

TOWN OF ST. GERMAIN

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

P.O. BOX 7

ST. GERMAIN, WISCONSIN 54558

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MINUTES TOWN BOARD MEETING: FEBRUARY 14, 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, Lee Christensen, Tom Martens, Val Schuettner, Mr. Odette was absent.
2. **Approval of Agenda:** Motion Christensen seconded Nimz that the agenda be approved as posted with action item #3 being moved up before the informational items. Approved.
3. **Approval of Minutes:** Motion Ritter seconded Nimz that the minutes of the January 10, 2005, January 13, 2005, January 28, and February 7, 2005 meetings be approved as written. Approved.
4. **Treasurer's Report:** Balance General Account as of 01-31-05: \$(18,365.47); Money Market Account \$1,764,257.13; Lakes Account \$31,461.13; Park Fund \$6,014.32; Rental Account \$4,124.29; Bag Account \$3,867.67; Room Tax Account \$10,786.52; Debt Reserve \$275,599.59; Golf Course Regular Account \$(6,557.26); Money Market \$7,097.37; Debt Reserve \$240,092.00; Rainy Day Fund \$106,150.00; Capital Improvement \$66,000.00. Motion Nimz seconded Odette that the treasurer's report be approved as read. Approved
5. **Approval of Bills:** Motion Christensen seconded Ritter that vouchers 14052-14129 be approved. Approved.
6. **Communications:** There were no communications.
7. **Reports:**
 - 7A. **Fire Department:** There was no report from the fire department, however, Mr. Ritter noted that the fire department had recruited 14 new members, five of whom have had previous training.
 - 7B. **Finance Committee Report:** There was no report.
 - 7C. **Parks & Recreation Committee Report:** Mr. Christensen noted that there would be a committee meeting on February 28, 2005 at 5:30 P.M. Mr. Wendt asked that the committee come up with a plan to help augment the cost of the fireworks.
 - 7D. **Lakes Committee Report:** There was no report other than that Mr. Ritter stated next meeting would be tomorrow night at 7:00 P.M.
 - 7E. **Golf Course Committee Report:** There was no report other than Mr. Wendt stating that the usual maintenance work was being done.

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7F. Zoning Committee Report: Todd Wiese, committee chairman, noted that he had sent for education material from UWSP for the Board of Appeals. Mr. Wiese also stated that the committee had recommended approval of Brad Waldmann's request to abandon a portion of the Hemlock Road. The committee also recommended that the town board not honor the re-zoning request of Ed & Mary Johnston. The committee was working on omissions in sec. 1.55 concerning density in the Downtown Business District. The committee also recommended that Scott Palmer be issued a zoning permit. Mr. Wiese had attended the Vilas County hearing on February 3, 2005 at which the county unanimously approved the zoning change that had been requested by Eliason Financial Group and Ruth Consoer. The committee is also working on additional ordinance changes and map corrections. Mr. Wendt commended Mr. Wiese and the committee on their work so far.

7G. Personnel Committee Report: There was no report.

7H. Public Works Committee Report: Ms. Nimz noted that work would be done on Lollycoogan Lane and Four Corner Lane this summer. As soon as possible this spring, the committee would survey the roads to see what work had to be done and to establish a plan for the next five to ten years. Fred Radtke had volunteered to serve on the public works committee. B & B Locks is working on locks for the washrooms. Ms. Nimz was given permission to have Tim Ebert order a water system for \$2,695 for the fire department. The money was already in the budget.

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

7J. Facilities Committee Report: Mr. Wendt stated that the five referendum questions concerning the Red Brick Schoolhouse had been sent to the County Clerk for placement on the ballot in April. The town board is gathering information concerning the referendum to pass on to the public during March.

7K. Citizens Groups & County Rep.: There were no reports.

8. Informational Items for Consideration:

8A. Bike Trail and Public Works Loan Timetable: Mr. Wendt advised the Finance Committee that the town will need to take out a loan for \$175,000 for the recreational trail. The money will be needed by late June or early July. The town will also need a loan for \$70,000 for the fire number system. It was suggested that the town advertise for bids for the fire numbers.

8B. Snowmobile Club Letter on Bike Trail Contracts: Mr. Wendt reported that he had received a letter from the Bo-Boen Snowmobile Club expressing concern about the intersections of the recreational trail and snowmobile trails. The club was concerned that down the line, they would be held responsible for damage done to the recreational trails at the intersections. It would not be advisable to change the surface of the recreational trails at the intersections. The Bo-Boen Club will be assured that they will not be held responsible for any damage. The town is considering having a fund for such repairs.

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8C. Pinehurst Re-Zone Request: Mr. Wendt asked Mr. Wiese to explain why the Planning & Zoning Committee recommended not to honor the re-zone request. Mr. Wiese stated that the town had already held several public hearings on the matter in 2001. The Johnston's letter had not been clear. They can not request a zoning change on behalf of other people. A \$250 fee had not been deposited. Parcels of property would be divided between two different zoning districts. The Planning & Zoning Committee is looking at ordinance changes which the address the density problem for residential dwellings in the Downtown Business District. The Planning & Zoning Committee hopes to have its recommendations on the matter to the town board for its March meeting. Mary Johnston questioned what had happened to the Downtown Recreational District. Mr. Ritter asked that the Johnston's come to the P & Z Committee meeting on February 21, 2005.

8D. Palmer Zoning Issue: Mr. Wendt again asked Mr. Wiese to explain the issue. Mr. Wiese stated that the Planning & Zoning Committee had recommended that Mr. Palmer apply for a variance. He also stated, however, that there seems to be much confusion in Sec. 1.57 and Sec. 1.58 of the town zoning ordinance. Non-Conforming Lots and Non-Conforming Structures need to be addressed. Mr. Wendt stated that the town board can not issue zoning permits. The town board, however, did recommend that the town Zoning Administrator should issue a zoning permit to Mr. Palmer.

8E. Lakes Committee Account Request: Mr. Wendt had a letter from the Lakes Fair Committee. The committee feels that it is not part of the town Lakes Committee. The Lakes Fair Committee had donated almost \$4,800 over the past few years. Now, the Lakes Fair Committee would like to have a portion of that money so that they can pay some of their bills. Since the money is now in a town account, however, the town has been advised by the WTA that it can not just give the money back to the Lakes Fair Committee. Mr. Ritter suggested that there were two alternatives. One would be to leave things as they are now. The other would be that the Lakes Fair Committee be separated from the town Lakes Committee. This would mean, however, that the Lakes Fair Committee would be on its own for such things as insurance. The board will check to see if the Lakes Fair Committee is actually a part of the town's Lakes Committee.

8F. Waste Hauling Load Limit Variance: Onyx has asked that the town increase its weight limits from 5 tons to 8 tons. Onyx has a small truck that would be under the 8 ton limit. The public works committee will look into it. Another possibility would be to have Onyx do their pickups during the night while the ground is more solid.

9. Action Items (Approve, Disapprove, Table)

9A. Sunset Bay Abandonment Procedure Letter: 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. However, at the last meeting, there was a question concerning the difference between abandonment and vacating. Mr. Wendt stated that Attorney Steve Lucareli stated that there was no difference and that the town had done all that needed to be done. Motion Ritter seconded Wendt that the letter from Steve Lucareli be accepted. Approved. The town doesn't decide who gets ownership of

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the land. The adjacent property owners will need to get legal counsel to make that decision. Both the property owners and Mr. Bruzas want the town clerk to send all of the records concerning the abandonment.

9B. Fire Department Mutual Aid Participation: Motion Christensen seconded Ritter that the town board accept the Vilas County Fire Department Mutual Aid Agreement dated January 12, 2005. Approved.

9C. Waldmann/Hemlock Road Proposal: Motion Ritter seconded Christensen to accept the recommendation of the Planning & Zoning Committee to abandon the last approximately 150 feet of the Hemlock Road pending legal review and certification. Approved. The town's attorney will advise the town board whether or not a public hearing is necessary.

10. Citizens Concerns:

10A. Red Brick Lights: Todd Wiese asked why the mercury vapor lights were on during the day. Ms. Nimz will check to see what can be done.

10B. News Review Article: Stephanie stated that Ms. Nimz, at the last town board meeting, had scolded her about what had been written in an article concerning the proposed Chamber of Commerce electronic sign. Ms. Read what had been written. There was no mention of a town board decision. Ms. Nimz will look up the article that she mentioned.

10C. Subway Electronic Sign: Rosalie Sherwin asked how Subway managed to get their electronic sign. Mr. Wendt stated that the town did not have a sign ordinance at this time.

10D. Centennial Booklet: Deborah Smith asked that the town board participate, along with the Chamber of Commerce, with Red Brick Schoolhouse, Inc. on the development of a booklet for the St. Germain Centennial in 2007. Mr. Wendt stated that the town board would need something more specific in order for the board to do anything.

10E. Red Brick Schoolhouse, Inc. Finances: Rosalie Sherwin wanted it noted in the record that what the town clerk had sent to her was not a financial statement. It had no names, no dates, and did not balance. The clerk noted that this is what had been given to him. Once he had received it, it became town records. Ms. Sherwin received what she had asked for.

10F. Red Brick Donations: Pat Falkenstern asked why Red Brick Schoolhouse, Inc. had started collecting money for restoration before the town board held its referendum. Mr. Wendt stated that the town had nothing to do with what Red Brick Schoolhouse, Inc. had done. The town board won't raise money without a plan.

11. Board Concerns:

11A. Editorial: Mr. Christensen commended Mr. Ritter on the editorial that was written about his work on the lakes through Vilas County.

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11B. Stewardship Grant: Mr. Wendt noted that the deadline for getting the information concerning the Stewardship Grant to the DNR was April 15. Mr. Wendt has the signed bike trail land use agreements from the county. He will sign them and pass them on the DNR.

11C. Lingo Lane: Ms. Nimz asked what was going to be done with the Miller property on Lingo Lane. Mr. Wiese stated that he would have to find out from probate court who now owned the property. The owner would have to be notified of the problems.

11D. Re-Zoning Article: Mr. Wendt stated that he might send a letter in rebuttal to the article in which Chuck Ahlborn openly criticized the St. Germain Town Board concerning the County Re-Zoning on Winkle Road.

12. Adjournment: Motion Nimz seconded Christensen that the meeting be adjourned. Approved. Meeting adjourned 8:45 p.m. The next meeting will be Monday, March 14, 2005.

Town Clerk

Chairman

Supervisor

Supervisor

Supervisor

Supervisor