

TOWN OF ST. GERMAIN

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

P.O. BOX 7

ST. GERMAIN, WISCONSIN 54558

www.townofstgermain.org

MINUTES ANNUAL ELECTOR MEETING:

APRIL 16, 2013

Call To Order: Chairman, Walt Camp, 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: Walt Camp, Marv Anderson, Tom Christensen, Alan Albee, Bill Bates, Marion Janssen, Town Treasurer, Tom Martens, Town Clerk. There were also 35 qualified electors and one visitor in attendance.

The clerk distributed the financial statements for 2012 and the town and golf course budgets thru March 31, 2013. There were no questions.

The clerk read the minutes from the April 17, 2012 annual elector meeting. Motion Fred Radtke seconded Mary Platner that the minutes be approved as read. Motion carried by a voice vote.

Mr. Camp opened the floor for comments. Mr. Camp explained that he would like the town board to meet with the various department heads and the various town organizations to see what they think that the town might need for the next three to ten years. The results might mean that the town board would ask for a referendum question to exceed the town's levy limit to establish a fund for the proposed items. Mr. Camp also noted that the cooler in the kitchen was still not working properly. There are organizations that would donate towards a new cooler.

Pat Falkenstern: Ms. Falkenstern stated that she didn't think that it was right to ask organizations to donate towards things that the town needed when tax money is being collected.

Jim Wendt: Mr. Wendt asked why the legal fees were \$1,475 over budget for 2012. Mr. Camp said that some of the money had gone towards zoning and golf course expenses. Mr. Martens added that some it also went towards the snowmobile trail question on Hwy. 155. Mr. Camp noted that the town had not spent one cent on legal fees for Mr. Martens. Mr. Wendt stated that he had other information. Mr. Wendt also stated that he had prepared a bid on April 10, 2013 for the repairs on the snowmobile building. There was no notice for bids so he didn't know that if there was a deadline. He also questioned why Mr. Camp had accepted a bid from his son's future father-in-law. Mr. Wendt went on to say that a logger had been told that the golf club needed \$30,000 in order to purchase two greens mowers. Mr. Wendt said that the idea that the town didn't need bids because the logger was not going to be making over \$5,000 was just a way to circumvent the law. Pat Falkenstern asked what the alternatives would be.

Walt Camp: Mr. Camp stated that no laws had been broken. When the purchase of the mowers was first brought up, they were going to be financed at 0% interest through Toro. Those payments had been built into the golf course budget. Steve Spears, course superintendent, came in with the idea to do some logging to raise part of the money for the mowers. There have been two different cutting operations. One is to cut about 30% of the trees on around 50 acres surrounding the course. There is to be a 75 yard buffer left uncut. The other cutting operation is to thin trees on the course to allow more light and to hopefully help control the fly problem in the spring. Chris Klessig was chosen as the logger because he offered to haul the trees that had been cut on the course as part of his deal. Mr. Camp had checked with the WTA and was told that bids would not be necessary. There might be another load or two to haul out. The old greens mowers were sold over a website for \$7,677. The two mowers cost a little more than \$53,000. Trees will be planted

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along Hermanson Road. Mr. Spears thought that the spruce trees that had been removed were part of the fly problem.

Ed Siergiej: Mr. Siergiej asked if Steve Spears was a forester. Mr. Camp explained that Mr. Spears wasn't a forester, but that he had graduated from UW Stevens Point and had forestry classes.

Jennifer Couch Wendt: Ms. Wendt asked if tickets had been turned in for each load of logs. Mr. Camp said that they had.

Phil Monday: Mr. Monday added that Frontier Log Homes had paid premium prices for some of the logs. Some had come from the 30% cut and some had come off of the course itself.

Ray Weber: Mr. Weber added that the board should ask for a breakdown of the logging. How much of it actually was part of the original estimate and how much was from the logging off of the course. If there was a concern about how much money the logger was really making, that might help with figuring it out.

Marv Anderson: Mr. Anderson stated that the golf course superintendent needed to make decisions for both the present and the future.

John Vojta: Mr. Vojta stated that the timeline for the logging began before October. In the past, things like this were only done with board approval.

Tim Gebhardt: Mr. Gebhardt stated that it was like mining trees at the golf course to support the course. Is there a plan in place for the course to support itself?

Bill Bates: Mr. Bates stated that he would like to see expenses at the course staggered so that they wouldn't have to all be paid at once. He also stated that over the years, the course has contributed about \$200,000 to the town to help keep the tax levy down.

Walt Camp: Mr. Camp stated that two years ago, the greens were in terrible shape. However, the course is in good financial shape and the greens appear to have wintered over well.

Marion Janssen: Ms. Janssen said that if the logging can't be seen from the green's, that would be great. She hoped that the course would keep its 4.5 star rating. She added that the bathroom at #5 needed to be repaired and an addition to the concession stand was needed. Ms. Janssen thought that since the logging proceeds were more than expected, there should be some money for those projects.

Brian _____: Brian said that at the December budget meeting the board thought that it might need more money to get the course through the winter. It seems like a coincidence that the logging proceeds just happened to equal the cost of the mowers. He also said that the slips from the logger should show what he actually made.

Tom Christensen: Mr. Christensen said that the 2012 financial statement shows that the golf course actually lost about \$23,000 and did not show a profit.

John Vojta: Mr. Vojta thought that the \$5,000 profit issue concerning bidding should be clarified.

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Fred Radtke: Mr. Radtke said that the 2012 financial statement didn't show some of the income that had come in 2011. But, Mr. Christensen noted that some of the 2013 income had also been collected in 2012 so that it was kind of a wash.

Carol Radtke: Ms. Radtke said that a tour of the golf course is very interesting. People see the course, but they don't get to see the behind the scene operation

Judy Kohout: Ms. Kohout said that she didn't like seeing the piles of logs lying around the course. She hoped that it wouldn't happen again.

Tim Gebhardt: Mr. Gebhardt asked that committee meetings such as public works be held in the afternoon or evening. The early morning meetings make it very difficult for people to attend.

Jennifer Couch Wendt: Ms. Wendt said that going forward there should always be three bids. Jim Wendt added that the Wisconsin Towns Association doesn't have attorneys. They can't give legal advice.

Fred Radtke: Mr. Radtke thought that it was a good idea to meet with the various groups to plan for the future. Bill Bates said that if some of the groups in town do not hear from them that they should contact either Mr. Bates or Mr. Anderson.

There were no other questions or comments from the floor. Motion John Vojta seconded Troy Schalinske that the Annual Elector Meeting be adjourned at 8:35 P.M.

Town Clerk

Chairman

Supervisor

Supervisor

Supervisor

Supervisor