

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 13, 2006

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, Todd Wiese, Ted Ritter, Lee Christensen, Peggy Nimz, Treasurer, Val Schuettner, Clerk, Tom Martens.
2. **Approval of Agenda:** Motion Nimz seconded Christensen that the agenda be approved in any order at the discretion of the chairman. Approved.
3. **Approval of Minutes:** Motion Wiese seconded Nimz that the minutes of the January 9, 2006 meeting be approved as written. Approved.
4. **Treasurer's Report:** Balance General Account as of 01-31-2006: (\$28,701.07); Money Market Account \$2,178,335.24; Lakes Account \$20,667.85; Park Fund \$6,809.09; Rental Account \$6,526.56; Bag Account \$15,025.75; Room Tax Account \$22,577.04; Debt Reserve \$192,583.50; Bike & Hike Trail Acct. \$82,715.85. Golf Course Regular Account \$3,106.30; Money Market \$67,352.00; Debt Reserve \$228,943.10; Rainy Day Fund \$5,310.45; Capital Improvement \$92,700.00. Motion Nimz seconded Wiese that the treasurer's report be approved as read. Approved.
5. **Approval of Bills:** Motion Ritter seconded Wiese that vouchers 14877 – 14956 be approved. Approved.
6. **Communications:** Mr. Wiese reported that he had a complaint from Mrs. Nelson concerning cable television. Mr. Wendt explained that once the contract is up with Lakeland Cablevision, the town could look at another company.
7. **Reports:**
 - 7A. **Fire Department:** Tim Ebert reported that there had been 24 calls last month. Two of the calls were snowmobile fatalities. Mr. Ebert also asked that residents keep their driveways plowed at least 10 feet wide and that they keep their fire numbers visible from the road. Fire inspections for the town's businesses will begin this week.
 - 7B. **Finance Committee Report:** Mr. Wendt reported that the committee would be looking at a loan for the new town truck. The clerk reminded the board that \$100,000 needed to be paid back to the debt reserve account.
 - 7C. **Parks & Recreation Committee Report:** Mr. Christensen noted that the committee had met with John Gartner from the UW Extension office. He had provided a spreadsheet to be used to compile information on how the town's facilities were being used. Walt Camp was working on completing the spreadsheets. The committee will meet with Mr. Gartner again to analyze the

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information. Mr. Wendt asked that the committee have a plan for fireworks donations by the next meeting.

7D. Lakes Committee Report: Mr. Ritter reported that he had given the last grant installment for 2005 to Ms. Schuettner. The committee was working on grant applications for around \$19,000 for 2006. The next meeting will be on April 11, 2006.

7E. Golf Course Committee Report: Mr. Wendt noted that the crew was doing regular winter maintenance. Mr. Christensen asked about the Discover Wisconsin advertising program. Mr. Wendt stated that he had signed a three-year contract with Discover Wisconsin for \$2,500 per year. The advertising was part of the golf course budget.

7F. Zoning Committee Report: Mr. Wiese reported that the building inspector with Darren Pagel had been automatically renewed. Charles Vogel had requested information on lot sizes for residential structures in Barrington Pines subdivision. The town attorney's opinion was that since no permits had been applied for before the zoning change, Mr. Vogel would have to comply with the town zoning ordinance. The Burgess/Newby permits had been suspended per the St. Germain Zoning Ordinance. Ms. Newby's home appears to have been built on the wrong lot. Burgess/Newby was given an extension of the 30-day period to May 15, 2006 pending possible legal action. At that time Ms. Newby is to appear before the zoning committee again to inform the committee of any progress. The committee will review the matter again at that time. The committee is looking at a uniform numbering system for town ordinances. Mr. Wiese handed out a proposed application for naming roads under the new fire numbering system. The amendments to the accessory structure ordinance have been completed. Mr. Wiese will present a package of amendments to the town board once they have been completed. Once approved by the town board, they will have to be submitted to the Vilas County Zoning Committee for approval. The committee will be looking at a four lot subdivision in Section 36 as well as a 10 unit condominium plat for Heart of the Woods. Don Eliason has requested a rezone of a parcel of property along the west side of Hwy. 70 that is across from Clark Realty. Mr. Eliason is asking that the property be rezoned to the downtown business district. Mr. Wiese will be keeping a spreadsheet of all monies collected by the planning and zoning committee.

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

7H. Public Works Committee Report: Ms. Nimz reported that there have been complaints of residents having their snow plowed across town roads. The committee is looking at the TIPLR road projects through 2010. The committee is also looking into possibly asking the town board to purchase a used one-ton pickup truck to be used for routine inspections, etc. The savings in fuel costs should offset the cost of the truck. The next committee meeting will be on February 23, 2006 at 2:00 P.M.

7I. Citizens Groups & County Rep.: Ms. Mauthe reported that 44 members attended that February Prime-Timers meeting. Their Spring Fling dinner will be at Fibbers on March 23, 2006.

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8. Informational Items for Consideration:

8A. Public Health Presentation: Keshani Bhushan from the Vilas County Public Health Department presented the town board with a plaque in recognition of the town's no smoking ordinance.

8B. Room Tax Discussion: Mr. Ritter began the discussion by noting that if Assembly Bill 298 were passed, there would be a tighter control over the use of room tax money. There would also be an annual report to the Department of Tourism indicating how the money was spent. Non-compliance could result in forfeiture and penalties imposed by the Department of Revenue. It appears that expenditures such as fireworks or the lakes committee may be questionable. Mr. Ritter has written to the legislators voicing his concerns over the Bill. However, under the current law, the Town can use 30% of the funds for anything. There are no provisions in the proposed amendment to change that. Progress of the bill needs to be monitored as it moves through the Legislature. Mr. Ritter also recapped the past 7 ½ years of the Saint Germain room tax program. Nearly \$1.2 million have been generated since the ordinance became effective. Much of the Town's 25% has been dedicated to the same expenses that the Chamber has supported from its 75%. Mr. Ritter suggested a modified method of disbursing room tax revenues whereby the Town and Chamber would agree that specific amounts of the revenues would be used for such expenses as bicycle trails, lakes improvement, pavilion payments and Town administrative expenses. The Town would pay these expenses quarterly and forward the balance of receipts to the Chamber. There would no longer be a percentage split and the Town would no longer keep any portion of the revenues for its discretionary use. Mr. Ritter also suggested that \$25,000 be paid each year for the next 10 years to pay down the Hike & Bike Trail loan faster. Mr. Wendt stated that in the past the town has used its portion for tourist related expenses. He would not like to see the town lose that money. The clerk reminded Mr. Wendt that for the past few years, the town has spent more room tax money than it has taken in for expenses that have been set in the budget. There has been no money left over. The board was concerned about how the Chamber would look at being told how the money was going to be spent. The board did not come to any conclusions. Mr. Ritter will present his proposal to Jim Anderson at the Room Tax Commission meeting on Wednesday. Mr. Anderson can present it to the Chamber of Commerce board at their March meeting.

8C. Facility Planning Update: Mr. Wendt stated that he was supposed to be getting the first draft of the sketches from Foth & VanDyke tomorrow. There will be a special town board meeting on Wednesday, February 15, 2006 at 5:00 P.M. to review the sketches.

8D. Groundwater Report: Mr. Wendt reported that he had a letter from the DNR stating that the water sampling at the old town dump appeared to improving enough that there would only have to only be done annually rather than quarterly. Mr. Wendt will inform Northern Lake Service about the letter.

8E. Park Regulations Ordinance Review: Mr. Wiese handed out Chapter 15, the proposed Park Regulation Ordinance for the board to review. Mr. Christensen thought that the hours should be from dawn to dusk rather than specific hours. The board felt that there would be many events that would run until after dusk. Special events would be exempt from the curfew.

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8F. DSL Update: Mr. Wendt stated that he had called Verizon in Minneapolis. It appears that St. Germain is not in any immediate plans for DSL in the future. The 479 and 477 exchanges have DSL now. Only the 542 exchange doesn't. Ms. Nimz will organize an effort to put some pressure on Verizon. Mr. Ritter reported that there is a group at the county level that is looking into economic development in the area. More businesses may move here if DSL was available. Charter Communications could provide DSL along with cable TV service. Ms. Nimz will check with Lakeland Cablevision concerning their contract with the town.

8G. Bike Trail Grant Update: Mr. Wendt noted that he and Mark Hiller had met with Tim McCormick from Northern Environmental. Mark Hiller noted that the deadline for applying for the DOT grant for phase two of the trail is April 15, 2006. The application process is being started. There is a possibility of a 100% grant for the portion of the trail within two miles of the elementary school. Applications need to be made in 2006. Payments for engineering would be paid for in 2007. Payments for construction would be paid for in 2008. Ms. Nimz suggested that the priorities for blacktopping might have to be changed. It would be foolish to blacktop the Bike & Hike Trail along the sides of Mood Road, but leave the roadway itself as gravel. Perhaps Pitlik & Wick would be able to give the town a better price if it was all done at the same time.

9. Action Items (Approve, Disapprove, Table)

9A. Housing Authority Insurance: Motion Nimz seconded Wiese that the matter be tabled until May. Approved. The board is looking for a recommendation from the Housing Authority. Some members of the board were concerned about leaving the Housing Authority open to liability. Other members of the board felt that the liability was not that great and it would not hurt to wait until the May meeting.

9B. Golf Course Equipment Bids: Motion Ritter seconded Christensen to approve the expenditures by the golf course for a 30 – 35 hp tractor from Quality for \$11,650; a leaf & debris blower from Lakeland for \$2,478; and a tow type top dresser from Reinders for \$7,732. Approved. The expenditures had already been approved in the 2006 budget.

9C. UPS Rental Agreement: Motion Nimz seconded Christensen that the town approve the one-year agreement with UPS for rental of the town garage for \$350 per month for the storage of the UPS truck. Approved.

10. Citizens Concerns:

10A. Patty Schoppe: Ms. Schoppe stated that she was very disappointed with the comments made by Mr. Wendt in a newspaper article stating that Red Brick Schoolhouse, Inc. was defunct. Ms. Schoppe stated that it had taken all of this time for the group to get their 501(3)(c) status. They had spent a lot of time and money in the process. The town board had asked the group to get the 501(3)(c) status. All that the group needs to move forward is the approval of the town board.

10B. Tom Martens: Mr. Martens noted that for at least the past three years, it has been the policy of the town board to discuss an item at one meeting and then vote on it at the next. Mr.

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Martens also stated that at the August 30, 2005 special town board meeting he had asked the town board to reconsider their motion concerning adding office space, meeting rooms and storage to the community center. He asked the board to consider the most cost effective way rather than just considering an addition to the community center. Mr. Wendt stated, at that time, that the motion was worded in such a way that all avenues would be considered. In a letter dated August 24, 2005 to Mr. Wendt from Foth & VanDyke it stated that the study would also include the cost associated with removing the present addition to the Red Brick Schoolhouse. It stated nothing about removing the entire building. At the January 9, 2006 meeting, Mr. Wendt made a motion to begin planning for a 2006 referendum to fund the removal of the Red Brick Schoolhouse in its entirety and look into the construction of a new town facility containing a large group meeting room, town offices, classrooms, ADA compliant washrooms, and appropriate storage and mechanical space as needed.

Mr. Martens asked the town board when they had discussed Mr. Wendt's motion. Since there was no discussion concerning the removal of the entire building, what Mr. Wendt proposed is not the same as what had been discussed in August. Mr. Wendt also stated that all avenues would be considered. Mr. Martens asked whether or not Foth & VanDyke were to consider remodeling the Red Brick Schoolhouse as it is now, or if they were to consider the cost of removing the present addition to the building and adding the new space to the 1941 portion of the building. And, if Foth & VanDyke were not considering those two cases why weren't they? Mr. Martens stated that the board would not even know if the cost of remodeling or adding on to the old building were several hundred thousand dollars less than their proposed new building. Mr. Martens also reminded the board that the question to remodel the present Red Brick Schoolhouse had received the most "yes" votes in the 2005 referendum. Mr. Martens quoted an article from the Star Journal concerning the Nicolet College referendum next week. The article told voters to vote no because "enough is enough. \$20 here and \$40 there have exceeded the citizens' revenue caps. Mr. Martens stated that he felt that the board was not doing their duty to the taxpayers if they did not look at all of the avenues as Mr. Wendt had said in August.

Mary Platner asked about the timeline for the referendum. Mr. Wendt stated that no date had been set as of this time.

11. Board Concerns:

11A. Town Officials Handbook: Mr. Ritter asked if the town had any handbooks. Ms. Nimz stated that she had picked one up at a WTA meeting. Mr. Ritter asked if the town could get more copies. Mr. Ritter also asked if anyone was going to the WTA District meeting in Arbor Vitae on February 24, 2006. Mr. Christensen said that he would be able to go.

12. Set Time and Date of Next Meeting: The next regular town board meeting will be held on Monday, March 13, 2006 at 7:00 P.M. in the Red Brick Schoolhouse. Since two of the board members will be absent, there will be no action items on the agenda. There will be a special town board meeting on Wednesday, February 15, 2006 at 5:00 P.M. in the boardroom of the Red Brick Schoolhouse. There will be a special town board meeting on Wednesday, February 23, 2006 at 4:00 P.M. with Foth & VanDyke in the boardroom of the Red Brick Schoolhouse.

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13. Adjournment: Motion Nimz seconded Christensen that the meeting be adjourned. Approved.
Meeting adjourned 9:10 P.M.

Town Clerk

Chairman

Supervisor

Supervisor

Supervisor

Supervisor