

# TOWN OF ST. GERMAIN

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

P.O. BOX 7

ST. GERMAIN, WISCONSIN 54558

townofstgermain.org

## MINUTES SPECIAL TOWN BOARD MEETING: SEPTEMBER 2, 2008

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 at 7:30 P.M.
2. **Roll Call:** Peggy Nimz, Todd Wiese, Lee Christensen, Fred Radtke, John Vojta, Marion Janssen, Town Treasurer and Tom Martens, Town Clerk. There were also five other people in attendance.
3. **Approval of Agenda:** Motion Radtke seconded Christensen that the agenda be approved in any order at the discretion of the chairman. Approved.
4. **Items for Consideration (Approve, Disapprove, Table):**

### 4.1 Red Brick Schoolhouse:

- A. **Referendum:** Mr. Vojta read the three referendum questions that he had proposed at the August town board meeting noting that the town board had pretty much agreed to leave out question three. He also stated that the clerk had suggested that the question be to vote for one rather than “yes” or “no”. Mr. Vojta also stated that the board had to be careful with the wording since the wording could determine the outcome. He also felt that the questions should each specify the entire cost.

Mr. Radtke thought that every community should preserve some landmark of its history. He thought that there should not be any dollar amounts in the questions. Mr. Radtke also noted that in the 1997 survey, 55.4% of the respondents had indicated that they wanted to preserve the Red Brick Schoolhouse.

Mr. Wiese stated that he liked the questions and thought they should be kept simple. Mr. Wiese also stated that he felt that there was plenty of room for meeting rooms and office in the Community Center just as it is. Mr. Vojta agreed.

Mr. Christensen stated that in the past eleven years since the Northland Pines School District had returned the Red Brick Schoolhouse to the town, the electors had not instructed the town board to remove the school. The town board has already spent taxpayer money repairing the roof and the furnace of the 1941 portion of the building. He felt that the previous town board had voted to move out of the building with the intention of letting it deteriorate to a point where it could not be repaired. Mr. Christensen stated that he felt that the town board was not doing its duty to the town by letting the building deteriorate and that steps should be taken to repair the roof on the 1965 portion of the building. Mr. Christensen also noted that the town was in need of office space.

Ms. Nimz agreed with the wording of question one but thought that there should be some type of time frame. She also noted that the DNR would not allow the town to burn the building. Mr. Vojta disagreed. Ms. Nimz also wanted to borrow \$500,000 for a period of 20 years to completely renovate the Red Brick Schoolhouse. Mr. Vojta said that he would not vote to borrow for more than 10 years.

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Motion Christensen seconded Vojta that the clerk should prepare the two-question referendum for the September 8, 2008 town board meeting without any dollar amounts. Approved.

**B. 20 Year Loan:** Ms. Nimz stated that she had put the 20-year loan on the agenda assuming that there would not be a referendum. Motion Vojta seconded Christensen to table item 4.1B. Approved.

## 5. Board Concerns and Communications:

**5A. Fred Radtke:** Mr. Radtke stated he had caught four kids smoking pot in the women's' bathroom in the Community Center. He has also caught three different vehicles doing donuts in the parking lot. Ms. Nimz said that he should report the incidents to the Vilas County Sheriff so that the kids can be assigned to do community service.

**5B. John Vojta:** Mr. Vojta apologized for not having Rosalie Sherwin's concern on the agenda. He also asked that the Public Works Committee have the dead tree next to the Red Brick Schoolhouse cut down. Mr. Vojta asked that Lois Ruediger meet with the Public Works Committee so that she could be better informed about the rental procedures for town property.

**5C. Todd Wiese:** Mr. Wiese also apologized to Ms. Sherwin.

**5D. Peggy Nimz:** Ms. Nimz stated that the Public Works was working on rental procedures. She also thanked Mr. Wiese for covering for her during her recent vacation. Ms. Nimz asked whatever happened to the offer to purchase for the WPS land. Ms. Janssen noted that attorney, William O'Connor had never called her back. Ms. Nimz asked Ms. Janssen to call Mr. O'Connor back and proceed to make an offer for the WPS land as was voted on at the last meeting.

**5E. Lee Christensen:** Mr. Christensen stated that he had talked to Paul Carlson. The Board of Review should be sometime around the end of October. Mr. Christensen also stated that he had received complaints concerning the lack of flowers in town. Several of the surrounding towns have large hanging flower baskets.

**5F. Marion Janssen:** Ms. Janssen noted that she thought that the town board needed to be sure that they knew what was going to happen if the vote was to remove the Red Brick Schoolhouse. She thought that the town board needed to have figures for remodeling the Community Center.

**5F. Tom Martens:** Mr. Martens stated that he agreed that the town board needed to provide the voters with dollar amounts for alternatives for office space and meeting rooms. He felt that the town board needed to hold informational meetings that were positive about renovating the Red Brick Schoolhouse. He felt that if the town board were negative, the result would be to remove the school. Mr. Martens also stated that he did not understand why the town board could spend \$50,000 for the Caring For Kids Park when it was used only for four months of the year, or why they would consider purchasing the WPS land with no apparent use in mind, but that they could not spend the money to repair the roof on the Red Brick Schoolhouse when it is something that the whole town could use throughout the entire year.

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6. **Set Time and Date for Next Budget Workshop Meeting:** There will be a budget workshop held on Wednesday, September 10, 2008 at 7:30 P.M. in meeting room #4 of the Community Center.
7. **Adjournment:** Motion Vojta seconded Christensen that the meeting be adjourned. Approved. Meeting adjourned 9:04 P.M.

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Town Clerk

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Chairman

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Supervisor

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Supervisor

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Supervisor

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Supervisor