

# TOWN OF ST. GERMAIN

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

P.O. BOX 7

ST. GERMAIN, WISCONSIN 54558

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

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## MINUTES TOWN BOARD MEETING: JANUARY 10, 2005

The chairman noted that this was a duly called meeting in accordance with the Wisconsin Open Meeting Law.

The chairman asked all present to rise to Pledge Allegiance to the Flag.

1. **Roll Call:** Jim Wendt, Ted Ritter, Peggy Nimz, Ed Odette, Tom Martens, Val Schuettner, Ms. McConnell was absent.
2. **Approval of Agenda:** Motion Odette seconded Nimz that the agenda be approved as posted with informational items one and two to be switched. Approved.
3. **Approval of Minutes:** Motion Nimz seconded Ritter that the minutes of the December 13, 2004 meeting be approved as written. Approved.
4. **Treasurer's Report:** Balance General Account as of 12-31-04: \$11,450.64; Money Market Account \$1,602,690.89; Lakes Account \$31,434.16; Park Fund \$6,009.17; Rental Account \$3,900.87; Bag Account \$1,101.27; Room Tax Account \$6,777.41; Debt Reserve \$274,818.69; There was no report from the golf course. Motion Nimz seconded Odette that the treasurer's report be approved as read. Approved
5. **Approval of Bills:** Motion Ritter seconded Nimz that vouchers 13987-14051 be approved. Approved.
6. **Communications:** Mr. Wendt noted that he had received an opinion from Attorney Steve Lucareli, which stated that the town did own the Red Brick School House. There had been a question concerning the reverter clause in the deed. It is Mr. Lucareli's opinion that the reverter clause died with Ms. Pier.
7. **Reports:**
  - 7A. **Fire Department:** Tim Ebert reported that there had been 15 calls during the month. The ad for recruiting will be in the paper this week. There has been one applicant already. There will be a first responder refresher class. The LOSA payment has to be made by January 31, 2005. The department purchased \$25,000 worth of Hurst tools with their Flea Market money. The department received a Homeland Security Grant for bandages, etc.
  - 7B. **Finance Committee Report:** There was no report.
  - 7C. **Parks & Recreation Committee Report:** Ms. Nimz stated that the lights at the ice rink had been installed. Ms. Nimz had also received a request from the Chamber of Commerce for \$2,000 to be put towards tables in the Community Center. The board preferred that the money come from the other organizations in town. The tables would be purchased through the town. There have been no responses from the ads seeking citizen participation on the Park &

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Recreation Committee. The town board has taken no official position concerning the Chamber's proposed electronic sign. Linda Odette will coordinate the Memorial Day Celebration.

**7D. Lakes Committee Report:** There was no report other than that Mr. Ritter stated next meeting would be tomorrow night.

**7E. Golf Course Committee Report:** There was no report other than Mr. Wendt stating that the usual maintenance work was being done.

**7F. Zoning Committee Report:** Mr. Odette reported that the next meeting will be on January 17, 2005 at 5:00 P.M. The two items on the agenda are a request to abandon a portion of Hemlock Road and a request to rezone a portion of the downtown business district. Mr. Odette stated that the 300' downtown business district had been formed to accommodate future expansion and a sewer and water system. Vilas County approved of the district when they approved the St. Germain Zoning Ordinance. Mr. Odette will contact Lee Holthaus inviting him to the meeting. Mr. Holthaus was on the Planning & Zoning Committee when the zoning ordinance was adopted. Bill Joost has resigned from the Planning & Zoning Committee.

**7G. Personnel Committee Report:** Mr. Ritter noted that there will be a committee meeting Thursday, January 13, 2005 at 8:00 A.M. to discuss possible alternatives to the town's health insurance policy.

**7H. Public Works Committee Report:** Ms. Nimz noted that about one-half of the sand pile was already used. Ms. Nimz also noted that the roads have not been plowed down because of the glare ice that is underneath the snow.

**7I. Grants Committee Report:** There was no report.

**7J. Facilities Committee Report:** Mr. Wendt stated that he and Mr. Ritter had met to begin discussing facility needs.

**7K. Citizens Groups & County Rep.:** Fred Radtke reported that the next county board meeting was next Tuesday at 9:00 A.M. Approval of the St. Germain Board of Adjustment change was on the agenda. The county board wants to adopt a resolution against the DNR's Ordinance NR326 concerning piers. On February 3, 2005 there will be a continuation of the public hearing concerning the rezoning of approximately 9 acres of land on the Winkle Road. Mr. Radtke also reported that the Prime-Timers had donated \$500 to the St. Germain Elementary School for library materials. They had also pledged money towards the Chamber's electronic sign and table for the Community Center. The group had also given \$350 to Mike Sealander to be used towards the taxidermy costs of animals for the elementary school.

Marlene Bartelt reported that Red Brick Restoration, Inc. was holding an open meeting on February 8, 2005 at 5:00 P.M. There would be speakers concerning grants, the historical society, and engineering. The group is also gathering information for a book for the St. Germain Centennial in 2007.

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## 8. Informational Items for Consideration:

**8A. Partial Hemlock Road Abandonment:** Brad Waldmann has submitted a request to the Planning & Zoning Committee asking that approximately 150' at the end of Hemlock Road be abandoned. Mr. Waldmann also submitted a letter stating that he would bear any costs such as survey, recording and maintenance of the easement road. The present easement is 20' wide and would remain that way. Mr. Odette asked that Mr. Waldmann also specify that the town trucks would have access through the easement road. Mr. Wendt asked for a recommendation from the Planning & Zoning Committee. The town board would conduct a public hearing and the adjacent property owners would be notified.

**8B. Municipal Court:** Mr. Wendt reported that he had talked to the WTA attorney. She suggested that the town not have a municipal court. If the town adopts a citation ordinance, the town constable would be able to issue citations. Perhaps an off-duty Vilas County Sheriff's Deputy could also issue citations. The town would use the Vilas County Circuit Court rather than having its own court.

**8C. Board Member Replacement:** Mr. Wendt stated that he had had four responses from prospective town board replacements. They are Lee Christensen, Todd Wiese, Bill Nieder, and Fred Radtke. The remaining town board members and the town clerk will vote on the replacement at a special meeting. Mr. Wendt also stated that there will be a reorganization of the town board committees at this time. He will have different scenarios prepared depending on which person is chosen at the special meeting.

**8D. Vilas County Rezoning Request:** Mr. Wendt noted that he had sent a letter to Chuck Ahlborn, chairman of the Vilas County Zoning Committee voicing the town board's position concerning the rezoning request on Winkle Road. The letter states that the town board supports the zoning change, but that the town board does not support any proposed project or development on the property. Mr. Wendt asked that Mr. Ahlborn make it clear to the public that the zoning change is the Vilas County Zoning Committee's recommendation and not the St. Germain town board's. St. Germain's zoning has not and will not change based on the present petition.

**8E. Radar Run:** Mr. Wendt noted that the radar run is this Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

## 9. Action Items (Approve, Disapprove, Table)

**9A. Sunset Bay Road Abandonment:** Mr. Wendt reported that he had received a letter from Attorney Steve Lucareli stating that since no maintenance work, or anything else had been done with the Sunset Bay Road for over four years, it had been abandoned. Motion Ritter seconded Odette that the town board accept Mr. Lucareli's letter concerning the abandonment of the Sunset Bay Road. Ron Bruzas, a property owner on Sunset Bay Road, stated that there was a difference in abandonment and vacating. Mr. Ritter and Mr. Odette withdrew their motion. Motion Ritter seconded Odette that the matter be sent back to Mr. Lucareli for a clarification. Approved. Mr. Bruzas also stated that when the road was originally donated to the town, Al

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Griffin owned all of the property. Therefore, all of the property would revert to Mr. Bruzas. Mr. Bruzas, however, could not close the road. It would remain open as an easement road.

**9B. Linda McConnell Resignation:** Motion Odette seconded Nimz that the town board accept the resignation of Linda McConnell, town board supervisor #1. Approved.

## 10. Citizens Concerns:

**10A. Road Sand:** Fred Radtke asked about the town's road sand policy. He stated that he was not able to find any sand to purchase after last week's ice storm. He wanted to know if he could purchase a pail of sand from the town's stockpile. Mr. Wendt stated that in this emergency, a five-gallon pail of sand would be alright. Tim Ebert, however, stated that it was not the town's policy to sell the sand.

## 11. Board Concerns:

**11A. Special Meeting:** There will be a special town board meeting on Thursday, January 13, 2005 at 6:00 P.M. to appoint a new town board member and also to reorganize the town committee structure.

**12. Adjournment:** Motion Odette seconded Nimz that the meeting be adjourned. Approved. Meeting adjourned 8:15 p.m. The next meeting will be Thursday, January 13, 2005.

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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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Supervisor

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Supervisor