

TOWN OF ST. GERMAIN

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

P.O. BOX 7

ST. GERMAIN, WISCONSIN 54558

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MINUTES TOWN BOARD MEETING: SEPTEMBER 10, 2007

- 1. Call to Order:** 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 5:00 P.M.

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

- 2. Roll Call:** Peggy Nimz, Todd Wiese, Fred Radtke, John Vojta, Lee Christensen, Tom Martens, Town Clerk, Marion Janssen, Town Treasurer.
- 3. Approval of Agenda:** Motion Vojta seconded Wiese that the agenda be approved as posted. Approved.
- 4. Approval of Minutes:** Motion Radtke seconded Christensen that the minutes of the August 13, 2007 meeting be approved as written. Approved.
- 5. Treasurer's Report:** Balance General Account as of 08-31-2007: \$171,982.83; Money Market Account \$105,406.62; Lakes Account \$26,834.89; Park Fund \$3,197.95; Rental Account \$7,863.40; Bag Account \$8,367.60; Room Tax Account \$12,305.58; Debt Reserve \$309,912.24; Bike & Hike Trail Acct. \$5,327.49. Golf Course Regular Account \$167,628.43; Money Market \$0; Debt Reserve \$248,995.92; Rainy Day Fund \$27,816.00; Capital Improvement \$122,184.00. Motion Christensen seconded Wiese that the treasurer's report be approved as read. Approved.
- 6. Approval of Bills:** Motion Radtke seconded Christensen that vouchers 16085 – 16135 be approved. Approved.
- 7. Communications:** Ms. Nimz reported that she had received the yard waste facility license. She had also received a communication from the Sokaogon Chippewa Community asking for support for establishing a regional transportation coordination office.

8. Reports:

8A. Fire Department: Tim Ebert reported that there had been 13 calls last month. There are now 32 members and 2 junior members. The department has been granted a Homeland Security Grant for about \$43,800 for airpacs. The department will now have enough for everyone who can use them. The fire department will pay the \$2,200 balance. There have been discussions of having a RIT team (Rapid Intervention Team) in case of an emergency.

8B. Town Hall Feasibility Committee Report: There has not been a meeting since the last town board meeting. The roof in the 1965 portion of the building is leaking. Mr. Radtke noted that he had not received all of the quotes for either remodeling or demolition of the building. Mr. Radtke asked about security lights for the Red Brick building.

8C. Emergency Preparedness Plan: Mr. Vojta noted that he has received questions as to why Jim Wendt is listed as the liaison between the town and the press in the case of an emergency. Mr. Wendt's name will be removed and Mary Platner will be added. Century Tel will be removed from the plan. Ms. Nimz should be listed as the chairperson and not as a supervisor.

8D. Lakes Committee Report: Mr. Wiese noted that the fire chief and the committee chairman will meet to discuss what can be done about the possibility of the fire department equipment transporting AIS from lake to lake. An AIS has been found in Lost Lake. It is a cross of the natural milfoil and the invasive milfoil.

8E. Golf Course Committee Report: Mr. Christensen said that it has been a very good year. The irrigation problem between #14 & #15 has been resolved. The course is in good financial shape. Depending on weather, the course will close the third week of October. The next committee meeting will be on October 8, 2007.

8F. Zoning Committee Report: Mr. Wiese reported that there have been some projects in town that were done without permits. The parties involved have paid the penalty of ten times the

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original permit fee. The worst portion of the old garage on Hwy. 70E has been removed. A letter concerning Howard Beaver, Jr. has been forwarded to the town's attorney. The committee will be working on sign, light, blight, downtown burning, and compression brake ordinances. The Balsam Lodge condo request has been withdrawn.

8G. Finance & Personnel Committee Report: There will be a report later in the agenda. Mr. Radtke noted that there had been two finance committee meetings and one personnel committee meeting last month.

8H. Public Works & Parks & Recreation Committee Reports: Ms. Nimz reported that she had met with Preferred Heating & Cooling concerning the Community Center heating system. Jim Lenz, from the committee, will contact Gustav Larson about a special meeting for recommendations. An inmate from McNaughton will be hired at \$3.00/hr with no benefits. Another part-time employee will be hired next summer at a cost of no more than \$1,000. Since it has been so dry, the new soccer field will be seeded next spring. The yard waste facility will be open the 1st Saturday of the month from 12:30 P.M. until 4:00 P.M. Leaves, needles, brush and stumps can be dumped. Northern Environmental is checking into what can be done about the monitoring well at the old landfill site that has failed. The GIS project will continue during the 1st quarter of 2008. The new addresses will be sent out before that to the people who have been affected. Vilas County and 911 will have both the old and new addresses. The post office will forward mail for one year. Some money has been donated for the skateboard fencing. The ramps have been fixed. 10,000 maps have been donated to the Hike & Bike Trail. It was suggested that advertising be sold for on the fencing at the parking area behind the Chamber building. Nothing has been done with area around the pavilion.

8I. Room Tax Committee Report: Mr. Radtke stated that there would have to be a special meeting to approve the ordinance amendment that will raise the room tax rate from 3.5% to 4.5% effective October 1, 2007. Due to a resignation, a new member will have to be appointed.

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

9.1 St. Germain Community Park – Caring for Kids Project Update: Three moms gave a presentation on the Caring for Kids park project. Their intention is to have an area for 2 – 5 year olds, and another for 5 – 12 year olds. They presented their wish list and quotes from Landscape Structures, Burke, and Playworld Systems. The group liked the Playworld System the best. Under plan A, the town would pay the entire \$93,403.62 for the equipment and the installation. Under plan B, the town would pay \$61,845.00 for the equipment, but the group would pay the remaining \$20,105.62 through donations and fundraisers. Mr. Radtke thought that the kids' park should be moved to somewhere near the tennis courts. The matter will be discussed during the budget process. The three moms are Jenny Weber, Lori Huelskamp and Julie Schiddel.

9.2 Approval of St. Germain Fire Department Constitution and By-Laws: The word "township" will be removed. It will be replaced with "area of coverage". Also, the word "regular" member will be removed and only "active" member will be used. There will be an addendum attached for the junior firefighters. Motion Wiese seconded Christensen that the St. Germain Fire Department constitution and by-laws be approved as corrected. Approved.

9.3 Approval of Purchasing Plaques in Recognition of Employees Length of Service: Motion Radtke seconded Christensen that the matter be tabled at this time. Approved.

9.4 Sokaogon Chippewa Community Letter for Support for Establishing a Regional Transportation Coordination Office: Motion Radtke seconded Vojta that the matter be tabled at this time.

9.5 Discussion on Procedures for Past Due Room Tax Accounts: The past due room tax accounts will be discussed at the next commission meeting. Ms. Janssen is working on notifying the businesses of the change in the room tax rate from 3.5% to 4.5% that takes effect on October 1, 2007.

9.6 Discussion of the Joining of a Library District: Mr. Radtke handed out a proposal for a

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Plum Lake Library District. Mr. Vojta thought that we should just leave things as they are now. Since Arbor Vitae does not belong to a library district, they would probably also join a Plum Lake Library District. The board would consist of one member from Plum Lake, two members from St. Germain, and four members from Arbor Vitae (although, Arbor Vitae has agreed to allow two of their members be from Plum Lake. It was decided that there would have to be much more information before anything would take place.

9.7 Discussion of the Sale or Lease of Town Property for the Fairgrounds: Ms. Nimz thought that the town should not sell the property to the fairgrounds committee, but that we would take their ball fields and tennis courts. Mr. Vojta stated that he has heard nothing but negative comments concerning the fairgrounds. Mr. Wiese thought that we should keep the land for town purposes. Mr. Christensen thought that we should consider it if the offer was good. Mr. Radtke thought that leasing the property would benefit the town for our own usage. Mr. Radtke asked if he should tell the fairgrounds that three of the town board members were against the proposal. Ms. Nimz stated that Mr. Radtke shouldn't say the town board was against the proposal.

9.8 Discussion of the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest Information

Packet: Ms. Nimz noted that the town board of St. Germain has taken no stand one way or the other. There will be information-gathering session with the DNR in the Community Center on September 18, 2007 from 3:00 P.M. until 7:00 P.M.

9.9 Discussion/Action of Proposed Projects for Three-Year Plan and Funding Options:

Ms. Nimz noted that there would not be any action taken tonight. Brad Viegut from Baird Co. was present to go his proposal. Once the town board would give Mr. Viegut the go-ahead, Baird & Associates would advertise nationally and locally for investors. The proposal is to borrow \$3.67 million dollars for a period of ten years for various proposed projects. The mill rate would go up about \$.20 per one thousand dollars of assessed valuation during the first three years. After that time, the mill rate for the new borrowing would go down. At the end of the ten-year period, assuming that there is no new borrowing, the town debt would be paid. This is assuming that the town's assessed value for 2007 is \$435,000,000. Ms. Nimz noted that although elector approval is not necessary for a note of not more than 10 years, there would be a special elector meeting to explain the use of the money. The matter will be discussed again at a special town board meeting. In the meantime, the Pitlik & Wick and Fahrner bills will be paid from the town's and the golf course's debt reserve funds.

10. Citizen Concerns and Non-Appointed Committee Reports (3 minute maximum):

10A. Prime-Timers: Verdelle Mauthe noted that 69 members attended the last meeting. There was a presentation on Viet Nam. \$200 has been donated to the Chamber of Commerce for the Bike Trail account. There were more than 500 people in attendance at the senior expo at the Northland Pines High School.

10B. Pat Falkenstern: Ms. Falkenstern thought that the town should seek bids for such a large loan program..

10C. Pat Krueger: Ms. Krueger presented a petition signed by over 400 people who are against the proposed ATV trail on State Land through St. Germain.

10D. Jim Joyce: Mr. Joyce was also against the proposed ATV trail. He asked which way does the town want to go. Do we want to be a small town or not? Mr. Joyce also presented a question list against having the fairgrounds in St. Germain.

10E. Verdelle Mauthe: Ms. Mauthe thought that in light of the recent billboards that have been put up along Hwy. 155, it is time for the town to enact a sign ordinance.

Closed Session: Motion Christensen seconded Vojta that per Wisconsin Statutes, the meeting be adjourned into closed session to discuss personnel issues at 8:35 P.M. Approved.

Motion Vojta seconded Christensen that the meeting be reconvened into open session at 9:10 P.M. Approved.

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11. Board Concerns:

11A. Marion Janssen: Ms. Janssen noted that the tax bills will have a new format this year. And, the county will be sending them out. She asked about the town newsletter.

11B. John Vojta: Mr. Vojta noted that any elected official who is not yet NIMS certified can do so online. Mr. Vojta also noted that the Bo-Boen Club has been using meeting room #4 for their meetings. Ms. Nimz noted that the room is to be used for town meetings only. Mr. Vojta also asked about the status of his suggestion for an alternate to the Board of Appeals. Ms. Nimz stated that she thought that the person who had been suggested would have a conflict of interest. Ms. Nimz will contact the candidate.

12. Meeting Schedule: The next regular town board meeting will be on Monday, October 8, 2007 at 7:00 P.M. in meeting room #4 of the Community Center..

13. Adjournment: Motion Christensen seconded Vojta that the meeting be adjourned. Approved. Meeting adjourned 9:20 P.M.

Town Clerk

Chairman

Supervisor

Supervisor

Supervisor

Supervisor