

TOWN OF ST. GERMAIN

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

P.O. BOX 7

ST. GERMAIN, WISCONSIN 54558

www.townofstgermain.org

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MINUTES SPECIAL ELECTOR MEETING: OCTOBER 21, 2004

There were 200 registered voters, 16 qualified electors, and one visitor present.

Board members present: Jim Wendt, Ted Ritter, Peggy Nimz, Ed Odette, Tom Martens.

Mr. Wendt opened the meeting and asked for a motion from the floor. Motion Patty Schoppe seconded Marlene Bartelt that the town borrows up to \$65,000, with the exact amount to be determined next spring, for the restoration of the front entryway and windows in the 1941 portion of the Red Brick Schoolhouse, with work to begin as soon as possible in the spring of 2005. Mr. Wendt stated that at an elector meeting such as this, the electors could not appropriate money for a specific purpose. At this meeting, the electors could only increase or decrease a levy amount. Ms. Schoppe amended her motion that the town raise the levy \$6,000, which would be the amount of the 2005 loan payment.

Speakers were given a 3-minute time limit. Ted Ritter spoke first. Mr. Ritter listed six points: (1) Red Brick Restoration, Inc. was not a town-sponsored committee, (2) Red Brick Restoration, Inc., has repeatedly promised that the restoration would not be added to the tax burden of the town, (3) The current town board has not been an obstacle to the restoration of the Red Brick Schoolhouse. If Red Brick Restoration, Inc. had come in with the money in September, restoration would have begun, (4) The roofing repairs on the 1941 portion of the building were paid for with town funds, (5) at the regular town board on October 11, 2004 the town board adopted a resolution to maintain and preserve the 1941 portion of the Red Brick Schoolhouse. It is the intent of the town board to further study the needs of the town and what is necessary to bring the building into ADA compliance. It is also the intent of the town board to bring options to the voters in the form of a referendum in conjunction with the April election. Mr. Ritter concluded by urging the electors to defeat the motion.

Ed Odette was not in favor of using any tax money to do any of the restoration to the building.

Gary Guyman asked that there be a referendum vote so that all voters could be heard.

Patty Schoppe spoke for Red Brick Restoration, Inc. She explained that the sole purpose was to save the Red Brick Schoolhouse.

Carolyn Ritter stated that it was not clear as to what was even being voted upon tonight.

Ellen Allen also spoke for Red Brick Restoration, Inc. Ms. Allen mentioned some things that had been paid for by the group.

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Robert Nussbaum asked how the loan would be financed. He also asked about revenues from the building once the restoration had been completed.

Ray Grobowski was concerned about the town's liability once the building was restored.

Jean Seifried stated that she would like to be able to see the school where her father had gone to school.

Tom Martens noted that the loan would cost the average home in St. Germain approximately \$2.04 in additional taxes.

Jim Wendt explained that the town board had plans for a referendum this spring. He also stated that it might cost \$300,000 to \$400,000 to update the Red Brick Schoolhouse.

Mr. Wendt then opened the floor to questions. Don Eliason asked if it was Mr. Wendt's intention to tear down the Red Brick Schoolhouse and build a new building. Mr. Wendt stated that it was not his intention to tear the building down. He stated that the town would need to find out how the Red Brick Schoolhouse would fit into the long-range plans of the town. If it was found that the schoolhouse did not fit into the plans, then removing it was a possibility.

Todd Wiese stated that it was not clear as to what was being asked for at this meeting.

Tom Martens asked Mr. Wendt what needed to be done to the building that would cost \$300,000 to \$400,000. Mr. Wendt stated that Foth & Van Dyke had arrived at those figures.

Mr. Wendt called for the question. Don Eliason asked for a ballot vote.

By a ballot vote. Yes – 43, No- 169. Motion was defeated.

The meeting was adjourned.

Town Clerk

Chairman

Supervisor

Supervisor

Supervisor

Supervisor

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