

TOWN OF ST. GERMAIN

OFFICE OF THE CLERK
P.O. BOX 7

ST. GERMAIN, WISCONSIN 54558

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MINUTES TOWN BOARD MEETING: JANUARY 8, 2007

The chairman noted that this was a duly called meeting in accordance with the Wisconsin Open Meeting Law. The meeting was called to order in meeting room #4 of the Community Center at 7:00 P.M.

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

1. **Roll Call:** Jim Wendt, Todd Wiese, Peggy Nimz, Ted Ritter, Lee Christensen, Tom Martens, Town Clerk, Val Schuettner, Town Treasurer.
2. **Approval of Agenda:** Motion Nimz seconded Ritter that the agenda be approved as presented with item #1 being lowered farther down in the agenda. Approved. Mr. Wiese objected to adjourning into closed session to discuss a personnel issue. He would have liked it to be discussed in open session.
3. **Approval of Minutes:** Motion Ritter seconded Wiese that the minutes of the December 11, 2006, December 26, 2006 town board meetings and the Little Bass Lake Public Hearing be approved as written. Approved.
4. **Treasurer's Report:** Balance General Account as of 12-31-2006: \$125,052.24; Money Market Account \$1,356,924.88; Lakes Account \$10,201.92; Park Fund \$5,017.60; Rental Account \$4,889.98; Bag Account \$4,695.68; Room Tax Account \$9,669.87; Debt Reserve \$301,959.28; Bike & Hike Trail Acct. \$35,348.34. Golf Course Regular Account \$31,665.10; Money Market \$0; Debt Reserve \$248,995.92; Rainy Day Fund \$101,064.57; Capital Improvement \$50,511.09. Motion Wiese seconded Nimz that the treasurer's report be approved as read. Approved.
5. **Approval of Bills:** Motion Wiese seconded Ritter that vouchers 15579 – 15628 be approved. Approved.
6. **Communications:** There were no communications.
7. **Reports:**
 - 7A. **Fire Department:** Ms. Nimz reported that there had been 11 calls in December. There still has been no word on the Homeland Security Grant. The first responder courses started tonight.
 - 7B. **Finance Committee Report:** There was no finance committee report.
 - 7C. **Parks & Recreation Committee Report:** Mr. Christensen reported that right there are no projects planned and no funding available. He also asked guidance from the board as to what projects to pursue. Mr. Christensen stated that the irrigation system should be considered. Ms. Nimz asked that Mr. Christensen get prices for a fence as discussed by the pavilion. Mr. Wendt noted that uses for the balance from 2006, the contingency fund, would be discussed in February.
 - 7D. **Lakes Committee Report:** Mr. Ritter reported that the town-wide aquatic plant study project had been completed. He gave a copy of the study to the clerk to be filed. Mr. Ritter also gave a copy of the 2006 project to the clerk to be filed. Mr. Ritter also explained that there was a proposal by which each lake district or organization would be assessed at an hourly rate if that lake district or organization does not supply adequate volunteer hours throughout the year. The next committee meeting is tomorrow night. Mr. Wiese complimented Mr. Ritter on the work he has done with the lakes committee. Mr. Ritter stated that all of the committee members should be complimented.
 - 7E. **Golf Course Committee Report:** Mr. Wendt reported that the crew is doing winter maintenance work. There has been no word from the sheriff's department concerning the break-in. The committee is considering purchasing a motion sensor camera.
 - 7F. **Zoning Committee Report:** Mr. Wiese reported that a travelway permit for Little Acorns Lodge had been denied. The owner has since provided a plan for a new travelway. A permit was granted for the new driveway. The committee decided not to assess a penalty on the property owner. Chuck Vogel from Vogel Enterprises implied that he would put in the new

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driveway at no charge to Ms. Goller. The committee also decided not to assess a penalty on Vogel Enterprises. Ms. Goller has since received a bill for \$2,100 for the new driveway. The committee will reconsider the penalty for Vogel Enterprises. The committee has approved Addendum 1 for Lake Content Resort Condominiums and Addendum 2 for Serenity Bay Condominiums. An amendment for Lost Lake North Condominiums was also approved. On January 4, 2007 the Vilas County Zoning Committee approved all of St. Germain's zoning amendments. They will be brought before the full County Board on January 16, 2007. There was a question concerning the height of a building when a dwelling is built on top of a garage. The county said that a change could be included in an appendix to the town's ordinance. The committee will be discussing Sunrise Shores Condominiums and a fireworks ordinance at its next meeting. There will also be a discussion concerning codifying the town ordinances. Mr. Ritter complimented Mr. Wiese on his good working relationship with the Vilas County Zoning Committee. Mr. Ritter also thanked Mary Platner for her work in re-formatting the town ordinance.

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

7H. Public Works Committee Report: Ms. Nimz reported about two-thirds of the roads in Holiday Estates and Timbergate had been trimmed. The rest should be finished by Friday. The Christmas lights will be taken down tomorrow. The new lawn mower and brusher are here. Crispell-Snyder found 12 roads that were not on the map. They will be sending an updated map. The ice rink is being flooded as weather permits. The town crew is monitoring the temperature in the Red Brick Schoolhouse. The committee is getting estimates on repairing the Community Center heating system. The heating cables in the sidewalk may be a problem. Mr. Ritter asked when the fire-numbering system would be completed. Ms. Nimz stated that the fire numbers that had to be changed have been corrected. Letters will be sent to the homeowners. The fire numbers will be installed as weather permits.

7I. Grants Committee Report: Ms. Nimz stated that she could not do anymore with the grants until the board held the workshops concerning the Red Brick Schoolhouse.

7J. Citizens Groups & County Rep: Fred Radtke reported that the county board would meet again on January 16, 2007. The sheriff department is purchasing six new vehicles. The board will consider a resolution to purchase land for a new fairgrounds for \$920,000. The sale of the old fairgrounds is expected to bring \$605,000.

Mr. Radtke also reported that 52 people attended the last Prime-Timers meeting. 108 people attended the Christmas Party. 46 members are signed up for the Las Vegas trip.

8. Items for Consideration (Approve, Disapprove, Table):

8A. AIS Resolution: Motion Ritter seconded Christensen to approve the Aquatic Invasive Species Control Grant Resolution (SG07-01-01) authorizing Ted Ritter to act on behalf of the town of St. Germain. Approved.

8B. Little Bass Lake Motor Ordinance: Motion Wiese seconded Ritter to approve as presented an ordinance (SG07-01-01) to regulate boating upon the waters of the Town of St. Germain in Vilas County, Wisconsin and prescribing penalties for violations thereof and to accept Mike Connors' offer to place the necessary signs at Little Bass Lake at his expense. Approved. A copy of the ordinance will be sent to the DNR and to Mike Connors. The clerk will also publish the ordinance in the Vilas County News Review.

8C. Room Tax Recommendation: Mr. Wendt presented letters from both the Chamber of Commerce and the Room Tax Commission stating that they recommended that the Room Tax rate be increased from 3.5% to 4.5% with 25% still going to the town and 75% to the Chamber of Commerce. The recommendation also stated that the change should be effective October 1, 2007. Mr. Ritter thought the matter should not be discussed at all since the agenda that was posted was so vague. It did not state that a rate increase was being proposed. Mr. Christensen also thought that the public should have been made aware of the rate increase. Loren Anderson asked why Mr. Ritter was questioning anything since he was the one that brought it to the attention of the Chamber of Commerce that the town was going to be short of money in the

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Room Tax Account. There was also a question as to whether or not the ordinance would have to be amended in order to have a rate increase. Mr. Wendt stated that Attorney Steve Lucarelli told him that it could be done with just an agenda item. Mr. Wendt also asked if the rate change could be done sooner than October 1, 2007. He will attend the Chamber of Commerce board meeting on Wednesday to get the consensus of the board. Motion Wiese seconded Nimz to accept the recommendations of the Chamber of Commerce and Room Tax Commission to increase the Room Tax Rate from 3.5% to 4.5% with the rate change to take effect no later than October 1, 2007. Approved. Mr. Ritter abstained.

8D. Room Tax Budget Review: The budget as presented had a \$20,420 deficit. Mr. Wendt noted that the fireworks category should be \$13,000 since \$10,000 was to come from donations. The Hike & Bike Trail category should also be lowered to \$12,000 since the Chamber of Commerce was going to be making part of the payment. Mr. Ritter volunteered to decrease the Lakes Committee category from \$7,500 to \$4,000 if the fireworks category was lowered to \$10,000 since at the April 25, 2006 town board meeting, the board agreed to lower the 2007 fireworks contract by the amount of fireworks donations under \$10,000. The donations fell about \$3,000 short. Mr. Wendt said that he would agree only if any surplus in Room Tax funds in 2007 would first of all go back into the fireworks. Mr. Ritter thought that any money should go towards park needs or other things that the town may need. Motion Ritter seconded Wiese that the Room Tax Budget be approved with the fireworks category lowered to \$10,000 and the Lakes Committee Category lowered to \$4,000. Approved. Mr. Wendt stated that the fireworks contract would be on the agenda for February. Mr. Ritter reminded Mr. Wendt that one-half of the fireworks contract payment was due to Bartolotta by February 1, 2007. Mr. Wendt said that he would take care of that problem. The clerk is not to issue a check to Bartolotta until the contract is settled.

8E. Library Contract Development: Mr. Wendt stated that in the opinion of Attorney Steve Lucarelli, the town would be liable for any money that was requested by the Walter Olson Library Board with the present wording in the agreement. It was also noted that if the town signs an agreement with a library, the town becomes a library community and the residents have free library services at any library in this district. Ida Nemecek from the Plum Lake Library stated that each year the town has to pay at least the average of its contributions for the last three years. She also stated that she thought that if the town signed an agreement with the Plum Lake Library instead, it would be the same agreement or a similar agreement. There was also some disagreement as to whether or not Vilas County had to approve the agreement at its meeting on January 16, 2007. If the matter were on the agenda, it would not get approved without the approval of the St. Germain town board. Mr. Ritter explained that he would be willing to sign the agreement if a letter was attached stating that the town was uncomfortable with the language and that the town was only signing the agreement for this year. Mr. Wiese stated that whatever the town board did, it had to be in the best interest of the town's residents. Mr. Wendt will check with Steve Lucarelli to see if the town can terminate the agreement at the end of this year. Mr. Wendt will also check to see if the matter is on the Vilas County Board's agenda for January 16, 2007.

Motion Ritter seconded Wiese that the library agreement be tabled at this time. Approved.

9. Citizen Concerns (3 minute maximum)

9A. Fred Radtke: Mr. Radtke stated that he thought that the Prime-Timers would be able to volunteer some time for the Lakes Committee this summer. He also stated that the group would donate to the fireworks again this year. Mr. Radtke also noted that U.S. Bank was offering a 4% 7-day CD. He thought that perhaps the tax money should be deposited in such an account.

9B. Verdella Mauthe: Ms. Mauthe thanked the board for sanding Big St. Germain Drive for the Polar Bear Plunge on Saturday.

9C. Ellen Allen: Ms. Allen noted that the town was going to be 100 years old in April. She also stated that all of the town's buildings would be needed for the centennial celebration. Her group, The Friends of the Red Brick Schoolhouse, is collecting money to make the building handicapped accessible. Ms. Allen asked that the town board seek bids so that the work could be done.

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Closed Session: Motion Nimz seconded Christensen that per Wisconsin Statutes, the meeting be adjourned into closed session to discuss personnel issues at 9:36 P.M. Approved.

Motion Nimz seconded Christensen that the meeting be reconvened into open session at 10:20 P.M. Approved.

10. Board Concerns:

10A. Red Brick Workshop: Ms. Nimz asked that the Red Brick Schoolhouse workshop be held as soon as possible. Mr. Wendt stated that he would not be holding any workshops and that he would leave the matter to the new town chairperson.

10B. Closed Sessions: Mr. Wiese noted that according to Wisconsin Statutes, no business can be conducted in open session following a closed session unless it is so specified on the agenda. In the future he asked that the agenda follow the Statutes.

10C. Website Calendar: Ms. Nimz asked permission to have a schedule for the Plum Lake Ambulance personnel on the St. Germain website under the fire department section since Plum Lake does not have a website. The board approved of the calendar.

11. Meeting Schedule: The next regular town board meeting will be on Monday, February 12, 2007 at 7:00 P.M. in meeting room #4 in the Community Center. There will be a special town board meeting held on Thursday, January 11, 2007 at 7:00 A.M. in meeting room #4 of the Community Center.

12. Adjournment: Motion Nimz seconded Wiese that the meeting be adjourned. Approved. Meeting adjourned 10:26 P.M.

Town Clerk

Chairman

Supervisor

Supervisor

Supervisor

Supervisor