past meeting minutes** Motion by Ritter to approve minutes of October 26, 2023 as presented; second Swenson. Discussion none. The motion passed by voice vote unanimously.

- f. **Appoint Lisa Penner to the Independence Day Committee** Motion by Ritter to appoint Lisa Penner to the Independence Day Committee to replace June Vogel; second Mortag. Discussion none. The motion passed by voice vote unanimously.
- g. **Approve Room Tax revenue transfer to Lakes Committee** Discussion by board. Lakes Committee plans to change implementation of funds from 20% of weed control cost not to exceed \$10,000 per lake for invasive species to reimburse each lake each year 20% of cost to implement DNR approved management plans not to exceed \$10,000 per lake. Request to be made in the fall to the Lakes Committee and Lakes Committee ask town for monies requested on an annual basis. Motion by Christensen to transfer \$15,000 from room tax fund to Lakes Committee account; second Ritter. Discussion: Requests not being used for goose management. Requests to be reviewed yearly by the board and decide whether to approve or not. The motion passed by voice vote with four affirmative votes and one negative votes by Cooper.
- h. **Approve ATV Club/Bo-Boen Room Tax expenditure** ATV/BoBoen Clubs asking for \$750.00 to put up swing gate near the new gravel pit trail road, to close off from going the incorrect way and control fork at Leisure Estates. Motion by Cooper that the town pays the bill from Hamblen Equipment for gate and Rocks Rental for auger out of room tax with acknowledgement that ATV/BoBoen Clubs will maintain the gate; second Mortag. Discussion none. The motion passed by voice vote unanimously.
- i. **Approve Zoning Ordinance amendments:**
 - 1) **Lot area requirements** Discussion by the board. Motion by Ritter that the revised lot area requirements of Chapter 1 as presented be approved for adoption subject to public hearing; second Cooper. Discussion none. The motion passed by voice vote unanimously.
 - 2) **Maximum size of Conditional Use Permitted accessory buildings on parcels smaller than 1.5 acres** Discussion by the board. Motion by Ritter that proposed 1.202 (b) as modified be approved for adoption subject to public hearing; second Cooper. Discussion none. The motion passed by voice vote unanimously.
- j. **Set date and time for Zoning Ordinance revisions public hearing** December 11, 2023 at 6:00 pm prior to Town Board meeting.
- k. **Approval of private road name** Appropriate paperwork completed, county has approved name of private road off of Birchwood Drive. Motion by Cooper to approve private road name of Hidden Forest Drive; second Ritter. Discussion none. The motion passed by voice vote unanimously.
- l. **New location of yard waste facility – Progress update and approval of site survey** Discussion by the board. Move current yard waste facility out of recreational area of Fern Ridge to property off of Pedy-cort before transfer station to the right. Determined that water fill area is low enough that fill does not have to be brought in. Motion by Swenson to have parcel 24-1004 surveyed by Maines and Associate for \$2600.00 and apply with DNR for transferring of yard waste facility application for \$550.00 with money coming from Community Development; second Cooper. Discussion none.
- m. **Update on Public hearing – Tourist Rooming House** After closing the public hearing, the county zoning committee deliberated and made some changes. Approved to go to county board for approval later this month.
- n. **Approve Chapter 29 update – funding for Town facility non-routine maintenance** Motion by Ritter that the amendments to Chapter 29 Town Procedures be approved for adoption on November 15, 2023 pending November 15, 2023 elector approval levy increase to provide funding for the proposed Town Facility Maintenance program; second Cooper. Discussion none. The motion passed by voice vote unanimously.
- o. **Yard waste DNR chipping grant** Eligible for \$2000 for chipping from Neighborhood Project DNR grant for 2024 chipping invoice. Brian submitted application and will wait to hear if grant awarded.
- p. **Authorize Treasurer to open bank account and fund-raising accounts for Chief St. Germain Committee** Committee ready to start fundraising with a separate town account to be accountable. Motion by Mortag for treasurer to open bank account for funding raising for Chief St Germain; second Ritter. Discussion none. The motion passed by voice vote unanimously.

9. Christensen adjourned the meeting at 9:11 pm

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