

# TOWN OF ST. GERMAIN

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

P.O. BOX 7

ST. GERMAIN, WISCONSIN 54558

[www.townofstgermain.org](http://www.townofstgermain.org)

## MINUTES ANNUAL ELECTOR MEETING:

APRIL 10, 2012

**Call To Order:** Lee Christensen, acting chairman, called the annual elector meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Mr. Camp noted that this was a duly called meeting in accordance with the Wisconsin Open Meeting Laws.

**Roll Call:** Fred Radtke, John Vojta, Lee Christensen, Marion Janssen, Town Treasurer, Tom Martens, Town Clerk. There were also 22 qualified electors in attendance.

The clerk distributed the financial statements for 2011. There were no questions.

The clerk read the minutes from the April 12, 2011 annual elector meeting. Motion Tim Clark seconded Fred Radtke that the minutes be approved as read. Motion carried by a voice vote.

Mr. Christensen opened the floor for comments. .

**Tim Clark:** Mr. Clark explained that the tank on the fire department's tanker truck needed to be replaced. The steel tank has a life expectancy of about 10 years. The tank is already 20 years old. The cost of replacing the tank with a poly tank is \$78,000. Once ordered, it takes about nine months for the tank to be produced and installed. Marion Janssen stated that the tank should be replaced, if necessary, but that she was wondering where the money was going to come from. She stated that there was money in the fire department's restricted account, but that it was not growing very fast. Mr. Clark stated that they only get money for responding to accidents on State highways. Mr. Clark also stated that he had just received two checks today. Ms. Janssen asked if there was a record of any payments that had been claimed, but not received.

**Rosalie Sherwin:** Ms. Sherwin stated that she and Pat Falkerstern tried to attend a meeting of the Friends of the Old School on February 23, 2012, but were told that they would have to leave. Ms. Sherwin stated that someone from the group had threatened them and called them liars. The sheriff's department was called and Ms. Sherwin and Ms. Falkenstern were escorted from the community center. Someone said that they should be put in handcuffs. Ms. Sherwin asked if the group pays for using the building. She said that the non-profit status of the group had expired in April of 2011. She had called the IRS. Pat Falkerstern asked what would have happened if the threats had been carried out. Would the town's insurance cover it? Mr. Christensen stated that it would become a civil and legal matter and that each case would be different. He also stated that even though the group is trying to collect money for the Red Brick School House, it is not a town-backed organization. Ms. Sherwin also stated that she would like a copy of the engineering report for the Red Brick School House. Mr. Falkenstern thought that letters should be written to the various groups telling them that they had to remove their things from the Red Brick School House. John Vojta added that the Red Brick School House needed to be cleaned up since it hasn't been passing inspections by the town's fire inspector.

**Marv Anderson:** Mr. Anderson asked if there was anything in the fire department or town budget that had been set aside for capital expenditures. Mr. Clark stated that there was nothing in the fire department budget and Mr. Vojta added that there was nothing in the town budget.

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**Ellen Allen:** Ms. Allen stated that Marlene Anderson has been ill, but that Red Brick Restoration, Inc. has been working on its budget and things should be straightened out. Ms. Allen also stated that over a year ago, the Friends of the Old School had gotten quotes of \$28,000 to repair the 1965 portion of the roof, \$7,000 for shingles, \$12,500 for a unisex bathroom and \$3,000 to \$8,000 for a chairlift. Ms. Allen stated that there would need to be a handicapped accessible door. She thought that the 1965 portion should be kept since there are at least six service groups that are storing things in the building. The Friends of the Old School are going to have a spaghetti dinner and carnival on May 5, 2012.

**Brian Sherren:** Mr. Sherren asked how much of a carry over balance there was for this year. He thought that it was wrong for the town board not to show the public what money was left. The clerk read the account balances from the financial statement, but Mr. Sherren stated that there had been money in the money market account in October and November and he wanted to know where it went. He thought that money from the carry over balance could help to pay for the tank for the tanker truck. Fred Radtke stated that the town board had scrambled to balance the budget since the year before Mr. Sherren's group had taken \$80,000 out of the proposed budget. Ms. Sherren also asked for a copy of the golf course budget for 2012. He also had concerns about the town alienating a local business.

**Fred Radtke:** Mr. Radtke stated that the bike trail from South Bay Road to Old Hwy 70 had been completed last fall. The only thing left to do was build up the shoulders and plant some grass seed. The yard waste facility will open of April 21, 2012. It will only be open on Saturdays from 8 am to 3 pm. It will cost \$2/load. A new pile will be started so that the old one can finish composting. Mr. Radtke also stated that the town has hired SonicNet to install a tower at the transfer station site for high speed internet. The golf course opened early this year. There have already been 200 rounds of play. The town hired a new golf pro, Margo Rogers Anderson. The driving range has been expanded.

Motion Troy Schalinske seconded Adam Ruenger that the town board be authorized to provide funds to purchase a new tank to fit the existing chassis of the tanker truck to meet fire department specifications. Motion carried by a show of hands. There were no descending votes.

Motion Pat Falkenstern seconded Cherie Ruenger that the town board reimburse Fire Chief, Tim Clark, \$110 for gasoline that he purchased to take the number #2 fire truck to Colby, WI for the funeral of a fire fighter that had been killed in the theater fire. Fred Radtke stated that at the last town board meeting he had stated that he thought that it would have been cheaper and that the liability would have been less if a pickup truck had been taken instead. Mr. Clark stated that he had told town chairman, Walt Camp that he was going to take the #2 truck to the funeral. Mr. Clark said that Mr. Camp told him that several of the town board members had said that they were against taking the truck. Mr. Clark said that he would pay for the fuel and took the #2 truck. The chairman called for the question. By a show of hands, there were no descending votes. Motion carried.

**John Vojta:** Mr. Vojta stated that he thought that the money that the town would be getting for the LRIP grant for Birchwood Drive should go to pay down the loan and should not be used for anything else.

**Marion Janssen:** Ms. Janssen asked what plans the town board had for the skateboard park. She stated that it appeared that there was only ramp. She wondered if it was safe to use. Fred Radtke thought that the town should purchase factory made ramps. The skateboard is closed at this time. Ms. Janssen noted that there is money in the skateboard park account.

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**Ed Siergiej:** Mr. Siergiej said that he was outraged at how the town board passed the road limit ordinance at the last town board without sending it through the planning and zoning committee first. He thought that the ordinance should be rescinded and done correctly. Tom Christensen added that all of the pieces were still not in place to collect fines for violating the ordinance. Cherie Ruenger thought that the town needed an ordinance for the constable to be able to stop people.

**Judy Kohout:** Ms. Kohout wanted everybody to know that most of the equipment at the fire department has been purchased through money earned by the fire department auxiliary and not by taxpayers money.

**Cherie Ruenger:** Ms. Ruenger asked that the town board do something about the gravel washing onto the bike & hike trail along Hwy. 70. Mr. Vojta stated that the DOT will not allow anything to be constructed on the road right of way to prevent the washouts. Ms. Ruenger suggested some kind of netting.

There were no other questions or comments from the floor. Motion Cherie Ruenger seconded Tim Clark that the Annual Elector Meeting be adjourned at 8:10 P.M.

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Town Clerk

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Chairman

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Supervisor

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Supervisor

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