

TOWN OF ST. GERMAIN

OFFICE OF THE CLERK
P.O. BOX 7

ST. GERMAIN, WISCONSIN 54558

www.townofstgermain.org

MINUTES ANNUAL ELECTOR MEETING: APRIL 15, 2014

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, John Vojta, Tom Christensen, Alan Albee, Marion Janssen, Town Treasurer, Tom Martens, Town Clerk. There were also 22 qualified electors and one visitor in attendance.

The clerk distributed the financial statements for 2013.

The clerk read the minutes from the April 16, 2013 annual elector meeting. Motion Phil Monday seconded Bruce VanHoozen that the minutes be approved as read. Motion carried by a voice vote.

Mr. Camp opened the floor for comments. Mr. Camp explained that the town board was considering purchasing a portion of the Integrys (WPS) property. There were three options. Option A is all of the property. Option B is all of the property, but no lake frontage. Option C is all of the off-water property. The main purpose for purchasing the property would be to preserve the current hiking trail and snowmobile trail that run through the property. The town has applied for a 50%-50% State Stewardship Grant. The Natures Conservancy has filed the applications and would do the negotiating. They would purchase the property on behalf of the town and then transfer the property to the town. Everything is contingent on the price. There have been two appraisals. The State came up with a per acre price. The town has a verbal agreement to purchase the off-water property. There would be 160-180 acres. The town would also purchase two 40's that are behind the town property and run up to Half-Mile Road. Mr. Camp stated that he would like to have a special elector meeting with a presentation. The approximate cost to the taxpayers would be \$435,000. Integrys would develop the rest of the property. They would like to have it as a prestigious area with larger lots and fewer homes. The town is also trying to get a strip of land near Wayne Ebert's home for the snowmobile trail. A 50 ft. strip would have to cut out of the property for the snowmobile trail. The Stewardship Grant does not allow for snowmobile trails. The town would have to purchase that strip outside of the Stewardship Grant deal.

Marion Janssen: Ms. Janssen noted that the town of Minocqua is considering purchasing a piece of property adjacent to Torpy Park to be used mainly for extra parking. The lot is small, but there is lake frontage. The cost is approximately \$400,000. Ms. Janssen thought that St. Germain would be getting more for the money.

Jim Lenz: Mr. Lenz asked if there was a possibility of losing the snowmobile trail that already runs west along Hwy. 70. It is on the STH 70 right of way, so it should be OK.

Kelly Ryan: Mr. Ryan asked what the bottom line would be. Mr. Camp stated that the approximately 286 acres, the cost would be between \$415,000 and \$435,000.

Pat Falkenstern: Ms. Falkenstern asked if the town could afford it.

Judy Kohout: Questioned that there was no access to the water. Mr. Camp stated that they wanted too much for the water frontage. He thought that the town should just wait and see if the property sells. Jim

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Lenz asked if anyone had looked at that frontage. He said that there is low water and muck. It wouldn't work very well for a beach or a boat landing.

Gerry Hensen: Mr. Hensen asked if there was help available. Mr. Camp again said that there was the Stewardship Grant.

John Vojta: Mr. Vojta asked if there was a caveat as far as in the future. Mr. Camp stated that the land had to be available for hunting, trapping and fishing. The town would also need to manage the forest. If the town were to sell the property, it would have to reimburse the state for the grant money.

Walt Camp: Mr. Camp stated that the electors present at this meeting could authorize the purchase of the land tonight. Motion Kelly Ryan seconded by Diane Dieter to do nothing now, but to wait until we know more. Motion carried by a voice vote, unanimously.

Tom Wenzel: Mr. Wenzel asked if this was the same property that the town wanted to use for the golf course several years ago. He was told that it was pretty close to the same land.

Marion Janssen: Ms. Janssen said that she would give tours of the hiking trail, if anyone was interested. Diane Dieter asked that notices of the special elector meeting be published in both the Lakeland Times and the Vilas County News Review.

Phil Monday: Mr. Monday asked if the town board was considering doing anything about ATV trails. Mr. Camp stated that the board has not been approached.

There were no other questions or comments from the floor. Motion Tom Christensen seconded Judy Kohout that the Annual Elector Meeting be adjourned at 7:37 P.M.

Town Clerk

Chairman

Supervisor

Supervisor

Supervisor

Supervisor