

TOWN OF ST. GERMAIN

GOLF COURSE COMMITTEE MEETING 9/7/2011

The meeting was called to order by Chair. All were present except Marion Janssen. Fred Radtke and Bill Bates were also present. Motion by Tom Wenzel and second by Marion Robin to approve the agenda. Carried.

Walt Camp explained the new committee structure for the Town indicating that each committee would have five members, two from the Board and three from electors.

Marion Robin commented on the letter in the paper by Craig Smith concerning the Eagle River Golf Course and some of their challenges.

Steve Spears presented his bills and commented that the granite walkway between the parking lot and the Whitetail had been improved and Jeff Sievert had paid for the materials.

Brian Baldwin had the usual bills but is still having trouble reconciling with the Berry Co.

Steve presented the report from Marci on the concessions, and stated that income was 50,704 and expenses approximately 32,000.

Boyd Best presented the Town bills.

Motion by Marion Robin and second by Tom Wenzel to approve the bills. Carried.

Brian Baldwin mentioned that it may be possible to install a new register system that would allow on line reservations and other improvements, but that high speed would be needed. Play is down some, but the course has had some very busy days. Current rates will be reviewed at the time the budget is done. The \$5 coupon has been well received and they are still being utilized. Walt Camp said we need to find ways to generate more rounds and use various methods to do so.

Steve Spears said that greens 4,5,and 6, although much improved still have bad spots that need a lot of attention. The regular fall procedure to aerify the golf course has begun and will continue through October. Some of the sand traps are in need of straining out rocks, particularly after a heavy rain shower. This and the construction of a new ladies tee on 12 will be addressed this fall. The Town crew will be helping out on some of these projects.

Steve reported for Marci that she continues to make daily deposits and that some of the cart people have gone back to college. Either the stand or the cart will be in operation during the week with both functioning on the busier weekends.

Boyd Best reported that the plan is to pay the Town back by the end of Sept. Walt stated that the Course may need as much as 150,000 to take care of the off season. It was suggested that it may be possible to move the \$25 off due date for season pass holders up a month or two. This will be reviewed at budget time.

Bill Bates stated that "The Minocqua Country Club has thirty people working on its grounds. Three, just working on the greens with hygrometers and then hand watering. Their crew can't believe that St. Germain does so well with such a small crew. I dislike the idea that the Hike and Bike and the Golf Course must pay off their loans when the rest of the town is not treated that way. We don't tell the Fire Department that they are behind and that every time they get money that it will go towards the fire truck. Mr. Christensen is right that it is of no value to take out another loan if the payments are too high that it will saddle the course an unreasonable debut every year. We should view this loan as on Town entity and assess the golf course what it can pay and operate. When and if it makes more money the course can help prepay the loan. We still fix roads and don't wait for the old road work to be paid for before we fix the next roads that are in need of repair.

Walt Camp brought to the attentions of the committee that there are some expenses coming up in the near future, such as irrigation, greens mowers, ball picker, rough mower, parking lot and possible others that we are not presently aware of.

Walt made a motion to recommend to the finance committee that 500,000 be borrowed to refinance the debt and be paid off in 5 to 10 years. It was seconded by Tom Wenzel. Tom Christensen stated that under present circumstances, it is impossible for the loan to be paid back that quickly and that the payments must be reduced to make it manageable. The motion passed by voice vote with Tom Christensen voting no.

The next meeting will be Monday, October 3, 2011 at 4:15 PM in Room 2.

Meeting adjourned.

Lee Christensen