

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 12, 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 in any order at the discretion of the chairman. Approved.
3. **Approval of Minutes:** Motion Wiese seconded Nimz that the minutes of the January 8, 2007 town board meeting and the January 11, 2007 special town board meeting be approved as written. Approved.
4. **Treasurer's Report:** Balance General Account as of 01-31-2007: \$(9,927.28); Money Market Account \$2,487,339.57; Lakes Account \$19,212.03; Park Fund \$5,020.25; Rental Account \$5,192.60; Bag Account \$4,698.16; Room Tax Account \$21,019.46; Debt Reserve \$301,959.28; Bike & Hike Trail Acct. \$35,777.08. Golf Course Regular Account \$3,094.64; Money Market \$0; Debt Reserve \$248,995.92; Rainy Day Fund \$101,064.57; Capital Improvement \$50,511.09. Motion Nimz seconded Christensen that the treasurer's report be approved as read. Approved.
5. **Approval of Bills:** Motion Wiese seconded Ritter that vouchers 15629 – 15721 be approved. Approved.
6. **Communications:** Mr. Ritter asked if anyone was going to go to the landfill annual meeting next Monday. Mr. Ritter went last year and found the meeting very informative. Mr. Wendt stated that could probably go if nobody could.
7. **Reports:**
 - 7A. **Fire Department:** Chad Bacon reported that there had been 21 calls. The first responder class was still being held.
 - 7B. **Finance Committee Report:** There was no finance committee report.
 - 7C. **Parks & Recreation Committee Report:** Mr. Christensen reported that though there are no funds available, the committee is working on improving the grounds around the pavilion and that irrigation is still an important issue. Ms. Nimz reminded Mr. Christensen that the money in the Park Fund is available for park use.
 - 7D. **Lakes Committee Report:** Mr. Ritter reported that the committee would not be meeting until April. The town had received a confirmation letter from the DNR concerning the new Little Bass Lake Ordinance. The one remaining issue is the placement of the required signage. Mike Connors has agreed to install the signs at his expense. The Committee has received approximately \$6,500 in grant money from the DNR.
 - 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. Mr. Christensen reported that although the golf course is operating with a negative cash flow right now, it is still in good shape. In the next few years, some of the equipment will have to be replaced.
 - 7F. **Zoning Committee Report:** Mr. Wiese reported that the committee had approved an addendum to the plat of Sunrise Shores Condominiums. The zoning administrator reported that there had been over \$7,000,000 in construction in 2006 with 127 permits being issued. The Little Acorn Lodge driveway issue has been settled with no extra charge to the property owner. The committee will review the matter one more time at the next meeting. Vilas County approved the St. Germain Zoning Amendments at its January 16, 2007 meeting. The

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amendments have been published and posted. They are now in effect. A complaint has been filed by Vilas County in Circuit Court concerning the Burgess/Newby issue. Mr. Wiese also reported that Mary Jackson has petitioned the Circuit Court as an intervener to join in the civil complaint as a plaintiff with Vilas County Zoning. The next committee meeting will be on Monday, February 19, 2007 at 4:00 P.M.

7G. Personnel Committee Report: Mr. Ritter reported that the addendums to Tim Ebert's contract and Mike VanMeter's contract had been approved and signed. He passed them around for the town board to sign. Shawn Savel has given his 30-day notice effective February 28, 2007. It is not known if a replacement will be hired.

7H. Public Works Committee Report: Ms. Nimz reported there was a new GIS map. However, she and Tim Ebert had found several corrections that needed to be made. The letters have not yet been sent out to the property owners. The committee will check all of the new road names and make sure that there are no duplicates in Vilas County before turning them over to the Planning & Zoning Committee for approval. Ms. Nimz also reported that several of the rooms in the Community Center have been painted. The crew will continue with the tree trimming in Holiday Estates and Timbergate tomorrow.

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

7J. County Rep: David Zielinski reported that Vilas County has been continuing to work on the countywide road name project. It will be quite a while before anything is completed, however.

7K. Citizens Groups: Verdella Mauthe reported that 142 had attended the Prime-Timers Snowflake Dance. They made a profit of \$512.30. There are now 282 members. A speaker from NNEX will be at the next meeting on March 7, 2007.

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

8A. Junior Firefighter Program Presentation: Chad Bacon reported that he was interested in starting a junior firefighter program. He has already talked to the high school principal. The junior firefighters would be from 14 to 18 years old. They could not go out on a call after 9 P.M. on a school night nor stay out on a call after 10:30 P.M. The \$100 insurance cost would be paid by the fire department. In the case of a major fire, the junior firefighters would remain with the pumper operator until such time as the chief or person in charge felt that it was safe. Motion Nimz seconded Wiese that the Town of St. Germain establish a Junior Firefighter Cadet Program. Approved.

8B. UPS Lease Agreement: Motion Wiese seconded Nimz that the town renew the agreement with UPS to park their truck in the town garage for \$350.00 per month. Approved.

8C. Fireworks Funding Adjustments: Mr. Wendt noted that at the April 25, 2006 town board meeting, the board voted that the amount paid for the 2007 fireworks should be lowered by any amount that the donations collected were under \$10,000. The donations fell \$3,000 short. Mr. Wendt asked that the \$3,000 be added back into the fireworks for 2007 since this was the centennial year. The board had previously discussed lowering the cost of the fireworks to \$20,000 with \$10,000 coming from the Room Tax Account and the remainder from donations. Ms. Nimz stated that the Community Center rental money could be used. Mr. Ritter noted that that money should be used for Community Center improvements. Mr. Ritter also felt that the contract with Bartolotta should be lowered to \$10,000 with a clause by which the amount could be raised prior the Independence Day Celebration if the donations were high enough. In that way, Mr. Ritter felt that it would become a community effort and not just a board effort. The rest of the board felt that Bartolotta would not go along with such an agreement. Mr. Wiese thought that we should go along with the current amount for this year, but look into changing it for next year. Mr. Wendt felt that the board could tap into other funds to find the money. Motion Wendt seconded Nimz to approve the contract with Bartolotta for \$23,500 and to negate the notes from the April 25, 2006 meeting. Approved by a voice vote. Mr. Ritter and Mr. Christensen voted against.

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8D. Olson & Plum Lake Library Funding: Mr. Wendt had a letter from attorney Steve Lucareli stating the town could opt out of the library agreement at any time and did not have to pay the amount requested by the library board. Motion Wiese seconded Ritter that the town sign the agreement with the Walter Olson Library. Approved. The Walter Olson Library will receive \$9,200 and the Plum Lake Library will receive \$8,000. Mr. Ritter felt that the town board needed to inform the county board that the town is uncomfortable with statements in the agreement and the wording needs to be changed to say what it means. Mr. Wendt will draft a letter to the county board.

8E. Sanction for Vintage Snowmobile Race, February 24th: Motion Nimz seconded Ritter that the Town of St. Germain sanction the Vintage Snowmobile Race on February 24, 2007. Approved. Everything is the same as last year except that the location has been changed to the north baseball field.

8F. Community Center Heating Proposals: Mr. Wendt noted that a circulating pump had been ordered, next day air, from Pennsylvania. It still had not arrived. The cost of the pump with installation will be around \$2,000. In the meantime, the town has rented a portable furnace that uses propane. Mr. Wendt presented two proposals for a new heating system for the Community Center. One was from Walt Camp for \$26,000 and the other was from Omega for \$45,000. The quotes, however, were very different. It was difficult to compare them. Mr. Ritter noted that since we were coming to the end of the heating season, it would perhaps be better to prepare a set of standardized specs and invite more bids. Mr. Christensen would like to see more equal bids. Motion Ritter seconded Wiese that the town proceed with the installation of the circulating pump to give time to prepare and standardize specs so that sealed bids could be opened at the March meeting. Approved.

8G. Room Tax Increase from 3.5% to 4.5% - Re-certify vote: At the January meeting, the town board had voted to increase the room tax rate to 4.5%. However, in the meantime, there was a question concerning the legality of the posting for the January meeting. Attorney Steve Lucareli suggested that Mr. Wendt post the matter for this meeting so that the board could vote again. Mr. Ritter noted that he had found that many of the lodging businesses in town are opposed to the increase. He also felt that there had not been any proper analysis of what room tax has done so far. Mr. Ritter asked that the increase be postponed until there could be a more proper review of the ordinance. Mr. Christensen noted that the room tax budget was not balanced and that the bike trail payment would take a big chunk. Mr. Wendt noted that the Chamber has committed to \$12,000 for the first three years. Ms. Nimz stated that the Chamber has approached the town board about the increase. The town board did not ask for it. Loren Anderson, Chamber president, said that he found Mr. Ritter's comments disturbing since Mr. Ritter had come to the Chamber stating that more money was needed. Ms. Schuettner stated that it would take time to send out letters informing all rental property owners of the increase. It would also take time to have all of the forms changed. The Chamber has asked for an October 1, 2007 start date.

Motion Wiese seconded Nimz that the Room Tax rate be increased from 3.5% to 4.5% as presented. Approved. Mr. Ritter voted against.

8H. Establish Start Date for Room Tax Increase: Motion Nimz seconded Wendt that the Room Tax rate increase become effective on October 1, 2007. Approved by a voice vote. Mr. Ritter voted against.

8I. Bike/Hike Trail Update on Phase II: Mr. Wendt noted that the town had received a D.O.T. grant for \$376,000 for phase II. That would cover 80% of the cost. The town would be applying for another Stewardship Grant to cover the remaining 20% of the cost. Mark Hiller reported that Tim McCormick needs to start now since the Stewardship Grant applications need to be in by May 1, 2007. The town would not know until September or October whether or not we are awarded the Stewardship Grant. Wisconsin Valley Improvement has given a verbal approval for a bridge crossing. There may also be \$10,000 available from WVIC. In-kind work on Mood Road is not an option with the D.O.T. grant. Mr. Ritter asked if the required road permits could be obtained by May 1st. Mr. Wendt handed a notice to the town clerk seeking letter of interest from engineering firms that needs to be published. Mr. Hiller also noted that the engineering company does the bidding process. Construction would begin in 2008.

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Mr. Hiller also stated that there were several options for funding. Donation boxes will be placed on the trail. The boxes will cost about \$65 apiece. Maps of the Hike & Bike Trail System of Vilas County are being printed. They will be sold. Ministry Health and Marshfield Clinic have each donated \$1,000 towards the maps. The town will need to issue a check for \$2,000 to Hahn Printing. The reverse side of the maps will have information concerning the trails.

8J. GIS Consulting Service Contract Addition: Motion Nimz seconded Wendt to approve an additional \$3,500 for Crispell-Snyder. Approved.

9. Citizen Concerns (3 minute maximum)

9A. Ellen Allen: Stated that her group had collected \$1,190 to be used to install the elevator that had been donated to the Red Brick Schoolhouse. However, her group needed the support of the town board. Ms. Allen asked that her report be placed under the action/discussion items on the agenda so that there could be input from the board. Mr. Wendt informed Ms. Allen that the town board had decided not to do anything about the Red Brick Schoolhouse until after the April town board election.

10. Board Concerns:

10A. Ms. Nimz: Ms. Nimz noted that she had been told that someone had discouraged the donation of a generator to the Community Center. She wanted to know who had made the comment. Ms. Nimz also wanted to know if it was true that over 90% of the lakes in Wisconsin were free of invasive species. Mr. Ritter answered that the statement was correct. He also stated that 93% to 95% of the lakes in Vilas County and St. Germain were also free of invasive species.

10B. Public Notices: Mr. Wiese wanted to know if the board needed to approve the public notice board at the Community Center. Mr. Wendt stated that as long as notices were posted in three places, those places did not need to be officially approved.

11. Meeting Schedule: The next regular town board meeting will be on Monday, March 12, 2007 at 7:00 P.M. in meeting room #4 in the Community Center.

12. Adjournment: Motion Nimz seconded Christensen that the meeting be adjourned. Approved. Meeting adjourned 9:32 P.M.

Town Clerk

Chairman

Supervisor

Supervisor

Supervisor

Supervisor