

TOWN OF ST. GERMAIN

OFFICE OF THE CLERK
P.O. BOX 7

ST. GERMAIN, WISCONSIN 54558

www.townofstgermain.org

MINUTES ANNUAL ELECTOR MEETING: APRIL 18, 2017

Call To Order: Chairman Tom Christensen called the annual elector meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Roll Call: Tom Christensen, John Vojta, Doug Olson, Jim Swenson, Ted Ritter, Marion Janssen, Town Treasurer, Tom Martens, Town Clerk. There were also 38 qualified electors and two visitors in attendance.

The clerk distributed the financial statements for 2016.

Mr. Christensen opened the floor for comments.

Karen Grace: Ms. Grace stated that she thought that the ambulance service was very good. She thought that continuing the service with Plum Lake was the most sensible option. Ms. Grace wanted to know what the other options were. Mr. Christensen noted that the discussion came about because Plum Lake had asked that St. Germain contribute \$20,000 for the next five years towards a new ambulance. Plum Lake is still an option, however, they have struggled getting crews to man the ambulance. Plum Lake also said that St. Germain would have no say in how the ambulance was run or managed. Plum Lake has already purchased the ambulance without St. Germain. Mr. Christensen added that the board wanted to make sure that it was doing what was best for the town. The board wants to increase the level of service and the level of care. No decisions have been made. The board has not checked out the costs of the other options. Ms. Grace asked if St. Germain had the staff to man its own ambulance. Mr. Christensen said some of the current staff would have to be trained and new people would have to be found.

Jon Strom: Mr. Strom asked if there was a contract with Plum Lake. Mr. Christensen said that there wasn't, but that was one of the things that was talked about at the joint meeting with the Plum Lake town board..

Barb _____?_____: Barb said that the service for her husband from Plum Lake was great and that she didn't understand why St. Germain would want to switch. Mr. Vojta added that Plum Lake bills its patients. St. Germain would have to do the same thing.

Wally Geist: Mr. Geist said that the Plum Lake Lionesses had donated \$4831 from a meat raffle that had been held in St. Germain. The pork dinner is held each year in St. Germain. Mr. Geist said that the people should be careful that they are not conned.

Brian Cooper: Mr. Cooper said that if St. Germain is sending money to Plum Lake, why not spend it on our own ambulance. He said that it was kind of like paying rent instead of owning a home.

Fred Radtke: Mr. Radtke asked if there was a surplus or deficit last year. Mr. Christensen said that there was a surplus and that the board has not decided yet how it is to be used. Mr. Radtke also asked if the golf course had a surplus or deficit. Mr. Christensen said that the golf course also had a surplus. Approximately \$146,000 worth of work has been budgeted for irrigation work, new batteries for six golf carts has been budgeted, blacktop by the pro shop will be replaced, and the short game by the concession stand will be completed, all without borrowing.

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Jared Pritzl: Mr. Pritzl asked if six carts would be purchased each year. Mr. Christensen said that eventually that was the plan.

Don Baumann: Mr. Baumann added that golf pro Margo Rogers Anderson's maintenance program should help to extend the life of the batteries.

Mr. Christensen stated that last year the board borrowed just under \$500,000 to reconstruct or overlay several of the town roads. The loan should be paid off in three years. The board is trying to upgrade the more heavily travelled town roads with thicker blacktop and a deeper base. The board kept the property tax levy the same as it was the year before. Without borrowing for more roadwork, the town would be debt free in 2019. The board is also working with Funktion Design on plans for the community center and red brick schoolhouse. Funktion will have a plan by the end of July.

Fred Radtke: Mr. Radtke said that even though WPS is burying the power lines, his power still was out for 12 hours during the last storm. Mr. Radtke wanted to know why they were not burying all of the lines. Mr. Christensen said that the town board had nothing to do with the power lines.

Mr. & Ms. Zaffrann: Ms. Zaffrann asked if the board had any plans on blacktopping the gravel portion of Pedycourt Road. She also asked the board why it decided to allow ATV's on all of the town roads. Mr. Christensen and Mr. Vojta stated that the town had expert testimony from the Vilas County Sheriff Department and the Vilas County trail coordinator that there had not been problems in other parts of Vilas County. Currently the ATV trails are closed from October 1st to May 1st each year. Ms. Zaffrann asked if there was a curfew. She added that they have heard and seen ATV's running on Pedycourt Road at 3: A.M. Ms. Zaffrann said that they have been coming to St. Germain for 60 years and finally decided to build a home at the end of Ka Don Te Trail for the peace and quiet of the area. ATV's don't lend to the peace and quiet of the area. Mr. Ritter stated that he has been surprised at the few complaints that have been received.

Phil Monday: Mr. Monday stated that he has called the Sheriff's Department at least three times about ATV's running on South Bay Road already this spring. He has had no response. Mr. Vojta said that Mr. Monday should call Randy Schneider. Mr. Schneider is the officer in charge of ATV and snowmobile complaints

Wally Geist: Mr. Geist stated that ATV's have also been running on the roads in Holiday Estates. Mr. Geist wanted to know why the town roads in St. Germain were closed during the winter at all. He stated that they were open year round in other areas. Why was the town board making criminals of the people who chose to ride now?

Larry Jankowski: Mr. Jankowski said that he lives on Woodland Drive. His home is within about 70 ft. of the proposed ATV/UTV trail on the 50 ft. strip. The trail would be about 5 ft. from his property line. If he and his friends would be sitting by his fire pit, if the ground was wet, they would be splashed with mud. Mr. Jankowski wanted to know why the board couldn't at least put the ATV/UTV portion of the trail on the west side of the 50 ft. strip. He also asked how the 10 mph speed limit would be enforced. Mr. Christensen stated that originally WPS had offered all of its land to the town for around \$4,000,000. Since the town couldn't afford that, a plan was worked out where the town would purchase a portion of it. The land was purchased with the help of the Wisconsin Lane Conservancy. There are restrictions on the land. The snowmobile trail through the land was grandfathered, but no other motorized trails can be constructed. No buildings can be constructed. If the land were to be logged, the money has to go back into the land. The

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town purchased the 50 ft. strip outside of the Conservancy so that other trails could be constructed. Mr. Jankowski was also told that ATV's would never be able to get a permit to cross Hwy. 155 into Indian Woods. The town roads are not across from each other and any trails on private land would cut through the middle of private lots. Mr. Swenson stated that if the ATV/UTV portion of the 50 ft. strip were to be moved to the west side, the ATV/UTV trail would cross the proposed bike trail twice.

_____?_____ : _____?_____ said that she felt that it was morally wrong. The proposed ATV/UTV trail on the 50 ft. strip is too close to the homes that are there. If residents have a problem with it, even if it is only one person, the trail shouldn't be there.

Mr. Vojta said that the board had planned on walking the property, but that a time had never been scheduled. Mr. Ritter also said that the town board should walk the 50 ft. strip.

Dennis Dieter: Mr. Dieter, the president of the ATV Club, said that he has walked the trail many times. The ground is not going to be dug up. It is going to be a rough trail with a 5 to 15 mph speed limit. It is only going to be an access trail mostly for the people in Forest Downs, although, anyone can use it. It will not have any arrow signs. It will only be marked as an ATV route. The noise from ATV/UTV's is less than the noise from snowmobiles, which is less than the noise from Harleys.

Carolyn Ritter: Ms. Ritter stated that there are two Vilas County committees, the law enforcement committee and the recreation trail committee that would like to hear all of the input. Those committees would like to know of any problems that need to be addressed.

_____?_____ asked about the condition of Hwy. 155. Mr. Vojta said that he had State Senator Tom Tiffany ride in the town plow truck two winters ago. At that time, Mr. Vojta thought that something would be done. However, it appears that the State Budget has pushed any work out beyond 2021. Mr. Christensen added that part of the problem is that the State would have to purchase land on either side of Hwy. 155. Hwy. 155 is an easement road and the easements run to the center of the highway.

Barb _____?_____: Barb asked about the culvert on Big St. Germain Drive. Mr. Christensen said that Legacy, the company that installed the culvert, has been given to the end of this week. If there is no response, the board is going to go to the performance bond company. The culvert is supposed to be completed by May 22nd.

Mr. Ritter stated that the town board has been trying very hard to be transparent, with the town's website, Constant Contact, and email Outreach. Mr. Ritter asked if the people present had been using any of them.

There were no other questions or comments from the floor. Mr. Christensen concluded the Annual Elector meeting at 8:40 P.M.

Town Clerk

Chairman

Supervisor

Supervisor

Supervisor

Supervisor